New Leadership, New Questions

Dr. Carol C. Harter, UNLV President
Paint the Town Red!

Alumni, students, and those who have helped celebrate Homecoming in years past know that the UNLV Alumni Association plans several days of great events and activities every fall. This year, the celebration will be better than ever!

Homecoming Schedule of Events

Thursday, November 2—Special Class Reunion for graduates of the Colleges of Health Sciences and Hotel Administration, 6 p.m., Richard Tam Alumni Center, $15 per person. Homecoming floats on display in the Moyer Student Union parking lot. Student Variety Show, 7 p.m., Moyer Student Union.

Friday, November 3—Pep Rally, 11:30 a.m., Alumni Amphitheater, free. Giant Homecoming Celebration and Class Reunions for Classes of ’70, ’75, and ’85, 6:30 p.m., Richard Tam Alumni Center, $10. Dinner (served) at the Richard Tam Alumni Center, presentation by football coach Jeff Horton, and introduction of Homecoming King and Queen and Alumnus of the Year to follow.

Saturday, November 4—Great Alumni Tailgate Party, 10:30 a.m., Alumni Park at Sam Boyd Stadium.

UNLV/North Texas State University Football Game, 1 p.m., Sam Boyd Stadium

Monday, November 6—Alumni Golf Tournament, noon, Canyon Gate Country Club.

For more information, call the UNLV Alumni Relations Office at 895-3621 or 1-800-829-ALUM.
on the cover:
UNLV President Carol C. Harter on the balcony of the third floor of the old library, framed by the Flora Dungan Humanities Building. Photo by Studio West.

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More Than $2 Million Pledged for Valedictorian Scholarships

UNLV's 10-year-old Valedictorian Scholarship Program has received perpetual funding in excess of $2 million in the form of an endowment.

The donation, which came through the UNLV Foundation from the Mary V. Hughes Trust, will create the John F. and Mary V. Hughes Scholarship Endowment in their memory.

This program provides $10,000 UNLV scholarships to high school valedictorians in Nevada.

Mary "Mitzi" Hughes is the third major benefactor of UNLV's Valedictorian Scholarship Program.

The program was created in 1985 through a gift of $1 million from hotel-casino owner Margaret Irdardi. Financial support from that program went to 129 of Nevada's top high school graduates.

The Golden Nugget Corp. and later, Mirage Resorts, Inc., continued the funding beginning in 1991, and the scholarships were named in honor of former UNLV Foundation Chair Elaine Wynn. More than $1 million provided Elaine Wynn Valedictorian Scholarships to 181 students.

The endowment is the third major gift from John and Mitzi Hughes. They were members of the UNLV Foundation President's Associates, contributing $500,000 in 1991 to support student services at the university. UNLV recognized their gift by naming a campus residence hall the Johnny and Mitzi Hughes Hall in their honor. In 1992, Mitzi Hughes donated $300,000 to create the Mitzi Hughes Honors Endowment.

New Executive Director to Lead UNLV Foundation

A new executive director of the UNLV Foundation has been selected.

John Gallagher, whose academic and administrative career spans more than 20 years, came to UNLV from Tacoma, Wash., where he was vice president for university relations at the University of Puget Sound. Before that, he was assistant vice president of university relations and director of development at Seattle University.

His development experience began when he founded the department of corporate and foundation relations at St. Martin's College in Olympia, Wash. His shift to development and fund raising came after many years as a faculty member in the division of political science, where he served as associate dean and associate professor.

Gallagher is well known within the academic development community. He contributed a chapter to the book Annual Giving Strategies: A Comprehensive Guide to Better Results, published by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). He has also served as a chairman, panelist, facilitator, and presenter at numerous development conferences.

Gallagher holds a doctorate in division of political science from the University of Washington.

International Game Technology Donates $1 Million

A $1 million donation from International Game Technology to UNLV will establish the International Game Technology Library, featuring the Gary Royer Gaming Collection, in the UNLV International Gaming Institute.

The gift came from the IGT Foundation to the UNLV International Gaming Institute through the UNLV Foundation. The Reno-based donor is the leading manufacturer of slot machines and proprietary software systems and an innovator in slot technology.

The donation will be used to purchase a unique collection of gaming-related materials compiled by Gary Royer, a Reno CPA and author of numerous books on gaming, according to Vince Eade, director of the UNLV International Gaming Institute.

The institute, which will house the IGT Library and make it available for research and educational purposes through the UNLV library's special collections department, is part of the internationally known William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration.

The collection will be organized into five sections and will include information on gambling law, gaming control and management, gambling vendors and manufacturers, casinos, race tracks, specific games, and the history, sociology, and psychology of gambling.

President Carol Harter Brings New Leadership to UNLV

By Tom Flagg

By the time this issue of UNLV Magazine reaches its readers, Dr. Carol C. Harter will have been in office as the university's seventh chief executive officer for some two months, and the planning process that she wants to give new direction to UNLV will be underway.

President Harter, who was appointed by the UCSSN Board of Regents in February after a national search, came to UNLV from the State University of New York at Geneseo, a school on a campus that is nationally known for the quality of its undergraduate programs. She had served there as president and professor of English since 1989. Prior to her tenure at Geneseo, Harter served as vice president for administration and vice president and dean of students at Ohio University.

In addition to a great deal of energy and enthusiasm for her new job, Harter brings to UNLV a strong commitment to participatory planning, internal management, and student life. She also hopes to foster a feeling of community and family at the university. One of her first actions was to call for a planning retreat on Aug. 21 and 22 (after this issue of the magazine went to press) at the Thomas & Mack Center. The intent of the two-day session was to bring together 100 people from various areas of the campus to work with facilitators from the Pew Higher Education Roundtable in an effort to begin identifying key questions about the university's future.

