UNLV Magazine

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On Time with the Tunes

UNLV alumna
Ginger Bruner
The Physics Department knows about motion: it's moving into a $9.2 million, 65,000-square-foot facility that's nothing short of state-of-the-art.

What's inside that building is even more impressive. Bright students learning from brilliant teachers, teachers specializing in extragalactic astronomy, condensed matter theory, and atomic and molecular theory.

Maybe that's why anyone — student or teacher — who's serious about physics is serious about UNLV.

It also explains why we were recently named a National Flagship University.

For more information call 895-3011 or 800-334-UNLV.
The European Witch-hunts
UNLV historian Elspeth Whitney explores the reasons for the deaths of thousands of Western Europeans during the witch-hunts of the 16th and 17th centuries.

BY BARBARA CLOUD

A Nation’s Disgrace, A Family’s Honor
UNLV professor Ed Wakayama intends to make certain that what happened in the World War II Japanese internment camps is not forgotten.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

Ready, Willing, and More Than Able
The challenges that UNLV graduate John Michael Stuart faces have inspired him to spread an important message about the real meaning of ability.

BY TOM FLAGG

In Tune with the Times, On Time with the Tunes
On any given day, UNLV alumnna Ginger Bruner might be found on the air at KNPR, at a concert playing her tuba, or at a photo shoot behind the camera.

BY SUZAN DIBELLA

Rewarding Determination
The Jean Nidetch Women’s Center Scholarship rewards student-recipients for their perseverance and tenacious spirit.

BY TERRY BASKOT BROOKER

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101 Best Values Names UNLV “Flagship University”

“Nestled in a sun-drenched desert valley surrounded by purple mountain ranges, just minutes away from one of the world’s most exciting resort areas, UNLV is America’s youngest major university — the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Regardless of age, UNLV’s ascendency to national status has been remarkably swift.”

— 101 of the Best Values in American Colleges and Universities, 1994 edition

UNLV has been named one of 34 National Flagship Universities in the 1994 edition of the book 101 of the Best Values in American Colleges and Universities, published by the Center for College Enrollment Studies, according to David Wilson, the book’s editor.


“The Best Value National Flagship Universities are those that we feel have national stature,” Wilson said. The list of 34 includes such institutions as UCLA, UC-Berkeley, Duke, Boston College, the University of Michigan, Penn State, Purdue, and Notre Dame.

“When you mention these universities anywhere in the country they are known,” he said. “People are familiar with them coast-to-coast, and they have national respect.”

Institutions were selected for inclusion in the 400-page book on the basis of academic resources, student life, and cost, Wilson said.

“My own feeling is that a certain number of schools — the ones we call Best Value National Flagship Universities — will dominate higher education in the 21st century, and UNLV is in that category,” he added. “These are schools that have great resources, tremendous energy, and attractive costs.”

Wilson said the center, which is located in Bridgewater, Mass., looks at schools nationwide, focusing on those that have been featured in other national publications and seem to have “a sense of institutional momentum.”

He writes that UNLV’s “exceptional leadership” has concentrated on building resources for teaching and learning, and he praises UNLV’s programs in fields such as business, economics, humanities, hotel administration, education, and exercise physiology.

Alumni License Plates Now Available

Looking for one more way to show your pride in being a UNLV alum? Special license plates are now available for UNLV alumni through the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

Featuring the Rebel mascot and the UNLV logo on a gray background, the license plates will provide revenue for both the athletic department and for the UNLV Alumni Association.

The cost of a special UNLV plate is $60 for the first year, $25 of which will go to the university. The $25 annual renewal fee will also go to UNLV. The money the university collects from the plates will be divided evenly between the athletic department and the Alumni Scholarship Endowment Fund.

“This is a great way to promote your school and help with the growing scholarship program — and at the same time show some school spirit,” said Pam Hicks, president of the Alumni Association.

Hendricks Named Outstanding Alumnus

Bruce Hendricks, a UNLV graduate who has served as an active member of the UNLV Alumni Association for 24 years, was chosen in the category of 1993 Outstanding Alumni Award.

Hendricks, who earned a bachelor of science degree in education from UNLV in 1972, is now president of Sheridan National Bank in Sheridan, Wyo.

