UNLV Magazine

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Donna McAleer
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Francisco Menendez
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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New Leadership, New Questions

Dr. Carol C. Harter, UNLV President
The UNLV Alumni Association presents

Homecoming 1995

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.

New Leadership, New Questions
Recently appointed UNLV President Carol C. Harter has begun to identify some key questions about the university's future. Many of the answers, she believes, will come from the university community itself.

BY TOM FLAGG

Dedicated to Nature by Nature
At times it's been a dirty job, but UNLV alumna Tara Pike has brought uncommon commitment to many campus environmental projects.

BY DONNA MCALEER

Reel-Life Experience
When UNLV students work on the sets of major film and television productions, it's bound to be good for the storytelling.

BY FRANCISCO MENENDEZ

Recovering A Sense of Enjoyment
Leisure studies professor Cynthia Carruthers is using her research to help recovering alcoholics find ways to enjoy their lives without drinking.

BY SUZAN DIBELLA

An Alumnus for the Prosecution
Clark County District Attorney Stewart Bell, a 1967 graduate of Nevada Southern University, wants to give something back to his community by making it a safer place to live.

BY DIANE RUSSELL
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 Irardi. 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, Missi 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 toBetter 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 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.
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 Lakes golf course.

The Sandblast Open pairs supporters of UNLV against supporters of UNR and serves as a scholarship fund-raiser.

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 $241. To make reservations or to obtain additional information, call the Alumni Relations Office at 895-8621.

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 for 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 Editorship 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 editorship will enable UNLV to help guide literacy research into the next century. He will continue editing the publication through the year 2000.

Dean, Director Appointed

A new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and a new director of the Greenspun School of Communication have been selected.

Gary Bailey, the former chairman of the English department at the University of Memphis, has been named dean of UNLV's College of Liberal Arts.

Gary Kreps, a former communication studies professor at Northern Illinois University and at the University of Memphis in 1993, has been named dean of the Greenspun School of Communication.

Both assumed their posts July 1. Bailey chaired the English department at Oklahoma State University before joining the faculty at the University of Memphis in 1993. He has also taught at Texas A&M University and at Emory University. His fields of teaching include linguistics and Old and Middle English.

Kreps, who received his Ph.D. in communication from the University of Southern California in 1979, specializes in the areas of health communication, organizational intervention, research methods, multicultural relations, interpersonal/group behavior, communication theory, and leadership.

At Northern Illinois University he served as professor of communication, director of graduate studies, a senior member of the graduate faculty, professor of gerontology, and professor of international training and consultation.

I n 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 founder of SCOPE (Students Conscious of Protecting the Environment), Pike was invited to serve on UNLV's Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee during her sophomore year.

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 Swartzell, director of UNLV's Landscape, Grounds, and Arboretum. "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 cluster 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.

"Tara's 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 change to stucco) 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.
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 "wise guys" watching an old 1940s film noir on TV. The camera comes to a gentle stop when the frame reaches the table of the head Mafioso playing cards with a crook. 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 Casino. 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.

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.

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, 26, 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 I class at UNLV. He, like other film studies majors, has devoted a great deal of time and effort to writing, planning, and shooting his 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 these 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.

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 see, the dog was an ordinary house­hold pet, yet here you are being interviewed on my show."

"Yes," responded the dog, "it is amazing. But what I really want to do is..."
This desire among students to lead the cast and crew of a feature film grows yearly and prompts many of them to demand answers on how to crack the film industry. They have read about the outrageously high salaries that the industry promises the director and, as a result, they relish the notion of putting their visions on film. The prospect sounds pretty tantalizing to the young creative mind.

But the film set can be a rude awakening to students, as it provides them with a realistic view of how a film goes from script to screen. It is there that they can observe professionals and test their dreams and aspirations against the nuts and bolts of the Hollywood production routine. Keep in mind that the job of production assistant is not a glamorous description of a Hollywood producer. The position requires minimal skills, the assignment demands long hours, and the work is menial at best. One of our challenges is to prepare our students so they can put their best foot forward and use this experience to make informed decisions about their futures in the film business.

With that in mind, they pursue opportunities, hoping for the best. Some, like Ryan Adam O'Hair, learn about being starstruck.

As he set the case down, a moment to take a break, he looked up the hill and saw two familiar figures approaching. O'Hair had an eye for the unexpected, for the would-be only chance to have a photo taken of the captain and himself. The two actors were about 10 feet away and getting closer. O'Hair looked down the hill at the makeshift parking lot 100 feet below. There was the blue Honda with his camera locked inside.