Harter wants to make the planning process a truly university-wide, inclusive effort. She envisions the process of developing a mission and goals statement taking at least a year.

"I don't think there is any way to shorten it and still have the kind of participation that we need," she said.

"When we have completed this first phase, I want every faculty and staff member, as well as student leaders, to know where we are going in terms of these major issues. Then when people see an action taken, they will know where it comes from."

Harter sees an overall theme in the process: "It is how to create an academic community, in the liveliest and best sense of the term, where we care about each other and work for the institution's well-being, where we take off our departmental hat and put on our institutional hat, where we care about the same values, where we share a sense of the institution's future and its progress."

The following are some of the questions and ideas Harter hopes to see addressed in the planning retreat.

• Is the university structured in a way that will best advance its goals? If not, how do we restructure it in helpful ways?

• How much does the university want to move its efforts, energies, and resources more toward graduate education and research? How much more does it want to point toward enhanced undergraduate education? Does it want to do both things simultaneously better than it is doing them now?

• Might our strengths -- and our future -- lie more in the areas of professional, environmental, and interdisciplinary programs than in the more traditional offerings?

• Do we want to become a more selective institution in terms of which students come to us for undergraduate education? If so, will the access issue -- which is very real, especially in a state with only two major universities -- be largely accommodated by the booming growth of the community colleges?

These are just a few of the many issues the campus will face in the coming years, Harter said, adding that she hopes all members of the university community will consider them carefully.

President Carol C. Harter, UNLV President

Dr. Carol C. Harter, UNLV President
Alumni Association Plans Football Trip

Travel with the UNLV Alumni Association to cheer on the Rebels when they meet their traditional football rivals, the UNR Wolfpack, on Oct. 28 in Reno.

The association has two packages planned—one of which includes play in the annual Sandblast Open golf tournament. Both trips include lodging at the Reno Hilton and airfare.

For golfers traveling with the alumni group, the trip will begin Oct. 26 with a flight to Reno. The Sandblast Open will take place the following day at the Rosewood Lake golf course.

The Sandblast Open packages support UNLV against supporters of UNR and serve as a scholarship fund-raiser. Money earned through the tournament is divided evenly between scholarship funds at the two universities.

On Oct. 28 the group will attend the UNLV vs. UNR football game and return to Las Vegas that night. The cost of the trip is $341.

The second group—for non-golfers—will leave Las Vegas on Oct. 27 and return after the football game the following day. The cost of that trip is $241.

To make reservations or to obtain additional information, call the Alumni Relations Office at 895-4021.

Anthony Saville Receives Alumni Award

Anthony Saville, professor of educational administration and higher education, has been chosen as the 1995 recipient of the UNLV Alumni Association’s Outstanding Faculty Award.

The association’s awards committee selected Saville based on positive evaluations of his teaching, writing, and research from students and faculty.

Saville, the former dean of UNLV’s College of Education, has consistently received high marks on his student evaluations for his teaching methods. In particular, students have praised the practicality of his courses.

The award has been an Alumni Association tradition since 1975.

Journal Editorialship Comes to UNLV

Education professor John Readence was recently named editor of Reading Research Quarterly, one of the most widely read literacy research journals in the world.

The journal is published by the International Reading Association, a 92,000-member organization of reading educators from around the world.

Last year, the association conducted an international search for new editors. Readence competed with scholars from a number of prestigious schools, including Rutgers University, the University of Minnesota, the University of Illinois, and Texas A&M University.

According to Readence, the editorialship will enable UNLV to help guide literacy research into the next century. He will continue editing the publication through the year 2000.

UNLV alumna Tara Pike has brought uncommon dedication to a number of campus environmental projects, including helping to establish programs for recycling and water conservation. But she doesn’t plan to stop there.

Anthony Saville, the former dean of UNLV’s College of Education, has consistently received high marks on his student evaluations for his teaching methods. In particular, students have praised the practicality of his courses.

The award has been an Alumni Association tradition since 1975.

In the dark of night, Tara Pike worked her way through the trash dumpster outside of the Humanities Building, carefully combing through the garbage. She wasn’t looking for garage sale material or for something she’d lost. She was looking for hard facts, the ones that would help convince university officials that they needed to take a more aggressive stance on campus recycling.

Rolling up her sleeves to pick through the university’s trash was just one of the ways Pike, now a UNLV alumna, was willing to prove her dedication to environmental issues during her undergraduate years on campus.

As the committee—composed mostly of administration—considered ways to consolidate scattered campus recycling programs and to improve the efficiency of the campus sprinkling system, discussion inevitably turned to budget realities and lack of funds to implement new ideas.

But Pike was undeterred; committee members came to view her as the voice of both idealism and commitment.

"I would describe Tara as undaunted," says Dennis Swartzel, director of UNLV’s Landscape, Grounds, and Arborgram. "She brings that youthful energy, that student vibrance...that feeling that most anything can be accomplished."
being discarded, Pike, along with James Deacon, the director of UNLV’s environmental studies program, volunteered to find out.

That’s when she and other members of SCOPE got inside the dumpsters. For several weeks they conducted their waste-stream study at selected locations on campus from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

“We’d climb into the dumpster, take out the garbage, then separate, weigh, and classify it,” Pike recalls. “We found we were recovering five to six pounds of aluminum per dumpster at the time.”

That study became the basis for Pike’s undergraduate thesis, titled “An Improved Recycling Program for UNLV,” which she completed as a requirement for her bachelor of science degree in environmental studies in 1994.