He served as president of the Alumni Association dating 1988-90 while the Richard Two Alumnus Center was under construction. Previously, he served the association in a variety of capacities, including treasures, chairman of the building, social, and finance committees, and vice chairman of the publicity committee.

While living in Las Vegas, he was also active in the Boys Club and served on the board of the Claude Lighter, an organization that benefits children with cancer.

Arriaza Attends Iceman Conference

UNLV anthropology professor Bernardo Arriaza recently attended a prestigious conference on the Iceman, a 5,000-year-old mummified body found frozen in the Italian Alps, and on other mummies found in various regions of the world.

Arriaza (featured in the Autumn 1993 issue of UNLV Magazine) was one of 40 international scholars invited to attend the expense-paid conference at the University of Innsbruck. Scholars at the conference shared information on conserving, presenting, and studying both natural and artificial mummies.

“The Iceman, which is considered a natural mummy because both its flesh and bone were preserved in the ice, was briefly examined by the scholars. Viewing of the mummy is very limited because of the delicate preservation techniques being used require that it remain frozen,” Arriaza said, adding that his own viewing of the mummy lasted only one minute.

UNLV Alumni Association Offering Six Educational Tours

The UNLV Alumni Association is offering six educational tours in the coming year, all of them open to anyone who would like to go along.

Organized by the association’s travel and tour director, Claude Rand, an emeritus professor of hotel administration, these trips will take travelers to some of the most desirable destinations in the United States and abroad.

The first tour group will head for Hong Kong for six days, beginning March 12. For a fee of $1,250, participants will cruise Hong Kong Harbor at sunset, visit the People’s Republic of China, and tour the island of Macau and its famous casino.

A Florida trip is set for April 10-17. It will take in Disney World and Epcot Center, the MGM Studio Theme Park, Universal Studios, Church Street Station, and Cape Canaveral. The cost is $789 per person.

The second group will head for South Asia May 2-11 to stay in the world-famous Regent Hotels in Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Singapore, with a day trip to Shenzhen, China. The cost is $2,595.

A trip to see the new Las Vegas is designed especially for those alumni and friends who live out of town. For $500, they can spend June 6-10 seeing the new MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park, the Excalibur, Luxor, Treasure Island, and The Mirage, with a visit to Laughlin.

In September, a group will set out for London and the British countryside. Priced at $1,600, the trip is set for Sept. 18-21. The group will visit London, the Salisbury and Canterbury cathedrals, Stonehenge, the Arundel and Windsor castles, Oxford/Coventry and Stratford-on-Avon, and the Tintern Abbey.

The last trip of the year is a cruise to Mexico on Norwegian Cruise Line’s Southward. Set for Oct. 8-7 and priced at $624, the cruise will take in Catalina Island, San Diego, and Ensenada, Mexico.

For information on any of these trips, call Claude Rand at (702) 895-3621.
Harry Reid Center Receives Support for Lake Mead Study

UNLV's Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies has received a $500,000 donation from the Lincy Foundation to fund an extensive five-year study of the Lake Mead Recreation Area. Lincy is a charitable foundation funded by Kirk Kerkorian, the majority shareholder of MGM Grand Inc.

The grant will allow the Harry Reid Center, which employs some 65 scientific researchers, to develop a base of information about the distribution of plants, birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles in the vast Lake Mead Recreation Area.

"Regardless of whether it's a plant or an animal species, we will be able to provide information about its relative abundance and distribution in the park, its ecological associations, whether it lives in ravines, wet spring areas, or out on the open desert - all the types of things that you need to know to come to decisions about managing the area," said Donald Baeppler, director of the center.

Scientists from the Harry Reid Center will also do an inventory of all the archaeological resources, including some excavation of materials.

The Lake Mead National Recreation Area attracted more than 9 million visits in 1992, not including visitors to Hoover Dam. The recreation area extends from the footrills of Mt. Mead itself is 150 miles long.

"The park service projects that by the turn of the century, they will have 15 million visitors a year in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area," Baeppler said. "Clearly, they are going to have to plan for new roads, campgrounds, boat ramps - all of the things they will need to take care of this rush of people. And the park service's data base is very poor.

