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Inside UNLV

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Helping Students Succeed

New Center to Replace University College

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

UNLV’s new Academic Success Center (ASC) is addressing one big hurdle for students: where to go when they need a little help.

On a campus as big as UNLV, simply finding the right resource can feel daunting. The ASC is a central resource for academic assistance and a link to the many resources across campus that students — and many faculty and staff members — may not know are available.

As its name suggests, the ASC’s mission is to encourage students to complete their studies, and its services are key to improving retention and graduation rates, say campus officials.

Ann McDonough, newly appointed dean of the ASC, said faculty and staff often have been unsure where students should go for help. Now there should be no doubt.

Students with academic success needs should go to the ASC.

“If students need any kind of counseling or other services related to academic success, they should be encouraged to come to us,” McDonough said. “We’ll either be able to provide the service ourselves or we will find out for them exactly where on campus that service is available.”

SSC Addition Among New Buildings

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Bringing them together — that is what the university is doing. The new addition to the Student Services Complex is uniting the services and functions students often seek in a central and convenient locale.

“The new complex will cut down on the student run-around and also bring us back to a more traditional model of recruitment and admissions as one office,” said Katie Collins, associate registrar for operations and enrollment services.

The Student Services Complex now consists of three buildings: SSC-A — This building holds the back-end functions for the office of the registrar. SSC-B — The recruitment office is on the first floor and admissions is on the second floor. Prospective and newly admitted undergraduates can come here to apply to UNLV and to receive counseling on the process for becoming a Rebel. SSC-C — The enrollment service center (front desk of the registrar) serves admitted students from enrollment through graduation. In this building students can get registration assistance (pre-requisites, full class waivers, etc.), enrollment verifications, class schedules, and transcripts. They’ll also go...
Focus 50 Sets Clear Goals for UNLV

In August, the NSHE Board of Regents accepted UNLV’s Focus: 50 to 100 strategic plan. The plan came about after a year of campuswide meetings to define the university’s identity and set a path for its development in the next several years.

As the planning process progressed, the state’s budget outlook became increasingly worrisome. How did that affect the planning process?

Some people, both on and off campus, might believe that our budget challenges are so severe that we must put everything on hold, including the goals set out in the strategic plan. I believe the opposite is true.

Clearly, we face extraordinary financial difficulties. Compared to our peer universities, UNLV already is at a disadvantage in both state and grant funding, as well as the number of support staff. Many things on the financial side will significantly slow our progress. Retreating from our aspiration to become a top research institution — one uniquely able to promote Southern Nevada’s development — would disrespect the past efforts of faculty and staff as well as the needs of our students and community.

My personal philosophy is that strategic planning is even more critical in lean times. It will guide where we make cuts and where we must still invest, and it will keep us moving forward.

So how will UNLV implement the plan?

The obvious place to start is by fast-tracking elements of the plan that have no or minimal costs. We can, for example, redirect the focus of our University College toward the transition of first-year and transfer students into UNLV — providing us address our retention and graduation rates (see “Helping Students Succeed,” page 1). We can also work on many of the cultural-change recommendations of the plan without significant investments of new monies. The plan also highlights areas that must be pursued despite the lack of resources; these become priorities for our external fundraising efforts. To let these areas languish during the current budget crisis will damage the university for years, and in some cases deepen our financial problems.

What were the top priorities that came of the planning process?

One message was very clear: Across campus the single most important priority is to expand grad-uate student support. Improving here has significant impacts on the university’s ability to enrich the educational experiences of undergraduates while enabling faculty to increase research productivity.

The planning process also helped us better define the issues in which our community needs us to excel the most — those related to health care, urban growth, immigration, and desert resources, for example. We already are a leader in many of these areas; we cannot afford to lose the advantages we have. Indeed, can anyone imagine UNLV not leading the country in gaming law, solar energy research, or hospitality management?

Protecting these strengths and building excellence in other specific areas will increase our national reputation and foster economic and social growth in Southern Nevada. And it is how we protect UNLV from the inevitable economic downturns in years to come.

Any final thoughts for faculty and staff?

As the campus knows, we conducted this planning process during UNLV’s 50th anniversary year. This milestone let us celebrate the innovation and unconventional spirit that has always characterized this university. We should never think of ourselves as just “young university” of only 50 years. We are a place of substance, with many accomplishments to publicize and even greater impact to have in the future.

David Ashley | UNLV President

> SUCCESS

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regarding enrollment, course schedul-ing, and graduation. A director of first-year programs will engage the campus in planning, development, and implementation of learning communities and pro-grams for freshmen, transfer, and re-entry students. A director of learn-ing support will work with units across campus to identify ways in which academic success support can be provided for all students.