“Tara’s thesis was the starting point for many projects that have had an impact at UNLV and the community beyond,” says Deacon, her thesis adviser.

“It’s been a delight to watch her develop as a person and as a professional. Tara was effective when she first got here, but she’s improved dramatically as a team member and facilitator, someone who can make other people enthusiastic.”

Pike’s dedication and her increased understanding of complex situations eventually paid off.

“At first I was very frustrated trying to get things done,” Pike acknowledges. “Everything seemed to be very slow, very bureaucratic. My attitude was ‘Let’s just do it.’ I was young and idealistic. Now, I know there are no easy answers. You have to be creative.”

Pike and SCOPE members demonstrated some of that creativity during a campaign for passage of a student recycling fee. While researching her thesis, Pike discovered that at the University of Colorado, Boulder, students pay a fee to fund recycling projects. She liked the idea and wanted to try it here.

Of course, adding a student fee, even a modest one like $1 per semester, isn’t an easy sell when tuition and other costs are on the rise. But again, Pike wasn’t deterred. SCOPE approached student government officials, who decided to present the fee proposal to students on a ballot in spring 1994. Rather than clutter the campus with paper brochures that would tout their cause but ultimately add to the waste disposal problem, SCOPE members got hundreds of plain sugar cookies and decorated them with the recycling symbol in icing.

“Would you like an edible flyer, a.k.a. a cookie?” Pike asked when passing out the environmentally correct treats. She noticed that students were suddenly more receptive to the message when they saw a tangible benefit of the recycling philosophy.

The new fee won student support. Then in February 1995, the Board of Regents gave final approval to implement the $1 fee (per student per semester), which will be used to fund recycling education efforts and a position for a campus recycling coordinator.

“My attitude was ‘Let’s just do it.’” Pike asked when passing out the environmentally correct treats. She noticed that students were suddenly more receptive to the message when they saw a tangible benefit of the recycling philosophy.

Tara has been a driving force here,” says Deacon, pointing to other programs in which she has played a significant role, such as the campus Desert Landscape Project.

The goal of the project is to convert 18 acres of grass on campus to desert landscaping. Once the grass is removed and drought tolerant plants and new water delivery systems are in place, it’s estimated that campus landscaping water usage could be cut by some 30 percent.

In 1994 water-cost dollars, that’s $150,000 saved. There will also be another $53,000 in estimated savings through lower maintenance costs (no mowing, no sprinkler heads, no water usage) in those areas.

So far, an area by the Lilly Fong Geoscience Building has been converted with money for plants and supplies raised by SCOPE through T-shirt sales. Donors, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Geology Honor Society, the Ad Club, and Kinkos, have already committed to funding other conversions to desert landscaping. Pike hopes to have 12 areas completed by December.

Since the grass will remain green in other parts of campus, Pike has also been busy thinking of ways to recycle green waste, such as grass clippings and tree chips. She is trying to establish a composting demonstration garden on campus.

For the last several years, Pike has also helped organize UNLV’s Earth Day, an event that seeks to increase awareness of environmental issues. In a change from past celebrations, Earth Day was held on a Friday this year at Pike’s urging, allowing many school children to visit the exhibits and enjoy the activities on field trips.

Her work as a volunteer and her major in environmental studies have combined nicely to give her an excellent academic foundation enhanced by real-world experience. Asked how she has managed to balance her school work with all of her other activities, Pike laughs.

“I’ve never had much trouble. Tara Pike still doesn’t mind climbing into a dumpster now and then just to see what’s there.”

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UNLV Foundation
4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 451006
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When UNLV students work on the sets of major film and television productions, it's bound to be good for the storytelling. Here, one film studies professor tells the students' tales of learning about the industry, encountering their screen heroes, and just plain getting the job done.

Director Martin Scorsese watches the monitor intently. He sits in his director's chair placed against the wall of a kitchen facility in a rented hall near downtown Las Vegas.

"Action!"

The camera begins by framing up on Academy Award-winning actor Joe Pesci sharing a story with some "wiseguys" gangsters at the side of a bar. Then the Steadicam operator glides off, capturing the large room past some "wiseguys" watching an old 1940s film noir on TV. The camera comes to a gentle stop where the frame reaches the table of the head Mafioso playing cards with a curve.

The old Mafioso stares at his cards, furrowing his brow as he thinks of his next move. The movie is renowned filmmaker Martin Scorsese's Cazina. It is the middle of January '95, and the picture has been shooting in Nevada for the past few months. Though the scene is a minor one, the crew is anxious, as they are a week away from wrapping up principal photography, and the challenging shoot is almost over.

A few feet from Scorsese sits UNLV film studies major Jason Goedeker, who has spent the fall semester working as an intern on Casino and the past three weeks as a paid assistant for the camera department. His job: to place Scorsese's monitor in the right position and to ensure that the line from the camera is connected to it.

It might not be the most glamorous job description in the film industry, but Goedeker, 25, knows that a slip-up on his part could halt production, a costly and embarrassing scenario he'd prefer to avoid. So he's vigilant at his post, watching his own black and white monitor and waiting for the word "cut" to break the tension. When it comes, he is relieved.

It is less than a year since Goedeker completed his own 16mm film in the Film Production 1 class at UNLV. He, like other film studies majors, has devoted a great deal of time and effort to their own projects. But now the game is different; Goedeker is watching firsthand how the professionals make a movie.

He is one of more than a dozen students the UNLV film studies program has placed as interns or paid assistants on the sets of major film and television productions shooting in or around Las Vegas. They have served on such projects as Star Trek: Generations, Northern Exposure, and Indecent Proposal. Their work, often in the somewhat menial role of production assistant, teaches them about the many facets of the film industry, from the tedious hours of waiting for the shot to be set up to the thrill of meeting their screen heroes.