Baeppler said the National Park Service, in general, has had very little money for research. "It's pathetic, when you look at all the national parks, to see how little they know about the archaeology, geology, and biology of their parks."

Alan O'Neil, superintendent of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, said, "We see this as an incredible breakthrough for Lake Mead, as the science produced from the studies will be invaluable to park management as a tool for assuring that we perform our legislative public duty to protect the resource base. We have struggled with management decisions of late because we have lacked the scientific data to help guide our decision making."

The project will involve UNLV students as well as researchers in the Harry Reid Center, Baeppler said, adding that after the study is complete, the center will raise funds for an endowment to fund long-term monitoring of the environmental health of the area.

Continuing Education Offers Kenya Trip

Geology professor Steve Rowland will lead a UNLV Continuing Education group on a 13-day trip to the parks and game reserves of Kenya July 21-Aug. 2.

"East Africa is simply the most fantastic place on earth," Rowland said. "It is the place where the human species evolved. In a sense, visiting Kenya is like stepping into a time machine - a kind of Pleistocene park. The flora and fauna that we evolved with are still there to be seen, smelled, and heard."

The Kenya itinerary will include a stay for several nights in safari-like tents at the Masai Mara Game Reserve, where wildebeests, impalas, gazelles, jackals, and hyenas can be seen.

Another unique lodging experience on the trip will be an overnight stay at The Ark, a famous "tree hotel," located in the foothills of Mt. Kenya. This popular lodge rests on a platform in the trees above a flood-lit watering hole visited by local wildlife to the delight of guests observing from above.

Other stops include a visit to the Samburu Game Reserve - which features a rhinoceros sanctuary, as well as giraffe, zebra, and ostrich populations - and nearby Lake Nakuru, home to millions of pink flamingos seen taking flight in many television wildlife documentaries.

Rowland, the 1992 recipient of the Extended Education Faculty Excellence Award, has led several international trips for Continuing Education, most recently to the former Soviet Union. Rowland, who teaches geology, paleontology, and environmental science at UNLV, led a previous trip to Kenya in 1986.

The cost of the upcoming trip is $4,450 per person, double occupancy. For more information on Continuing Education's African Adventure, call Michelle Baker at 895-3254.

The European Witch-hunts

Thousands of Western Europeans were hanged, burned, or drowned during the witch-hunts of the 16th and 17th centuries. UNLV historian Elspeth Whitney asks why in her research on women, their roles, and the prevailing beliefs during that dark episode of history.

BY BARBARA CLOUD

A SK SOMEONE TO DEFINE THE word "witch" and the response will likely conjure up an image of a snarled broom rider with a black cape and tall, pointed hat. Silhouetted against the moon, she flies off astride her broom to commit some outrageous act. Or she stirs a giant cauldron, adding eye of newt and wing of bat to the brew, rattling incomprehensible spells while her black cat watches approvingly. But if you ask UNLV historian Elspeth Whitney to define "witch," the thoughtful scholar will respond more cautiously.

"Well, it's rather complicated," says Whitney, a historian of the Middle Ages, who explains that defining the term raises questions about how and why belief in witches developed. In particular, Whitney asks, how did beliefs in witches become so strong that thousands of Western Europeans were drowned, hanged, burned, or otherwise put to death in the 16th and 17th centuries?

By the time of the witch-hunts of that era, Whitney says, Western Europeans believed a witch was someone who had made a pact with the devil in return for gifts and certain powers. Among those powers were being able to fly - the genesis of the broomstick image - and to change shape. Witches were also empowered to do "low magic," such as finding lost objects, making it rain, foretelling the future, or cursing someone to sicken and die. Accusations of perverse sex, baby killing, and cannibalism also emerged.

However, notions of the witch as the handmaiden of Satan were relatively new in that period and their origins are
obscure, according to Whitney. In trying to trace those origins, she has found a number of gaps and apparent contradictions in the scholarly record.

For example, today's notions of witches and black cats are largely linked to superstition, and superstition is associated with a lack of education. But most of the evidence suggests that in the Middle Ages, links between witches and sodomy, infanticide, and cannibalism were made by the educated elite, Whitney says. One might assume that the peasants would have adhered to the prevailing superstitions about witches; instead, they tended to view witches with ambivalence, recognizing that they were not necessarily all evil.