Over the next few years, the services will increase steadily. Center staff will have more resources to assess stu-dents’ academic skills and advise them how to improve, be it through tutor- ing, online aides, or special classes.

A Valuable Re-Do

Moving resources to the ASC was one idea that came out of the Focus: 50 to 100 planning process.

Neal Smatresk, executive vice president and provost, noted that University College was created in part to serve students who had high enough GPAs to remain at UNLV but not high enough to get into individual academic programs. “That was the wrong approach,” he said.

The root of the problem, Smatresk said, was that many students ill prepared to succeed in college were admitted to UNLV but found limited resources to address their skills gaps.

Now that UNLV has increased its GPA admission standard to 3.0, entering students qualify for most degree programs in the university, eliminating one need for University College, Smatresk said.

At the same time, the ASC will pro vide a better avenue for addressing student skills gaps. “The ASC is fix ing the skills gaps issue up front as opposed to providing a patch after stu dents slip through the gaps,” he said.

“Rather than using the ‘many are called and few are chosen’ paradigm of allowing kids to fail and get washed out and disillusioned, our job should be to work with them to help them achieve success,” Smatresk said. “The university is a pump, not a filter.”

Though improving student retention is a challenge, Smatresk believes his expectation that the ASC will move UNLV far forward in a short time is well grounded.

“To me, this represents one of the first efforts for us to radically re-do the learning environment of our campus. I believe we can leapfrog institutions all over this country and do something really special,” he said.

Many universities are too set in their ways to “do the bold, new thing,” Smatresk said. “We have faculty who really understand and embrace the need to provide career pathways for students. I think we are unafraid as an institution and that’s a tremendous advantage.”

The academic success support can ing support will work with units of learning communities and pro-development, and implementation will engage the campus in planning, and graduation.

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University studies, however, will be able to complete the degree.

Moving university resources to the ASC was one idea that came out of the Focus: 50 to 100 planning process.

Neal Smatresk, executive vice
Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at UNLV, Joyce Carol Oates, won the 2005 Prix Femina and the PEN/Malamud Award. She recently took time to talk with Inside UNLV about his experiences at UNLV, one of the highlights of his career, and his goals for the college.

**The early days.** I got here in ’76. I thought I’d stay two years. Then I fell in love with the place; the place has treated me well. I had the chance to grow programs in ways you just wouldn’t be able to do at more well-established institutions.

**The move to the dean’s job.** I had applied for it four or five years ago, but didn’t get it. This time I thought about it long and hard. I had just been re-elected English department chair for another three-year term. It turns out I’m enjoying it.

**Why he likes it.** I get energized by solving problems, and I get energized by possibilities. I’ve worked hand-in-glove with past deans so I knew what the job entailed. One pleasant surprise is that because the staff in the dean’s office is so good I am able to concentrate on our education and research mission and on our fundraising. I don’t have to spend much time on busywork.

**Current challenges (no surprise here).** The budget. We have managed to cut our budgets for part-time instructors by 20 percent through tremendous cooperation from the department chairs. (Associate Dean) Chris Heavey and (former Associate Dean) Andrew Bell were instrumental in making this happen. We made sure classes were full before we opened new sections. We juggled schedules. It’s like making the pieces of a puzzle fit together.

**Goals for the college.** Building the research reputation through excellent hiring; fundraising for research resources; and raising the bar for tenure and promotion. Also, we need to improve our lower division undergraduate instructional resources. Relying less on part-time instructors is part of that. I think we are doing an excellent job providing a superior graduate education and upper division undergraduate course offerings.

**His biggest successes at UNLV.** When I was chair of the English department, those would include hiring a bunch of distinguished faculty, creating an MFA program in creative writing, and creating one of UNLV’s first Ph.D. programs. Richard Wiley, Douglas Unger, and James Hazen were important contributors to the program.

**More about the MFA.** The MFA in creative writing program has been remarkably successful and was rated among the top five in the country by *Atlantic Monthly*. We were thrilled about that. Part of what brought attention to it was our requirement that all MFA students spend a semester abroad in a non-English-speaking country and also complete a translation project. For a novelist or poet, it is very important to break out of the self-centered mode both in terms of the personal and the national.

**A professional thrill.** Back in 1969, I first wrote about the British playwright Harold Pinter. He has since become the subject of much of my research. In 1983 I worked up the nerve to write him. We have since corresponded and met with some regularity. He has been especially generous to me. In December 2003 I was invited to Stockholm to attend the ceremony in which Pinter would be presented the Nobel Prize for Literature. It was four days of ceremonies with two crowning events. One was Pinter’s acceptance speech, which he delivered via video because he was in a London hospital. He gave perhaps the most forceful political speech a Nobel laureate has ever presented. The other was when the king of Sweden presented the prizes. The ceremony involved a procession by the royal family, followed by the Nobel Laureates. Afterward, we moved to the ancient City Hall where a spectacular formal dinner was served to 1,100 people. I was one of the founding members of the editorial board of the *Harold Pinter Review* and was delighted to see several of our publications on display in Stockholm.