One of my roles as a film studies professor is to arrange the students' internships with the film companies. I also visit the sets to see them in action and to hear how the job is going. Their accounts of their experiences on the set, a few of which I will relate here, speak to the value of such real-world training. They also offer an amusing inside look at the film industry.

But first I'll set the stage by providing some facts about the film industry and the students who hope to break into it.

Every year, film schools around the country produce approximately 26,000 film studies graduates. Dezso Magyar, director of the American Film Institute's fellowship program, estimates that only 5 to 10 percent of those 26,000 will actually find their way into the film industry.

Some of those students have paid their institutions as much as $100,000 for a chance to get experience behind the lens. In that context, the film studies program at UNLV is a bargain to the aspiring film student. Here, they have an opportunity to learn how to shoot, write, and think about film for a fraction of the cost of the average film school.

My focus is not only to provide them with that experience in a liberal arts setting, but to ensure that they stand a chance of getting a taste of the industry before they graduate. Obviously, not all of our majors want to work in the industry. Some will go on to obtain advanced degrees and serve in careers in higher education; others want to work outside the mainstream, focusing on avant-garde and experimental film. But a substantial number, like Goedeker, want to compete for the big brass ring — the opportunity to take the coveted role of director on a Hollywood feature film.

But first I'll set the stage by providing some facts about the film industry and the students who hope to break into it.

I am reminded of the joke about the talking dog that was being interviewed by Johnny Carson on the Tonight Show. "It is amazing," Johnny told his guest. "You are a dog, an ordinary house­-pet, yet here you are being interviewed on my show."

"Yes," responded the dog, "it is amazing. But what I really want to do
As he set the case down on a moment to take a break, he locked up the hill and saw familiar figures approach. Sean Shamer, known to the public as Kirk and Picard, the legendary captain of the starship Enterprise, and Sean DeNiro, the irascible DeNiro outside DeNiro Enterprises, were DeNiro not moving on to the next action, so he was done for the night. The air was cold, and Myler, and I sat in silence. I watched him organize his clipboard, which enabled him to keep everything moving smoothly for the next day's shoot. I looked over toward the trailer door.

"When you think of me on this movie," Myler said, "I want you to picture me outside this trailer with my clipboard and a cellular phone. This is my place. This is where I live." I nodded. He had completed his first 122-page screenplay a few months before, and this was his first industry job. He had landed it by doing what he called it doing all my graduating seniors did: be persistent.


He was referring to DeNiro, and I was not sure I was ready to hear anything personal about the acting legend.

"He likes to call me at 4:30 in the morning to check whether I am awake," he said with a straight face. I waited for the punch line, but we were interrupted by the opening of the trailer door. DeNiro stood framed in the doorway. He was dressed in the business suit he wore in the movie. He was clean-shaven, and his face somehow managed to evoke every character that he has ever played.

Immediately, Myler stood at attention and gave him a mock salute. DeNiro returned it with a big grin. This was either a routine they had or a way to impress the professor. He invited us inside.

"So tell me, what’s he like?" DeNiro asked.

"Who?"

"Cory. What was he like in school?"

I myself was a little stumped at that point, I could hardly believe Jake LaMotta was interviewing me about one of my students. I stumbled around for the right words, but figured it was probably the wrong time to check if he really called up Myler at 4:30 a.m.

"Fine. Good student. Has he been good so far?"

DeNiro's big smile was straight out of the film. Scofield knew that it's not as easy as it looks. The film slate board holds the written information for the production title, scene and take number, and the director's and cameraman's names. It is photographed at the beginning of each take as identification. Clipping or marking the slate results in the slate clip being dropped in the hinged box on the top of the slate to create an audible and visible cue that will be recorded on film and sound tape simultaneously. This will allow the picture and sound to be synchronized in postproduction.

Scofield knew that it's not as easy as it looks. This was an electronic slate board with a picture code readout — much more comfortable as long as he was asking the questions.

As the captain of the starship Enterprise, Scofield stood in the corner organizing his clipboard. He dialed a number on the cellular phone and spoke in hushed tones so as not to interrupt the figures on the set. That's just the right touch, I thought. Do the job, no fuss. And try to blend into the woodwork.

Another important characteristic for a production assistant is the willingness to do a seemingly simple task well. It's an aspect of the job that student David Scofield took very seriously during his time on the set of the television series Northern Exposure.

Given the fact that Scofield, 33, had completed his bachelor's degree in accounting three years earlier and then returned to school to pursue his passion for making movies, it was clear that he was committed to working in the film industry. Just how committed he was became clear on that day.

The weather on the Redmond, Wash., set had not been conducive to rehearsing his work last long. But for his task that day, he would rise to the challenge. It was the day he would later recall as his "baptism into the film industry."

It was the day he got to clap the slate.
Recovering A Sense of Enjoyment

UNLV professor Cynthia Carruthers is using her research to help recovering alcoholics find ways to enjoy their leisure without drinking.

BY SUZAN DISILLA

Harry’s life sounded like an ad for Charter Hospital: He spent most of his time drinking and gambling compulsively. Fearfully shy and extremely self-conscious, he didn’t have much of a social life. Alcohol and casinos were his chief forms of entertainment, though they drained him emotionally and financially. As his life spiraled out of control, he knew he needed help, but wasn’t sure where to look first.

At that point, you can bet he wouldn’t have thought to look in a scholarly journal.