"Each of the kinds of things witches could supposedly do had its converse: If you could make it rain, you could make the rain stop; if you could make someone sick, you could make her obscure, according to Whitney.

"Lack of education. But most of the educated elite, Whitney says, witches and sodomy, infanticide, witches could supposedly do had its converse: If you could make it rain, you could make the rain stop; if you could make someone sick, you could make her obscure, according to Whitney.

"It's quite possible that there were different expectations for these women than for other people who may not have been any nicer, but who were not perceived as being deviant in the same way. These women were not living up to the feminine ideal, so they got a lot of flack, whereas other people could be just as bad, but didn't get the same kind of response.

Whitney notes that these women also may well have been practicing some kind of "magic."

"The lines between magic and folk medicine and religion are very blurry. A lot of these women may very well have been village healers who knew how to use herbs. That might be all of them, set them apart.

Conventional historical wisdom used to assert that most of these women were midwives. After all, who had better opportunity than midwives to steal and kill babies as an offering to Satan? But recent research has challenged this idea.

"Now, it is pretty clear that most were not midwives, but it's not exactly clear what role they did have," Whitney says. "A lot of the records don't give us that kind of information."

"However, the research does show an increasing incidence during the later Middle Ages that women were controlled by men. A woman who was not married or in an institution, or otherwise under the authority of a man, was a loose woman — dangerous and subversive," Whitney explains, adding that without a man, a woman was vulnerable to a different male authority — the devil.

"Study of the Salem witch trials of 17th century New England has shown that a number of the women charged had recently inherited property, suggesting the possibility that someone sought to take the property from them. Could such a factor have been present in the early era as well?"

"It's hard to tell. Very likely it was in some places at some times, but there is considerable diversity among the women charged. We are handicapped by a lack of records. Property was almost certainly an element, but we don't know much about it yet."

"The witch-hunts came during a period of considerable social, political, and economic turmoil and uncertainty, resulting from the Protestant Reformation and the Counter Reformation, during which the Catholic Church attempted to sort out its occurred during a period when religious loyalties determined one's political loyalties. If your religion did not match that of the ruler, you were essentially guilty of treason. Hence, anyone could lead to condemnation as a witch.

Whitney suggests that some of the accused were spared because the church-inquisition took particular care with judicial procedure, in contrast to the multitude of more casually run local investigations and trials.

Witchcraft was, in fact, a secular crime, prosecuted as often by secular authorities as by representatives of the church. Whitney adds that the major witch-hunts occurred during a period when religious loyalties determined one's political loyalties. If your religion did not match that of the ruler, you were essentially guilty of treason. Hence, anyone could lead to condemnation as a witch.

Whitney has found that historians take two principal approaches in identifying the origins of the beliefs about witches that led to the witch-hunts.

"Some historians think the image of the witch was derived from that of the heretic, and there are texts going back to the 11th century that attribute to heretics the practice of going to a secret meeting and killing and eating babies and practicing promiscuous sex. That, in turn, has been traced back to what the ancient Romans said about the early Christians."

Other historians link the witch to the sorcerer, who was commonly a man in a position of some importance who exercised supernatural powers. The witch, by contrast, was usually a woman with no official authority or position.

According to Whitney, neither of these approaches adequately tackles the question of why women were singled out and branded as witches.

"But the question of gender is only part of Whitney's curiosity about witches. "If you broaden the notion of deviants to include the extra good as well as the extra bad," she says, "the saint is in many ways the mirror image of the witch. In fact, they are very similar and do similar kinds of things."

For example, both fly, but for saints it is called "levitation. Both saints and witches have been known to heal others and find missing objects, and saints, as well as witches, performed negative acts.

"There's a whole genre of miracles in which saints make people sick or hurt them out of revenge for not giving them their proper due."

Whitney points out that in the two centuries before the witch-hunts, there were unusual numbers of women saints known for their mysticism or supernatural powers and who were often viewed with a great deal of suspicion. "Although I can't prove it at this point, it seems plausible that this may help explain the emphasis on the female witch."