**His future at UNLV.** I like the way my career here has worked. I have been able to pursue my teaching and my research and this interest I’ve had in administration. I’ve been fortunate to have had three sabbaticals and a great deal of support to travel to London and Venice for my research on Pinter. Now that I’m 61, I think being dean is a nice way to round out my career. If things go well, another six years or so might be about right.

**Book Time to Hear Authors**

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Major figures in the literary world will be coming to campus this fall at the invitation of UNLV’s Black Mountain Institute.

The following events are free and open to the public. Tickets are not required.

**Joyce Carol Oates**

The National Book Award-winning author will speak at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 in the Student Union ballroom. Among her books are *You Must Remember This*, *Blonde*, *We Were the Mulvaneys*, and *The Grasshopper’s Daughter*. Oates’ writing has earned her the 2006 Orange Prize, the 2002 PEN/Faulkner, and the PEN/Malamud Award for Short Fiction. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Princeton University.

**Charles Simic**

On Oct. 21, the 2007 U.S. poet laureate will speak. Also a Pulitzer Prize winner for his 1990 book of prose poems titled *The World Doesn’t End*, he is the author of 18 collections of poetry as well as an essayist, translator, editor, and professor emeritus of creative writing and literature at the University of New Hampshire. His 1996 collection, *Walking the Black Cat*, was a finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry. This presentation, which will be cosponsored by the English department, will take place at 7 p.m. in the Student Union theater.

**Michael Chabon**

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist will deliver the keynote speech at the 2007 Vegas Valley Book Fest on Nov. 8. He won the Pulitzer for *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*. His other books include *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh* and *Wonder Boys*. This event will take place at the Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Road. It is cosponsored by the Nevada Humanities, the city of Las Vegas’ office of cultural affairs, the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, and the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

**Panel Discussion on Politics**


In addition, the BMI will hold a private reception for its supporters featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Jane Smiley on Sept. 17. Among her works are the Pulitzer-winning *A Thousand Acres* and * Moo*. Founded in 2006 and now part of UNLV’s College of Liberal Arts, the Black Mountain Institute is an international center dedicated to advancing literary and cross-cultural dialogue.

More Info: Go to blackmountain.unlv.edu or call ext. 5-5542.
here to complete graduation-related transactions.

Eight self-service kiosks in SSC-C enable students to take care of such common transactions as printing unofficial class schedules and transcripts. For issues students can’t solve on their own, such as having a hold lifted on an account, staff at a bank of 13 windows will help.

Another benefit is that the SSC is close to the new Academic Success Center (see “Helping Students Succeed,” page 1). Located across the walkway from SSC-A in the old student health building, the center will offer a central location for getting academic assistance.

Frazier Hall
Collins noted that the new facilities will leave a much better impression on students. “Aesthetically, Frazier Hall was not a welcoming site for a student’s first contact with the university,” she said. “It was not a student-friendly building.”

UNLV’s campus master plan, completed in March 2004, shows the site of Frazier Hall as a new key campus space, with the existing building to be demolished. David Frommer, executive director of planning and construction, noted that the small, one-story building had “lived its serviceable life,” making way for a major gateway to UNLV.

These plans were not met with unanimous approval; critics want the campus’s first building preserved. Demolishing the building and replacing it with the new campus gateway, however, has significant merit in the context of this prominent site serving as the “ceremonial front door” to UNLV, as opposed to putting significant resources into a building that has limits to its function and service and would need costly renovations, Frommer said. This site’s prime location on Harmon Avenue offers the university a chance to improve its curb appeal and open its interior to the community, consistent with Midtown UNLV planning.

Current construction is rerouting telecommunications conduits at the site. Next, contractors will demolish part of the building, leaving the telecommunications space intact, and add a new feature: a pioneer wall.

“We intend to retain a portion of the building to create a monument to recognize the cultural significance of the site as well as the contributions of the university’s founders,” Frommer said.

Frazier Hall was named for state legislator Maude Frazier, who was key to the founding of the university.

Who’s moving at UNLV?

A number of departments and dozens of faculty and staff members are moving offices. The map below shows the new locations of those departments. View and download UNLV maps online at maps.unlv.edu

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Inside UNLV welcomes comments and suggestions. Please e-mail inside@unlv.edu or drop a note to Inside UNLV at mail code 1024.