But, ironically, for Harry — and many others like him — help would come in the form of an education program that grew out of the scholarly research of UNLV leisure studies professor Cynthia Carruthers. Her study of how people use alcohol to enhance their leisure time has produced some telling insights into the way that alcoholics think, behave, and, perhaps most importantly, respond to recovery programs.

Carruthers became interested in the subject while working in a residential program for people with addictions to help pay for her graduate education in therapeutic recreation. After finishing her master’s degree, it occurred to her that the primary focus of therapeutic recreation in the context of such a program is to help people with addictions use their leisure time in a way that supports their recovery and makes it enjoyable.

“If they don’t know how to enjoy their lives when they’re in recovery, they’re not very likely to stay in recovery,” says Carruthers, who has since become a certified addictions counselor. “If alcohol and drugs facilitate their enjoyment of their leisure and they don’t have the skills necessary to create positive leisure experiences for themselves without those chemicals, they may go back to them as a crutch.”

So Carruthers set out to discover more about alcohol use and leisure.

Although we have always looked at how to help people enjoy their lives without the use of alcohol or drugs, we haven’t really known what function they serve in enhancing the leisure experience,” she says. “We had a sense that there was a relationship, but it had never really been explored.”

Based on the simple question, “Why do people drink in their leisure time?” Carruthers developed a year-long study, later published in The Journal of Leisure Research, that began with a telephone survey of 1,000 Southern Nevadans. Initially asking participants about their leisure experiences in general, Carruthers went on to narrow the focus of her study to drinking and leisure. She then asked those surveyed to participate in a follow-up mail survey that concentrated quite specifically on alcohol consumption patterns.

What she found was that people expect alcohol to produce many of the same qualities that are essential conditions of the overall leisure experience. For instance, they expect alcohol to help them psychologically disengage from day-to-day routines, feel more comfortable in social settings,
and become more immersed in their leisure activities. She also found that people who drink more frequently are also more often involved in leisure activities that take them outdoors or into the community, such as going out to dinner with friends or traveling. The idea seemed to be that alcohol was being used to enhance the positive qualities of the leisure experience.

Carruthers questions whether the findings of past studies accurately portray the problems of today’s alcoholic.

"Those studies focused on older people with chronic alcoholism. Today, people are getting into treatment a lot earlier. These are people in their 30s and 40s who are still quite active, and if they try to return to those same types of leisure patterns, it will be very threatening to their recovery."

Recognizing the need for a new approach, Carruthers used her expertise in therapeutic recreation to design a four-session leisure education program for people with addictions, incorporating the findings of her research. She helped implement the program in a local hospital last year.

Since her study indicated that many people use alcohol to help them disengage from their preoccupations and routines and then to become more immersed in the moment, she realized it was important to introduce program participants to ways to achieve those states of mind without drinking. So that became the premise of the first session.

"Using some cognitive restructuring techniques, we tried to show them how to step away from their day-to-day worries by looking first at the way they create a lot of the anxiety in their own lives. "Many of the events in our lives are emotionally fairly neutral. However, the way we process these events may be off-kilter or irrational, which can lead to strong irrational emotional responses. In effect, we make mountains out of molehills. What happens then is that we see a lot of cyclical thinking, a lot of working something to death, and a lack of ability to live in the present." So the questions we wanted the program participants to consider are, "How am I creating this anxiety and keeping myself in a state of turmoil and preoccupation?" and then, "How can I make that go away?"

The answers, Carruthers says, dovetail extremely well with the whole idea of recovery and the "Serenity Prayer,"

Carruthers based her research on the simple question, "Why do people drink in their leisure time?" Her study has been published in *The Journal of Leisure Research*

which suggests that you take action when you can, accept the things you can’t change, and hope you have the wisdom to know the difference.

And so what we had them do was look at that process. If there’s an event, and they experience strong emotions or ruminations about it that are out of context, they should trace it back, identify the preceding thought, look at how irrational it is, and then replace it.

"We wanted them to ask themselves if there’s anything they could do to make the situation better, yes or no. If it’s yes, then do it. If it’s no, then it’s their responsibility to let it go. And part of letting go is looking at how we keep things alive in our own heads that don’t do us any good and keep us from enjoying our lives."

After showing them how to disengage through that technique, Carruthers also sought to help them learn how to immerse themselves in a leisure activity in which they can become totally absorbed, excluding any interfering disruptive thoughts or feelings.

"We gave them homework after each session. Their first assignment was to put themselves in a situation in the next 24 hours that they anticipate they’ll enjoy, and then really get into that activity. If it’s an optimally challenging activity, it will be that much better because it will require them to remain in the present."

In the second session, Carruthers helped the participants to acquire some interpersonal communication skills that would enable them to feel more comfortable in a social setting. She offered them guidance on listening skills and provided situations that presented a risk to their recovery, then assisted them in ranking the degree of confidence they had that they could avoid using alcohol or drugs in each situation.

"It ranged from 0 percent to 100 percent confidence, and it included such things as, ‘Something wonderful happened to me, and I wanted to celebrate’ or ‘I was out with friends, and they wanted to go to a bar.’ Or ‘I wanted to get close to someone in an intimate situation’ or ‘I was lonely and bored.’ And then they identified the degree to which they felt they could remain sober.

"We worked as a group to identify certain items — there were about two or three that almost everybody in the group felt were threatening — and then we developed strategies for handling the situations and practiced applying them."

The objective of the fourth session was to help them find leisure activities that would support their recovery and then to identify any barriers to their involvement in them. Then the participants were charged with finding ways to overcome those barriers.