Whitney, who holds a Ph.D. from the City University of New York and who joined the UNLV history department in 1990, began looking continued on page 24

From the preceding pages: A French engraving, originally published in 1613. Above: The execution of three witches at Chelmford, Essex, taken from a pamphlet originally published circa 1589.
He was only 2 years old when he and his family were released from the camps. Although he doesn’t remember being there, he intends to make certain that what happened is not forgotten by the rest of the world.

It did take place during World War II, but in California, not Germany. The armed camp described was Manzanar, the birthplace of UNLV professor Ed Wakayama. Manzanar was one of several “internment” camps — a euphemism for concentration camp, Wakayama says — where Japanese-Americans and Japanese nationals alike were detained during World War II.

Although Wakayama was not quite 3 years old when his family was released and does not remember the relocation camps, he is very much aware of that episode of American history.

Today, he talks about it not out of bitterness or vindictiveness, but because he believes it is a chapter in U.S. history that Americans must not forget, lest it should happen again.

“I think that talking about it and writing about it is the only way that you can keep this alive so that the same thing will not happen to any other groups,” he says.

That is why Wakayama has been combing through public records and using the Freedom of Information Act to get information he needs to write a book about his family’s experiences at Manzanar and other camps. That is also why Wakayama recently gave a talk about his family’s ordeal as part of UNLV’s University Forum lecture series.

Life has turned out all right for Wakayama, who, in many ways, is living the American dream. After growing up in Japan (where his family were after being released from the camps), he attended three U.S. universities, receiving a bachelor’s degree in biology and medical technology from Northeastern University, a master’s degree in clinical chemistry from the University of Oregon Health Science Center, and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Nevada, Reno. Now, he directs UNLV’s small, but growing clinical laboratory sciences program and conducts research concerning both the cause of jaundice in newborns and exactly how aspirin and similar drugs work in the human body. He’s married and has two daughters.

And he’s the first to tell you that today in the United States, there is no discrimination, that anyone can become anything he or she has the determination to become.

The story of the Wakayama family — as told by Ed Wakayama — begins decades ago, just before the turn of the century. In 1895, Ed Wakayama’s father, Kinzo, was born in the territory of Hawaii, making him a U.S. citizen. During World War I, he served in the U.S. Army as part of the medical corps, receiving an honorable discharge when the war was over.

Afterward, he attended college, first in Japan and then at the University of Chicago, where he studied law. Later, he settled in Southern California, eventually becoming the first Japanese-American elected secretary/treasurer of the
Despite his family's internment during World War II, UNLV professor Ed Wakayama, who now heads UNLV's critical laboratory sciences program, feels no bitterness toward America. "You have to live in a foreign country to appreciate what we have here," he says.

fishermen's union for the West Coast. Then came the "day that will live in infamy"—Dec. 7, 1941—when Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.

According to Wakayama, his father knew that the bombing meant trouble for those of Japanese descent living on the West Coast. In a futile effort to head off or at least diminish the trouble, he wrote U.S. officials, to no avail, saying that the many fishermen of Japanese descent in California would be willing to donate their vessels for war purposes.

Within months of Pearl Harbor, the Wakayama family, along with tens of thousands of others, was ordered to the relocation camps. Thinking that his service in the U.S. Army would mean something to the government, the elder Wakayama wrote a letter to U.S. military officials requesting that the Japanese-American veterans of World War I be exempted from the order or be separated from the Japanese nationals. The written reply he received stated, "A Jap is a Jap." There was to be no distinction.

He thought of trying to delay the relocation by bringing his legal training to bear and filing legal motions protesting what he was convinced was an illegal action. But when armed soldiers came to get his family, he knew it would be foolish to attempt to resist.

He and his wife, who was also a U.S. citizen of Japanese descent, and his wife's mother, sister, and brother left for their internment camp, a makeshift facility at the Santa Anita Racetrack, where they slept in horse stalls on mattresses they fashioned from hay.

It was at Santa Anita that the elder Wakayama first spoke up for the rights of the internees and thus obtained the label that was to follow him through the years of internment to come—troublemaker.

Shortly after arriving at Santa Anita, he spotted other internees who had been put to work converting fishing nets into camouflage. That, he announced, was in violation of the Geneva Convention, which governs the treatment of prisoners of war. His outspokenness landed him in a local jail, and a Los Angeles newspaper wrote about the incident, using the headline "First Jap Spy Caught." Eventually, he was released without having a trial. By that time, his family had been relocated to Manzanar, and he was sent there to join them. "My dad arrived at two in the morning," Wakayama says. "The entire Manzanar camp was waiting for him. He was already a hero."