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Bea’s Nose Knows

Trained Labrador Keeps Campus Safe

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Bea stands impatiently by the door each morning; she just can’t wait to get to her job at UNLV. Typical employee concerns such as lack of convenient parking don’t bother her. But she does demand one thing from her job — food, at least three cups a day. She prefers Nutro dog kibble.

First of Her Kind

Bea is UNLV’s first bomb-sniffing dog. A 31-month-old yellow Labrador retriever, Bea has been part of the campus police force since July 2007. Fortunately, she has yet to unearth any major problem on campus.

Of course, Bea doesn’t work alone. Her handler is officer William Burkett, who has been on the UNLV force for almost three years. Together they check venues both on and off campus for explosives. They often are called in to inspect a facility before an event, such as the National Finals Rodeo or last November’s Democratic presidential debate.

Sometimes the pair is asked by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the agency that trained Bea and Burkett and provided Bea to UNLV free of charge, to help out at events off campus, such as the Miss U.S.A. Pageant. They spent 10 days in Phoenix to work the Super Bowl, yet Burkett didn’t see even one minute of the game. But sometimes the duty has unexpected perks. “Bea has met John Travolta, Carmen Electra, and Bruce Willis,” Burkett said.

Specialized Training

Of course, this specialized work required rigorous training — for both officer and dog.

Bea’s training began first. Initially recruited to be a guide dog for the blind, Bea washed out of that program. It seems she was a little too high energy for that particular line of work. (“High energy is not a problem in this job,” Burkett said.)

Bea immediately was snatched up by the ATF, which, according to Burkett, is always on the lookout for good canine candidates for its bomb-sniffing training.

After Bea’s training was well under way, Burkett arrived for his 10 weeks of training at the ATF facility in Front Royal, Va.

Individually, they learned a lot of things. But together, they learned how a dog and handler work the Super Bowl, yet Burkett didn’t see even one minute of the game. But sometimes the duty has unexpected perks. “Bea has met John Travolta, Carmen Electra, and Bruce Willis,” Burkett said.

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Individually, they learned a lot about explosives. Together, they learned how a dog and handler seek out such dangers.

Burkett and the seven other human trainees in his class took turns working with each of the nine dogs in the program. ATF trainers then matched each human with the dog they felt was the best fit for that person.

Burkett and Bea are now certified graduates of the ATF training program, making Bea one of only 145 ATF-trained dogs in the nation. She even has a U.S. Department of Justice ID card with her photo on it. And on her collar she proudly displays a UNLV police badge.

You’ll see Bea and Burkett around campus — sometimes patrolling for explosives (Bea can sniff out 19,000 kinds) and sometimes working on the training. Burkett or a fellow officer hides items such as shell casings in an area of campus and then Burkett sends Bea to find them, commanding her to “seek.” When she locates what she’s looking for, she sits and then looks back at Burkett. If he doesn’t immediately respond, she may stand up and then sit down again or point her nose toward the item to get his attention.

Getting to Know Her

Burkett knows that people want to meet and pet Bea. That’s fine. She’s friendly and likes the attention. If you see her out and about, just be sure to ask Burkett’s permission first to make sure it’s an appropriate time.

Burkett and Bea train daily to keep her skills sharp and so she can earn her food. She is fed only after successfully locating something tainted with an explosive.

Even off duty, Bea and Burkett are together. She lives with him, and at home is pretty much like any other pet, he said.

Bea is a little jealous of Burkett’s attention. Any time he is seated on the couch when his fiancé walks into the house, Bea immediately jumps up on the furniture to make sure she’s the one sitting closest to him.

“She’s very attached to me. I am with her all the time,” he said, noting that he even takes Bea when he goes on vacation. As a trained law enforcement dog, she is allowed to ride alongside him on airplanes.

Burkett said he feels fortunate to be working with Bea. “I was just in the right place at the right time. Two weeks after I started here, I found an application in my box for anyone who wanted to undergo the ATF training. A year and a half later, I had Bea.”

Police Move HQ

This fall, UNLV police services headquarters will move to the former American Cancer Society building, located across Maryland Parkway on Harmon Avenue.

All services, including lost and found, special event staff, police records, and fingerprinting will move to the new location.

“This location will be a highly visible and accessible stand-alone police station that will be closer to the main UNLV campus,” said Chief Jose Elique. “We will be able to provide the UNLV community even better access to the police services they have come to expect. Moreover, our new location and the timing of this move is compatible with the long-range vision of the Midtown UNLV project.”