"So the goal of the program was to enable them to suspend all of the garbage and begin enjoying their lives in recovery," Carruthers says. "It was about not allowing leisure to be a threat to their recovery that they didn’t know how to handle."

Her methodological approach to analyzing the leisure experience seemed to help many of the participants.

"All of them strongly supported the program for each session and felt that their abilities had improved. We were glad to see that they didn’t say that they had improved dramatically; they were realistic and said they had improved or improved slightly. We wouldn’t anticipate that they could make dramatic changes through just one session. But, for example, a number of people who were very uncomfortable socially reported they felt that with the basic skills they had learned and some practice, they could make ongoing improvement in their lives."

Carruthers is pleased that she has been able to apply her research to help people.

"I chose to go into therapeutic recreation with the goal of making a difference in peoples’ lives. I really didn’t start out anticipating that I would one day be doing research, but I’m glad that my work in academia has enabled me to make that contribution. I really like the notion that my job is to help people learn to enjoy their lives."
AN ALUMNUS FOR THE PROSECUTION

As Clark County District Attorney, UNLV alumnus Stewart Bell wants to make Southern Nevada a safer place to live. He's ready for the challenge, saying he just wants to give something back to his community.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

Ask longtime friends to describe Clark County District Attorney Stewart Bell, and they'll talk about the serious, bright student who was a respected leader as far back as his high school days. They'll also talk about the UNLV alumnus as a talented attorney who built a successful legal practice, while at the same time devoting hours to his family and to community causes.

And they'll talk about the Stewart Bell who gave up a well-established legal practice to become a public servant.

Longtime friend and Clark County Sheriff Jerry Keller, who attended both high school and college with him, says Bell deserves credit for making the move to the district attorney's office.

"He gave up what was probably one of the best law practices in Southern Nevada to go into public service," Keller says. "I think that's admirable."

But Bell himself doesn't seem to be looking for that kind of credit. He says he just wants to give something back to the community.

He says Southern Nevada has been extraordinarily good to him over the years, from his days as an accounting major at the fledgling school known as Nevada Southern University, through his two decades as a defense attorney, to that day last November when voters elected him to the county's top legal post.

For years he has been involved in volunteer efforts — everything from heading the state and local bar associations to coaching Little League and girls' soccer — in an effort to give something back.

And that, he says, is why he decided to set aside a thriving defense practice to run for district attorney.

"I thought I had something to offer here in terms of improving the systemic way we do business, improving the level of justice, improving the level of efficiency, and making this community safer," Bell says. "And, I believe I would be able to get a great sense of personal satisfaction if I were able to do that."

Becoming the county's top prosecutor after a full career as a defense attorney isn't as big a switch as people might believe, Bell says.

"The role of the lawyer is to take a problem and find a solution and then sell that solution," he says. "Your client comes to you and asks you for help, and it's your job to help."

Whether your client is the defendant or the state doesn't really matter, according to Bell, because the key to the U.S. system of justice is that everyone — the police, the prosecutors, the defense attorneys, the probation offices, the judges, and the jury — has a vital role to play.

"The theory of our criminal justice system is that if everybody does his job right, justice will be done."

For people who are critical of defense attorneys because they feel those attorneys help guilty people beat the charges against them, Bell refers again to the essential nature of all the roles in the justice system.

"The defense attorney is absolutely, positively necessary to make sure that the power of government doesn't overwhelm the individuals," he says. "It's not the case that every person who is arrested is guilty. It's not the case that the prosecution is right every time in terms of assessing who to prosecute and what penalty to seek."

As for his own personal switch from the defense table to the government side, Bell says he believes it will have some practical value for the district attorney's office. Because he's been there, he knows how defense attorneys operate. As a result, when prosecutors in his office ask him how he thinks the defense will react to a particular tactic, he has 20 years of daily experience to draw on.

And Bell doesn't intend to let those years as a trial lawyer go to waste by spending all his time on administrative duties. He intends to prosecute cases personally — something few of his predecessors have done.

"It's one of the skills that I bring to the office. It would be a shame to waste 25 years of in-court legal experience and do total administration," Bell says.

"Also, I think the public needs to see you out there. You're the person they're going to lead the charge. I think they need to see you leading the charge."

Seeing Bell today in his courthouse office surrounded by the trappings of his profession, it would be easy to assume that a career in law was inevitable for him.

But when young Stewart Bell arrived at UNLV's predecessor, Nevada Southern University, in the fall of 1963, he didn't have a career in mind.

Accordingly, he pursued a business degree with an emphasis in accounting. Professor Reuben Neumann, now an emeritus professor of accounting, was an important influence, he says. Other professors he recalls as being particularly good are the late Richard Strahlem, who served as chairman of the accounting department for several years, and economics professor Andre Simmons, who is now an emeritus professor.

Bell remembers his time at UNLV — then a university housed in just three buildings — fondly, but he also recalls it as a time of hard work. A grocery store job paid his school bills but left little time for extracurricular activities. Still, he joined Alpha Tau Omega fraternity when it formed a chapter on campus shortly before his graduation.

By the time Bell had reached his senior year, he still wasn't sure what career path to follow.

"I decided that I would go to law school for just a year. When I started I wasn't sure whether I would go all the way or just go a year and decide I didn't like it," Bell says.

So, after receiving his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1967, Bell headed to the University of California, Los Angeles, where he roomed with fellow UNLV graduate William Skupa, who is now a defense attorney in Las Vegas.

"When I went into school at UCLA, I was somewhat skeptical that my education might be comparatively deficient," Bell says, noting that among his law school classmates were graduates of UCLA, UC-Berkeley, and Harvard. "I was very pleasantly surprised that it wasn't. There's no question that the education I got at UNLV even at its early stage was as good or better than the powerhouse schools."