O'Hair looked back. The actors were upon him; he knew he could make it to the car if he could get them to wait just for a moment. It was now or never.

"Excuse me, gentlemen. Would you mind if I took a picture with the two of you?"

Shatner and Stewart stopped to stare at O'Hair, who was doing his best to sell them the idea with a winning smile. The captain exchanged glances, then studied O'Hair and his three crates. Finally, Shatner broke the silence.

"Maybe after lunch," he said in his commanding voice.

As the captains walked past him toward their trailers, O'Hair sighed. He knew there would be no picture, reminding himself that that was why he locked his camera in his car in the first place.

"Get to work," he thought to himself. "Just do it."

He then picked up the three heavy cases of beverages he was carrying up the hill to the camera crew.
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 DIBELLA

Harry's life sounded like an ad for Charter Hospital: He spent most of his time drinking and gambling compulsively. Faithfully 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 she has 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,
We need to get them out involved in leisure activities, research take on special significance when the implications of Carruthers’ proposed as an alternative situations.”

“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 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 were, ‘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,’

“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, excelling at an interesting disruptive thoughts or feelings.

“We gave them homework after every 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 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 self-esteem-building exercises.

In the third session, she helped them identify different types of leisure 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 the he 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 alum 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 officers, the judges, and the juries — 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 an absolutely, positively necessary counterbalance to make sure that the power of government doesn't overwhelm the individuals," he says. "It's not the case that everybody is guilty. It's not the case that the prosecution is right every time in terms of assessing who is prosecuted 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 20 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 right he was headed toward a business career.

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 economical 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."

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
Bell says he has several goals for the district attorney's office, some 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 committee 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 upheld 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 such a penalty if there were not a likelihood of winning, he says.

Bell understands that to seek the death penalty in every case possible might be politically popular. But, he adds, "Popular isn't the standard here. The standard here is to do what's right both from a justice point of view and a fiscal point of view."

"If we're going to have any impact on public safety, we have to use limited resources and dollars 100 percent efficiently because the public can only afford so much in terms of dollars to go for safety," Bell says.

Bell says he realizes that his office has an important role to play in decreasing the violent crime that has become such a concern in Southern Nevada. But he also warns that his office and the police need help from the community if the problem is to be solved.

"Crime in general is getting more violent, more random, and younger," Bell says. "It used to be the case that when you dealt with violent crime it kind of made sense—domestic kinds of killings or robberies that go away.

"We see crime today that doesn't make sense and that's what scares people. Fifty years ago, people felt that if they stayed in their neighborhood, didn't bother anyone, and made sure that their children didn't hang out with the wrong crowd, they and their families would be safe, he says.

"Now that's not the case. People don't feel safe driving down the streets. People don't feel safe in their homes. And it's a situation that needs to be turned around.

A major focus in the fight against violent crime has to be directed at the community's children and teen-agers, he says. Now, more than ever before, juvenile and very young adults are committing crimes of violence, he notes.

"When some 19-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 adversely affected for the rest of their lives and thousands of dollars of taxpayer's 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. Every kid that we turn around not only solves that problem, but they don't become a statistic in the adult system five or 10 years later," he says. "I think that has got to be a big focus of our attack."

The cost involved in making sure juveniles stay on the right track is "penetic" compared to the cost of apprehending them, prosecuting them, and jailing them as adults, he says.

Bell, who is the father of four, is a big believer in organized activities for children and teen-agers, such as Little League, Boys and Girls Clubs, scouting, continued on page 24
November 1995

1 Music Department: UNLV Community Concert Band and the Las Vegas Brass Band. 7pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
2 Music Department: University Wind Symphony. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
3 Alumni Event: Homecoming Reception. 6:30pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
4 Alumni Event: Tailgate Party. 10:30am. Alumni Park at Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3621.
5 Music Department: Jans Ensemble. 7pm. Judy Bayley 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.
17-21 University Dance Theatre: "Dallas Blues Christmas." featuring Michael Levine. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
21 Music Department: 76 Trombones + 4. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

December 1995

1 Music Department: Julliard String Quartet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
2 Music Department: University Chorus. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
3 Celebration Series: "Dallas Blues Christmas." featuring Michael Levine. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
4 Music Department: Gala Performance. 7pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
5 Music Department: Evening of Chamber Music. 7pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
6 Music Department: "Leadership and Development." Deborah D. Wicker Wright. 6:30-8:30pm. Classroom Building Complex C218. 895-4475.
11 Master Series: Julliard Quartet. Featuring Michael Levine. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
12 Concert: University Wind Symphony. 7:30pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
17 Exhibition: "Jutten Ladd: Contemporary Sculpture." Works. 9am-5pm. Donna Bean Gallery. 895-3803. (thru Feb. 9)
21 Spring Semester '96: Instruction begins.
22 Master Series: Isaac Stern. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
22 Music Department: Sierra Winds. 8pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
40 Music Department: University Wind Symphony. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
42 The Hobbit Theatre San s Fi. Feb. 19