The police dispatch and communications unit as well as student security will remain in the Claude Howard Building, where the Shadow Lane police offices will remain on that campus.
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**UNLV Organization**

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  William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration  
  Contact: Annette Kannenberg 5-3308

- **Jeffrey Koep**  
  College of Fine Arts  
  Contact: Karen Spica 5-5187

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### Officers

- **Mike Hamrick**  
  Director of Intercollegiate Athletics  
  Contact: Susie Smith 5-4729

- **Richard Linstrom**  
  Vice President and General Counsel  
  Contact: Erika Noltie 5-5185

- **Ron Smith**  
  Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College  
  Contact: Carole Hoefle 5-0946

### Departments

- **Property Control**
- **Purchasing & Contracts**
- **Real Estate Department**
- **Receiving Department**
- **Risk Management & Safety**
- **Telecommunications**

### Planning

- **Institutional Analysis & Planning**

### Research and Graduate Studies

- **Federal Agency Initiatives**
- **Graduate College**
- **Interim Science and Engineering Building Director**
- **Research (sponsored programs, research services, technology transfer, strategic energy programs, research compliance, protection of research subjects, and animal care & use)**
- **Sustainability & Multi-Disciplinary Research (National Supercomputing Center for Energy & the Environment, Harry Reid Center for Environmental Sciences, Public Lands Institute, and Center for Health Information)**

### Student Affairs

- **Campus Life**
- **Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach**
- **Enrollment & Student Services**
- **Police Services**
- **Student Affairs Administration**
- **Student Affairs Development**
- **Student Affairs Facilities & Operations**
- **Student Wellness**

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**Want a Printable Version?**  
If you would like a smaller version of the organizational chart, go to facultystaff.unlv.edu to print it.
“Higher education is my passion,” said Swisher, who grew up in a town of 2,000 in rural Pennsylvania. “I was fortunate enough to get a job in this field as an undergraduate, and it has turned into a very fulfilling career.”

At UNLV, one of his early goals is to unite the many communicators on campus to incorporate the university’s strategic messages when talking about their individual departments or colleges. One of those big-picture messages is that research brings tremendous value to a university’s students and its community. Swisher said UNLV’s status as a research institution was a big draw for him. “A research university is a more dynamic organization. All the fascinating, important, and impactful activities happening here make it an exciting place to be.”

“UNLV has a great story to tell. My job is to tell that story in a way that people understand the tremendous value and impact of this great university,” Swisher said. “One key to that is to determine a few key strategic messages and use them in all our communications.”

As the university’s new chief communicator, Swisher arrives at a time of transition. He’ll oversee the offices of public affairs, marketing and public relations, and reprographics. Those units recently merged along with the alumni relations and development offices under the banner of advancement. Swisher oversaw similar functions at his previous job as assistant vice president for public relations and strategic communications at California State University, Northridge. He has spent his career almost exclusively in higher education communications. He has held positions at Loyola Marymount University and Rutgers University, and was the main spokesperson for the California State University system, where he conducted thousands of media interviews.

As students start classes this fall in the new Greenspun Hall, many will be at home with its sleek audio and video equipment. But there’s an entire back-end network behind the curtain that needs Mike Piper to keep it humming — and to keep everyone up to speed on it.

“The students have grown up with digital technology. I’m trying to create that bridge for students, faculty, and staff to learn and understand the infrastructure that is required to support digital media management and production,” said Piper, who fills the new role of media engineer for the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies.

The digital upgrade means tape is out; video and audio are now recorded on electronic cards that slide out of the recorder and into the computer for editing. Piper will help deploy and manage the new systems and network. He’ll convert a massive archive of taped material to a digital format so it can be stored on hard disk. He may even wind up in the classroom, teaching introductory courses on using digital media and helping professors develop curricula that will best prepare students for the high-tech media workplace.

Piper and his wife, Sara, moved to Las Vegas in 1999. He went to work in computer networking for a hotel-casino company and later consulted for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The agency sponsored his executive MBA degree, earned at UNLV in 2005. “I’m proud to say that the positive experience of the EMBA program motivated me to return to campus in a professional capacity after graduation,” he said. “I’m at the ground floor of a new curriculum and a new building. It’s a fantastic opportunity.”
inclusion at UNLV. The position has prompted her to confront her own biases as she’s in daily contact with people who are different in ways that go beyond race, ethnicity, and national origin.

“When our work is dedicated to bringing people together, in order to get to inclusion we have to meaningfully explore and come to really value diversity. So, there are times when our work can be viewed as controversial,” Beckett said. “In challenging long-held world views, it takes time for people to realize that it is only by affirming diversity that we end up including everyone.”

“What I’ve taken from Dr. Clark is to view people and situations from the perspective of their impact on individuals as well as on groups, and especially with respect to how cultural norms come into play.”