He also discovered that accounting was an excellent background for law school. His advice to students today who are considering legal careers is to take as many math, accounting, English, and literature courses as possible.

Bell found law school to be a
Bull says he has several goals for the district attorney’s office, of which he has already begun implementing. One of them is to dispense justice in a more consistent and fair manner, he says.

To that end, he has established a death penalty review process composed of himself and six other attorneys in the office. Their job is to review each case in which seeking the death penalty is an option and then decide whether that is the best course.

Bell believes that before the death penalty is sought, a determination needs to be made that it is the just punishment to seek and that it is likely that the district attorney’s office can win the case and have that decision uphold on appeal.

Because a typical death penalty case—which includes an automatic appeal if the defendant receives that punishment—can cost the taxpayers anywhere from tens of thousands of dollars to $5 million, it would be irresponsible to pursue a case without being sure that it is the right one to pursue.

Bell says he has established that death penalty review process on his own, with the support of other attorneys. "When you deal with violent crime it doesn’t make sense and that’s what scares me," Bell says.

A major focus in the fight against violent crime has to be directed at the community’s children and teen-agers, he says. If a 14- or 15-year-old kid goes into a 7-Eleven and robs it and kills the clerk—and then we are able to identify the person, catch him, prosecute him, and incarcerate him—to some degree we look on that as a success.

But at that point, the families of both the victim and the defendant have been affected. For the rest of their lives and thousands of dollars of taxpayers’ money have been spent, he says.

A real success would be if we could have somehow identified this as a potential problem and intervened as a community in this kid’s life when he was 12 or 13 or 15 so that it doesn’t happen," Bell says. "And that’s the only way we are going to be able to define success.

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November 1995

1 Music Department: UNLV Community Concert Band and the Las Vegas Brass Band. 1pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
2 Music Department: 10pm. Idaho Symphony Orchestra. 895-3801.
3 Alumni Event: Homecoming Reception. 6:30pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
4 Music Department: Tailgate Party. 9:30am. Alumni Park at Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3621.
5 Music Department: Jan Ensemble 1 & 2. 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
6-19 University Theatre: "Song of the Sad Cafe." Nov. 9-11 & 15-18, 8pm; Nov. 12 & 19, 7:30pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
10-12 Opera Theatre: "The Barber of Seville." Nov. 10 & 11, 7:30pm; Nov. 12, 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
11-15 Football: UNLV vs. Utah. 2pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3801.
14-19 Women's Center Workshops: "Leadership and Developing Successful Interpersonal Relationships." Deborah D. Wick. 6:30-8:30pm. Classroom Building Complex C218. 895-4475.
15 Alumni Event: Board of Directors Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3801.
16-18 Football: UNLV vs. New Mexico State. 1pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3801.
18-20 Concerts: UNLV Opera Theatre: Nov. 18, 8pm; Nov. 19, 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
24 Master Series: Isaac Stern. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

December 1995

1 Master Series: Jullian String Quartet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
2 Music Department: University Choir. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
3 Celebration Series: "Dallas Brass Christmas," featuring Michael Leavitt. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
4 Music Department: Gala Performance. 7pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
5 Music Department: Chamber Ensemble: "Leadership and Developing Successful Interpersonal Relationships." 6pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
8-9 Chamber Music: "Johann Memorial Field." 8:30pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
10-11 Dance: "La Boheme: Christmas Concert." 7:30pm. Both days. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

January 1996

1 Community Concert: Stan and Carol Keshluius. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
2 Festival: Handbell Orchestra Festival. 4pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
5 Exhibit: "Juttn Ladd: Contemporary Sculpture." 8pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3801.
6 Spring Semester 1996: Registration begins.
16 Master Series: Isaac Stern. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
In that job, she acts as an advocate for patients who have billing disputes with hospitals. She is also a political science instructor at the Community College of Southern Nevada and teaches continuing education courses at UNLV.

Robert A. Fielden, '76 MA Education Administration, is an administrator and president of Robert A. Fielden Inc. He is vice president of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. He serves on the Nevada Board of Architecture and is a part-time instructor at UNLV. He has received the Nevada Society of Architects’ Lifetime Award, the silver medal, and has served as president of both the local and state chapters of the American Institute of Architects.

Carl Cook, '88 BS Communication Studies, is the assistant director of alumni relations at UNLV. He was recently named the outstanding advisor for District V in the Regional Student Alumni Association Conference sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. District V included 33 western universities.

Joseph Phillip Aze, '90 BS Business Administration, received his MBA in finance and international business from the University of San Diego in 1992. He is a portfolio manager for First Interstate Capital Management, a division of First Interstate Bancorp. He lives in Reno.

James V. Covey III, '91 BS Business Administration, is an operations supervisor for United Parcel Service in Las Vegas. He has worked his way up through the ranks at the company, beginning as a part-time sorter and loader/unloader while attending UNLV.

Gary H. Fitzgerald, '92 MBA, is president and general manager of EG&G Special Projects.

Arthur Amelia, '92 BA Communication Studies, is the publicity manager for the Four Queen Hotel and Casino. She is also working on a master’s degree in communication studies at UNLV.

Mark A. Murphy, '92 BS Business Administration, is an audit staff accountant with Boughaw, Smith & Co., CPAs, Rotman Advisors & Consultants. He is responsible for assisting on audit engagements and computer consulting. He previously worked for Joseph F. Zegas Ltd. CPA and the Texas Research Institute in Austin.