Being a hero carried a price, however. When other internees, many of whom spoke little or no English, had questions, they turned to the elder Wakayama. That role did not sit well with camp authorities, who disliked his dispensing advice and giving speeches—particularly when they were delivered in Japanese, which violated camp rules. Also, he complained to camp authorities about rations intended for the internees that were being sold on the black market instead.

Before long, he found himself in jail again, this time in Lone Pine, Calif. It was while he was there that his wife gave birth to the first of their three sons.

Junuto Edgar Wakayama, on March 23, 1943. Ed Wakayama's middle name was in tribute to Edgar Camp, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer who sympathized with the plight of the internees and fought unsuccessful legal battles on behalf of the elder Wakayama.

About the time of his incarceration in Lone Pine, the elder Wakayama was persuaded by the U.S. government to sign a document renouncing his U.S. citizenship. He signed the paper, but underneath his signature wrote the words "under duress."

Because he had been labeled a troublemaker, the family was moved again and again. Next, they were sent to a camp at Tiule Lake, Calif., where their second son was born; then to one near Santa Fe, N.M.; then to one at Crystal City, Texas. Finally, when the camps were closed in 1946, the Wakayama family was sent to Seattle and, from there, deported to Japan.

Once we arrived in Japan, my father looked for his relatives in Hiroshima and found out that everyone in his family had been sterilized by the atomic bomb," Wakayama says. At the camps, none of the internment had been told about the bombing.

With that devastating news, Wakayama says, "It occurred to my father to kill the whole family and to kill himself," but when he looked at his two young sons, he changed his mind.

The Wakayama family then made its way to the southern Japanese city of Kumamoto, where Ed Wakayama's mother, Toki "June" Wakayama, had relatives she had never met.

They made a home there and had their third son. The elder Wakayama eventually was to make a living by working with a company that distributed U.S. films in Japan and by teaching English at Gakushui University in Fukuoka.

Although June Wakayama returned to the United States, moving to Hawaii in 1954, Kinzo Wakayama would never again return home.

But, according to Ed Wakayama, his 98-year-old father is not bitter. "I think he likes the American system, the democracy. He likes the people, but he just doesn't trust the government or those in high offices."

Yet his father, like many other Japanese-Americans, feels better about the U.S. government since Congress passed a reparations bill in the late 1980s providing a payment of $20,000 each for every living Japanese-American held in an internment camp, Wakayama says. More importantly, he adds, they also received a letter of apology from then-President George Bush.

While the money did not make up for the time spent in the camps or for the property lost, it was an important step because it symbolized an acknowledgment of past wrongs by the U.S. government and helped to heal old wounds, he says.

Recently, Wakayama's father received another valued acknowledgment from the U.S. government. The elder Wakayama, who is quite proud of his service in the U.S. Army, received a medal issued by the Veteran's Administration for World War I veterans commemorating the 70th anniversary of the war's end. As his son's respect, a U.S. Army officer presented the medal to Kinzo Wakayama in Japan. Ed Wakayama grew up in Japan, living there until he was 18. He knew almost nothing about what had happened to his family in America during World War II. It was not until he was about 13 that he realized he was not a Japanese citizen; at that time, he had to go to city hall to be fingerprinted because he was a foreigner.

And it was not until he was 18 and received a draft notice from the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War that he learned about his family's internment.

There had been bits and pieces of information over the years, learned mostly from visiting friends who would mention the days in the camps. His parents didn't talk about it. And, for awhile, he misunderstood what his parents' friends were talking about.

"When you're a kid, you think that 'scout camp' is like a summer camp, like Boy Scout camp," he says.

But when he received his draft notice, he went to his father to find out more about his family's history.

"My father told me, 'You are a U.S. citizen, and you have to serve your own
country and defend your own Constitution. That's your duty. You must go back to the United States and serve," Wakayama recalls.