Beckett comes from the hotel-casino industry, where she managed behind-the-scenes services such as housekeeping and internal maintenance. At UNLV, she has already helped coordinate a retreat for employees of the diversity offices at all four NSHE institutions in Southern Nevada. “It helped us to break through our own barriers and learn to be more collaborative, instead of thinking in terms of ‘my campus, your campus,’” she said. With a clear slate ahead of her, Marchand can’t help but be a little giddy. “I’m ready to go,” Marchand said. “I’ve missed having the academic freedom and autonomy of being a part of an intellectual community. I really believe that research cannot be done in isolation.”

At the school district, Marchand worked in research and school improvement, facilitating studies by outside researchers — including some from UNLV. Her projects related to teacher training and school improvement, facilitating study of an intellectual community. I really believe that research cannot be done in isolation.”

At the school district, Marchand worked in research and school improvement, facilitating studies by outside researchers — including some from UNLV. Her projects related to teacher training and inclusive education, and she served on a committee that ensured ethical guidelines were followed. Now it’s Marchand’s turn to ask the questions. In general she wants to study the connection between student engagement and learning. Her dissertation, which she successfully defended over the summer at Portland State University, studied the development of student autonomy in third through seventh grades. “Strangely enough, there has not been an excessive amount of research in student engagement,” Marchand said. “It’s an area that could use a little more. We now have kids in first and second grade who are not engaged, and that shouldn’t happen.”

Engagement doesn’t seem to be a problem, however, for this enthusiastic newcomer.

**EDUCATION**

**Gwen Marchand**

Associate Professor of Educational Psychology

Gwen Marchand is a newcomer in more than one way. The educational psychology professor just earned her doctorate, and she’s taking on her first university position after two years with the Clark County School District. With a clean slate ahead of her, Marchand can’t help but be a little giddy. “I’m ready to go,” Marchand said. “I’ve missed having the academic freedom and autonomy of being a part of an intellectual community. I really believe that research cannot be done in isolation.”

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**ENGINEERING**

**Jennifer Thomas**

Academic Advisor

When students inevitably ask Jennifer Thomas why they need to take some courses, she tells them that it’s their career goals, she can give them real-world answers. Thomas comes to the College of Engineering Academic Advising Center from a two-year stint as a project coordinator at a Las Vegas engineering firm.

“It enables me to tell students, ‘This is what you’re going into. I can tell them why they need to take those courses,’” Thomas said.

The job already has been everything she was told it would be, Thomas said — and that’s a good thing. “Students know they can pop into our doors and say ‘Hi’ or joke around with us. And their parents are comfortable talking with us.”

Her duties include keeping students on track with the many requirements of an engineering degree, new student orientation, and helping students find solutions when they’re struggling.

As a fairly recent graduate herself, Thomas said she still relates well to students. She earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from Pepperdine University in 2004, then became an advisor at a chiropractic college in the San Francisco Bay Area. But she wanted to get back to her native Las Vegas, so she took the job at the engineering firm. At UNLV, Thomas said she’s found the perfect combination for her skills.

“I realized how much I missed working with students, and the fulfillment I get out of helping them achieve their goals,” she said. “Each of us has had mentors, those people who cut through the red tape for us, who saw something in us.”

She hopes someday there will be engineers out in the world who remember her in the same way.

**FINANCE AND BUSINESS**

**Bud Pierce**

Associate Vice President for Human Resources

When Bud Pierce took over as head of human resources in May, the university was deep in a budget crisis, and notices of non-reappointment were imminent. “It was like walking into a buzz saw,” he said. “But we try to deal fairly and honestly with people. That’s of the utmost importance.”

During this baptism by fire, Pierce has drawn on three decades of HR experience to deal with the difficult task of helping people move on. He was director of HR for the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District for 11 years. Before that, he spent more than 20 years working for government agencies in his home state of Kansas.

It also helped to have a top-notch staff waiting for him, Pierce said. During his interviews for the job, he met with several faculty and staff groups, and most had nothing but praise for HR. “Nobody was critical at all of our office. They said HR had really turned around in the last few years, and they wanted more of it.”

Pierce isn’t the only newcomer to UNLV in his family. The younger of his two daughters is now a freshman here majoring in music education. And he has one of those six-degrees-of-separation connections, too: Pierce’s wife grew up with basketball coach Lon Kruger back in their hometown of Silver Lake, Kan. “We’ve been following coach Kruger’s career since he left Kansas many years ago,” he said.

**FINE ARTS**

**Lee-Anne Milburn**

Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, Department of Landscape Architecture and Planning

For more than four years, Lee-Anne Milburn has studied methods of low-impact urban development, such as building new communities that redirect abundant rainwater back into the aquifer rather than down the street.
Continued from Page 9

“Now, it’s more than a state that gets 4 inches of rain, you laugh,” she says. “Water is one of my areas of specialization, but my broader interest is sustainability. It just happens that water has become a bigger issue of late.”