Lauren Dees, '94 Master of Public Administration, is director of management services at UNLV. Her article, “Telecomputer Communication: The Model for Effective Distance Learning,” which was based on her master’s thesis, was recently published in ED Journal, the official publication of the U.S. Distance Learning Association.
Reel-Life Experience  
continued from page 11

fancier than the wooden ones back in the UNLV film studies program. During the week he had learned that if you close it too slowly, it won’t mark the magnetic contacts for the time code. If you close it too fast, it could make a double contact and release a double-sync beep. He had also seen how the slate could be intrusive to the actor’s performance. It had to be clamped just right.

For the shoot, they were in a warehouse on the set of “The Brick,” the bar featured in the quirky TV series. Scofield placed himself in front of the camera. The camera operator guided his position so that he was in the frame, and Scofield held the slate open, prepared for the moment when he would truly break into films.

“Roll sound,” the first assistant director ordered.

“Speed,” the recordist answered.

“Scene 39, D, take one.”

“Camera.”

“Rolling,” the operator responded.

“Mark it.”

That was Scofield’s cue. Steady, not too loud, not too fast, not too slow.

As the perfect “clack” echoed on the set, he felt the rush of satisfaction that comes with a job well done.

For those who seriously aspire to the director’s chair, a production assistant job can offer the chance to observe the pros in action.

Take Jennifer Elledge, for example. She graduated from UNLV’s film studies program in 1992, after receiving the award for outstanding graduate in the production area for that year. Like many of her classmates, she was able to complement her education by working on a feature film.

Her job on the set of Indecent Proposal both taught her about professionalism in the film industry and provided her with a role model.

“I used to focus all my attention on watching [director] Adrian Lyne on the set,” she recalls. “I was a production assistant in wardrobe which gave me the excuse to be close to the action. The best job for me was being on the set; office work can be very . . . secretarial. And I felt I needed to learn from watching the director.”

What did she discover?

“Well, what I had already learned — that a director appears to do very little on the set. But what interested me was precisely that — observing the small reactions he had to performances and the small adjustments he made with the actor and the camera between takes.”

She added that the level of professionalism she witnessed on the shoot provided her with a standard that she hopes she will find on her next project: her 20-minute master’s thesis film. When I spoke with her, she was at the end of her second year in the directing program at the California Institute of the Arts. She was getting closer to that brass ring.

Dedicated to Nature  
continued from page 6

It all usually meshes, except for fitting in sleep and a social life.”

Since her 1994 graduation, Pike has worked at UNLV in the Office of Environmental Affairs and Sustainability as a coordinator. This fall, she will go to work for AmeriCorps, a domestic version of the Peace Corps. She helped write the proposal for the Southern Nevada Environmental Corps, a division of AmeriCorps that she will help lead. The organization will inform the community about recycling, desert landscaping and restoration, and water and energy efficiency. It will also work hard to energize and hold community interest.

Pike is pleased that her AmeriCorps service will help pay off her student loans while she is able to continue working for a cause she believes in deeply. “I love organizing people, events. I like creating something and watching it happen, getting things started,” Pike says.

And UNLV has been a valuable proving ground for her abundant talent for doing so.

“The joke at Valley High School was that UNLV stood for the University of Never Leaving Vegas. But coming to UNLV was the best decision I ever made,” says Pike, who credits the supportive atmosphere and personal attention available in the environmental studies program for her accomplishments.

In exchange, she has left the environment at her alma mater a little better than when she arrived. In a way, it’s just another form of recycling, only in human terms.

Alumnus  
continued from page 18

and church groups. He and his wife, Jeanne, have devoted countless hours to such groups over the years.

Although his work for the district attorney’s office will keep Bell busy for the foreseeable future, he knows that someday his tenure as district attorney will end.

He says he has no political ambitions beyond the district attorney’s office, but that there is one government-related project in Southern Nevada’s future that interests him.

“I envision in the next few years that the governor and the Legislature will decide that UNLV needs a law school. If the timing is right, I would be interested in working on that project, even helping to organize the school and the curriculum, putting a building together, and hiring staff.

“That would be an interesting project where you could, after a few years, look back and say that you’ve done something to make the community better.”
Your child. Your spouse. Relatives. Close friends. Your estate plan should provide for all the obvious beneficiaries.

But what about the heirs who are less apparent? What about, for example, the students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas?

A growing number of people are including UNLV in their bequests. Clearly, they understand that they have both the privilege and the responsibility of assisting future generations of students. And they’re using their estate plans as a vehicle.

A bequest to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas is a rare opportunity to make a life-transcending gift — one that will perpetuate your ideals, your hopes, your values.

By providing for UNLV in your estate plan, you can often make a much larger gift than would be possible during your lifetime. And that gift will have far-reaching ramifications, affirming UNLV’s mission of education, touching the lives of students for years — even generations — to come.

Your bequest will literally form the bedrock of our programs, providing much needed dollars for faculty support, curriculum initiatives, and scholarships for our future leaders.

If you haven’t yet made a bequest to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, please consider it.

If you have already included a gift to UNLV as part of your estate plan, please let us know. We want to thank you now by including you in our UNLV Heritage Circle. The UNLV Heritage Circle is a special group of donors and friends who, through their planned gift, will make a tremendous impact on UNLV’s future.

If you’re interested in making a provision for UNLV in your estate plan, you can call the UNLV Foundation at (702) 895-3641 and ask about Generations. It’s our program to inform people about the benefits of charitable gift planning.

Ask for our free brochure on estate planning. We’ll send you information about the numerous giving options as well as preferred bequest language for review by your lawyer.
The Classroom Building Complex recently gained 3,300 square feet when the space under these stairs, located in the courtyard, was redesigned and constructed as a storage area.