February 1996

18-19 The Hobbit Theatre San s Fi. Feb. 19-20, 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
18-19 Nebraska Opera Theatre: Maggie Fuentess. 8pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
5 Chamber Music Southwest: Teresa Long. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
12 A Family Affair: Boys Choir of Harlem. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
16-17 University Dance Theatre: Spring Concert. Feb. 16, 9pm; Feb. 17, 2 & 8pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
17 Concert: Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
**Class Notes**

### '70s

**James Fagin, ’71 BA Communication Studies**

- A professor of criminal justice and public administration at Chaminade University of Honolulu
- Recently received a special educator award from the Hawaii chapter of the American Society of Public Administration

**Jack Howard, ’71 Science**

- A nationwide instructor for CIBSE
- Has been promoted to vice president of the American Society of Public Administration

**Kathy Norris, ’74 BA English**

- An account manager at Nevada Board of Education
- Recently received a criminal justice and public administration degree
- Won a special educator award from the Nevada Board of Education

### '80s

**Robert A. Fielden, ’86 MA Educational Administration**

- Is vice president of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards
- Serves on the Nevada Board of Architecture
- Is a part-time instructor at UNLV

**Laurel E. Davis, ’83 BS Hotel Administration**

- Received a law degree from the University of San Diego in 1987
- She is now a partner in the Las Vegas law firm of Spector & Collis

**Russell James Green, ’83 BA History, ’88 MA History**

- Is chairman of the social studies department at Woodbury Middle School
- Also coaches the school’s golf team and oversees the boys’ club in the Clark County School District

**Betsy Kern, ’88 BS Hotel Administration**

- Served as a sales manager with Hyatt Hotels and as director of sales for Rambas Hotels

**Sharon L. Greene, ’89 BS Hotel Administration**

- Is a beverage manager at the Las Vegas Hilton where she oversees 250 employees

**Daniel Perlstein, ’87 BS Business Administration**

- Is an account executive with Mikohn Gaming in its slot glass division
- Previously, he worked as an account executive with Charter/Amtrak Advertising & Public Relations and as a market research director at KLAS-TV

**Lisa L. Wynn, ’80 BA Sociology, ’83 MA Political Science**

- Is the administrative officer for Hospital Patrons, a division of the Nevada Department of Business and Industry

### '90s

**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

**Carl Cook, ’88 BA Communication Studies**

- Is the assistant director of alumni relations at UNLV
- He recently named the outstanding advisor for District VII at the Regional Student Alumni Association Conference sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education
- District VII includes 33 western universities

**Lawrence James Green, ’83 BA History**

- Is dean of the social sciences department at Woodbury Middle School
- Also coaches the school’s golf team and oversees the boys’ club in the Clark County School District

**Betsy Kern, ’88 BS Hotel Administration**

- Has worked his way up through the ranks at the company, beginning as a part-time sorter and loader/unloader while attending UNLV

**Jerry J. Pribil, ‘90 BS Hotel Administration**

- Is the general manager of the Hotel Savoy in Prague in the Czech Republic

**Garland Stack, ’91 BS Athletic Training and BS Secondary Education**

- Has been named as a physical science at Mansfield High School in Mansfield, Texas
- She is also the school’s assistant athletic trainer

**Mary Elizabeth Foranda, ’91 BA Art and BA Education**

- Is an art specialist at Florence and Clyde Cox elementary schools

**Gary H. Fitzgerald, ’92 MBA**

- Is president and general manager of Clark & Associates

**Martin A. Ming, ’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 Boardman, Smith & Co., CPA’s, Roderick Brandt & Associates
- He is responsible for assisting on audit engagements and computer consulting
- He previously worked for Joseph F. Zenga Ltd. CPA and the Texas Research Institute in Austin

**Traci Gordon Polish, ’94**

- Is a partner in the Reno office of Martin, Pecho & Early, Structural Engineers
- Previously was a compliance officer and inspector guide for the Guinn (Car) School District
- He is also a compliance officer and inspector guide for the U.S. Forest Service in Guinnston

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**Attention Alumni—The UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of social and cultural activities for new members to join the association. Contact RSVP at 702-742-1993. Please be patient because of the popularity of the Class Notes section.**

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**UNLV Magazine**

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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 make 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 clapped 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.”

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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.