Milburn is both an academic and a practicing landscape architect. But you won’t find her designing flowerbeds — her projects have a much larger scope. Milburn studies ways for landscapes to make as little intrusion on the environment as possible while elevating quality of life. At North Carolina State University she created the state’s first low-impact development manual. Her research has related to park development, community design, and healthy landscapes.

At UNLV, Milburn sees opportunities to learn more about how landscape affects health. People are known to thrive more in views of trees and green spaces, so what does that mean to a desert dweller? “If we can deal more effectively with environmental issues, by default we’re going to improve human health and well being,” Milburn said.

“I believe that research needs to be grounded in the place where you are. I see Las Vegas as having really exciting potential in terms of tourism, ecotourism, resort development, and arid landscapes. I hope to help the landscape architecture program have an even greater impact on this exciting city and the state in general.”

HOTEL
Beth Barrie
Assistant Professor for Recreation and Sport Management and Project Manager for the Public Lands Institute
The National Park Service relies on 70,000 interpreters to explain the parks’ features, geography, and history to visitors. About 4,000 are paid employees; the rest are volunteers in need of training. Beth Barrie brought that training into the 21st century by developing an interactive, online suite of courses while at Indiana University.

Now, her UNLV students will study those course materials to develop their own interpretive programs for the public lands surrounding Las Vegas. That’s what she calls the “terrific synergy” of her joint appointment to the department of recreation and sport management and the Public Lands Institute (PLI). For the PLI, she will manage the Southern Nevada interagency volunteer program, which trains volunteers for tasks that range from seed collection to trail maintenance.

Barrie’s class on outdoor recreation and education also will have a service-learning component. Her students will help with Discover Mojave Outdoor World, a program managed by PLI that gives local at-risk urban youth the chance to sample outdoor activities like kayaking and camping.

Interpretation is Barrie’s forte, and she said she struggled with moving into volunteer coordination. But then a friend put the change in perspective. “As an urban historian, we help them to care about interpretation, we help them to care about the places they are the projects in these public places so they will help care for them.

LIBRARIES
Paula McMillen
Education Librarian
If you’ve ever read your daughter a story to calm her fears, or cracked a book to help yourself crack a case you are working on, you have practiced bibliotherapy. Education librarian Paula McMillen has helped the therapeutic use of literature to UNLV.

McMillen comes from Oregon State University where she held a similar position helping education faculty and students access library resources. There she helped create the bibliotherapy education project in 1999 with education professor Dale Peterson. Last year, Peterson came to UNLV and now chairs the counselor education department.

“We both just have great faith in the power of literature and stories to help people in a variety of ways,” McMillen said. “Dale has told me that she’s even read picture books to senior citizens. They love hearing stories told; it resonates with all of us.”

The bibliotherapy field combines McMillen’s love of books with her former career as a psychologist. She hopes to help teach counselors how to incorporate books into their therapeutic toolbox.

As an education librarian, McMillen helps students learn how to evaluate the endless sources available to them. She also helps faculty seamlessly integrate informational literacy into the curriculum. Over the summer she helped incorporate a library research element into a course on cultural diversity that is required of all education majors.

“Information is ubiquitous, but all information is not created equal,” McMillen said. “You do need to be a critical consumer.”

SCIENCE
Patricia Paviet-Hartmann
Associate Professor of Radiosurgery
Nuclear energy still has something of a bad stigma in the United States. But with the explosion of research and development occurring in new nuclear reprocessing workflows, as well as new fuel and methods for waste reprocessing and repository, this is changing.

“I chose this field when I was 16,” said Paviet-Hartmann, a native of France, where 80 percent of energy is nuclear. “A physics professor invited us to tour the nuclear research center at Saclay, near Paris. I saw a light in my head and said, ‘Voilà, this is what I want to do.’”

Paviet-Hartmann has a Ph.D. from the University of Paris-XI in radiochemistry. She is married to fellow nuclear fuels researcher Thomas Hartmann, a past UNLV faculty member who is returning with her. Thomas Hartmann left Las Vegas in November 2006 for Idaho State University. That’s where Patricia Paviet-Hartmann had an affiliation with the Idaho National Laboratory that will continue at UNLV. She is helping design new lab space for the Idaho National Laboratory. Hartmann has always been committed to the future of nuclear research.

Hartmann hopes to reverse that trend and get more young people interested in the development of new nuclear reprocessing workflows, as well as new nuclear fuels and methods for waste reprocessing and repository.

As the man responsible for pursuing patents and copyrights for projects by UNLV faculty, Bob Sweitzer gets a sneak preview of cutting-edge inventions. Since coming to Las Vegas in the spring, Sweitzer has helped a university researcher file a patent for his method of reprocessing spent nuclear fuel and met an engineer who’s making breakthroughs in nanotechnology.

“Two of the exciting areas are alternative energy and biotechnology,” he said. “My job is to gain exposure for these and other prospective inventions produced by UNLV faculty and see what opportunities are available for commercializing these inventions.”

Sweitzer came from New Mexico State University where he worked within a federally funded program for technology transfer of research at national laboratories, such as Los Alamos and Sandia. For some research labs based at White Sands Missile Range, he helped commercialize software that used artificial intelligence to predict weather threats to military operations. In the civilian world, the program could be used to forecast the threat of a hurricane or other disaster to a city such as a stadium, an oil refinery, or a school.

In Las Vegas, Sweitzer also serves on a Nevada Development Authority committee looking at technology that is keeping track of progress on new cancer drugs and new ways to diagnose the disease at a molecular level, before patients even show any symptoms. “That’s the next frontier,” he said. “It’s a very big area that’s being done here makes me optimistic that we will solve some of these problems in our lifetime.”

Liberals Arts
Greg Hise
Professor of History
Liberal Arts
Greg Hise
Professor of History
If you think Las Vegas has imploded all of its history to make way for highways and high-rise buildings, you might want to change your mind. As an urban historian, Hise searches for the lost stories of American cities that can inform our future.

For 20 years, Hise has studied the history of Los Angeles, initially focusing on the WWII era and then moving back to the 19th century. His books include: Magnetic Los Angeles: Planning the Twentieth-Century Metropolis, and Eden by Design (co-written with William Deverell), about an ambitious but unsuccessful 1930 master plan for the region’s parks, playgrounds, and beaches that has since been revived.

Hise’s personal history is as a builder and an architect. But while in architecture school at the University of California, Berkeley, he became drawn to history. “I think I have the University of Southern California for Southern Nevada to expand his view beyond Las Vegas. “I’ve written about the fact that L.A. is always talked about as a city of the future,” Hise added. “In some ways, it is now a city of the past — a 20th century city, Phoenix and Las Vegas or Hong Kong and Shanghai are now the cities of the future.”

Hise plans to move into comparative urban areas around the Pacific Rim that have diverse populations, have experienced rapid development, and are shaped by new economies based on modern industries like communications, technology — or gaming. “One of the tropes of modernity is that history doesn’t matter. As a historian, I take exception to such claims,” Hise said.
A Banner Year on Campus

By Michelle Mouton | UNLV Foundation

Notice something new as you walk around campus? It’s the faces of members of the campus community smiling down at you from banners along the malls.

The faculty, staff, and students featured on them are already benefiting from the private support raised through the Invent the Future campaign. The campaign has raised more than $424 million for new programs, fellowships and scholarships, faculty research, and university facilities.

“In our college, I’ve seen the impact that private support has on our students and faculty,” said Eric Sandgren, dean of the College of Engineering. “Many of our students benefit from private scholarships and internships, and our faculty and students are able to conduct ground-breaking research through our exciting new programs and facilities.”

As the Invent the Future campaign enters its final months, the impact of private support continues to make a difference in the lives of students, faculty, and staff.

“During this difficult time of budget cuts across higher education in Nevada, private support is more important than ever,” said Nancy Strouse, senior associate vice president for development and executive director of the UNLV Foundation.

“Our donors know their gifts fund those things that are not covered by the general budget and provide the margin of excellence that is critical for a top research university,” Strouse said.

The Invent the Future campaign is the most ambitious fundraising effort in the history of UNLV. This comprehensive campaign launched in 2002 and will provide $500 million in resources to fund the future of our community.

More info: Go to campaign.unlv.edu.
Did you know that UNLV's campus is a living laboratory? Designated an arboretum in 1985 by the Nevada Legislature, UNLV's trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes.

The arboretum not only serves the campus by supporting teaching and research, but also serves the region with displays of plants adaptable to Southern Nevada and other arid regions.

Dottie Shank Barnett, office manager for the department of environmental studies, considers the arboretum one of campus’s “Great Places.”

“Great People. Great Places” is a new website feature highlighting interesting people and places on campus.

“The grass is great to sit on and enjoy the sounds of nature while reading a book or just listening to the birds sing,” she said. “I enjoy watching students interact while enjoying the beautiful green grassy areas on our campus that are shaded by trees almost as old as our campus.”

Through educational seminars and tours of the arboretum, visitors can learn more about the living landscape, which includes four gardens and three kinds of champion trees: the weeping mulberry, strawberry, and chir pine.

More info: Go to unlv.edu/greatpeople to see more “Great People. Great Places.”

Recognized by the Nevada Division of Forestry as the largest specimens in the state of their species, UNLV’s champion trees include weeping mulberry, above, strawberry, and chir pine.