Wakayama says he wanted to serve, in part because he was aware of the contributions of the 442nd Regimental Combat Unit, the segregated Japanese-American unit that fought during World War II and became the most decorated U.S. military unit in history. To him, his back on serving his country would have been to turn his back on the sacrifices of those people, he says.

"It was because of them that the Japanese-American citizens were able to integrate into U.S. society after the war," he says. "Suddenly, it opened the doors for everybody, including children's problems.

"They didn't want their children to carry the same burden. They knew that life for us would be much different in America and defend your own Constitution. That's your duty. You must go back to the United States and serve," Wakayama says of the documents that are still held in the possession of the 442nd Regimental Combat Unit, the segregated Japanese-American unit that fought during World War II and became the most decorated U.S. military unit in history. To him, his back on serving his country would have been to turn his back on the sacrifices of those people, he says.

Wakayama returned to the United States after completing his undergraduate work, he went into the U.S. Army and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He was stationed at Fort Ord, Calif., where he worked as chief hospital laboratory officer during the Vietnam War. By the time he was discharged two years later, he had obtained the rank of captain.

Wakayama is clearly proud of his military service and has served as a member of the Army Reserve for the past 18 years, working his way up to the rank of colonel.

While pleased with the military assignments he has received thus far, he still harbors a military dream: to command the famed 442nd/100th Regimental Combat Unit. This reserve unit, which today, of course, is integrated, is based in Hawaii, but Wakayama says he would gladly commute. "It would be an honor.

Wakayama also has a dream concerning his work at UNLV. He wants to help launch a master's degree program in clinical laboratory sciences, which he says would be the only program of its kind in the region. With a master's degree offering, UNLV's program has the potential to become one of the leading clinical laboratory sciences programs, according to Wakayama.

When he is not busy at UNLV or serving in the Army Reserve, Wakayama is trying to complete the research he needs to write his book on his family's experiences during World War II. One interesting find he has made are some documents that the government took from his mother while his father was in jail in Lone Pine. "I was curious," Wakayama says of the documents that are still held in Washington, D.C. "They must be very sensitive documents, right?

"You know what they have, in a brown bag I made a copy. They have his U.S. Army honorable discharge papers from World War II and his driver's licenses from Hawaii and California. There were two passes to the U.S. Congress and Senate. He had social security cards and a membership card to the American Legion. That's what they confiscated.

Despite the injustice of the internment of his family and so many other Japanese-American families, Wakayama is not bitter. In fact, he's far from it. What happened to his family has affected his life greatly, he says, but the effect has been a positive one.

"I think I learned about the value of freedom, what the Constitution stands for," he says. "This is a great country. You have to live for the freedom, what the Constitution stands for."

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"You know what they have, in a brown bag I made a copy. They have his U.S. Army honorable discharge papers from World War II and his driver's licenses from Hawaii and California. There were two passes to the U.S. Congress and Senate. He had social security cards and a membership card to the American Legion. That's what they confiscated.

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March 1994

1 Concert: UNLV Wind Ensemble: 7:30 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
2-6 University Theatre: Pippin John: March 2-5, 8 pm; March 6, 2 pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
3 Men’s Basketball: UNLV vs. San Jose State. 8:05 pm. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
International Film Series: Strictly Ballroom. 7 pm. Wright Hall. 103. 895-3947.
4 Chamber Music Southwest: “A Caribbean Carnival.” 7:30 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
5 Women’s Basketball: UNLV vs. New Mexico State. 7:30 pm. South Gym. 895-3900.
6 Concert: University Musical Society Orchestra. 2 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
9 Master Series: Mummenschanz. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
10 International Film Series: Day for Night. 7 pm. Wright Hall 103. 895-3947.
10-13 Men’s Basketball: Big West Tournament. Details TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.
11-13 UNLV Opera Theatre: Ophelia ed Euridice. March 11-12, 8 pm; March 13, 2 pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
13 Community Concert: Tennessee Waltz. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
14 Master Series: Yo-Yo Ma. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
16 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
19 Nevada Symphony Orchestra: John Mcta. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
20 Nevada Dance Theatre: Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
24 Concert: University Musical Society Orchestra. 2 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
25 Chamber Music Southwest: “From Baroque to Bebop.” Jann Harmsinger, trombone. 7:30 pm.
28 Barrick Lecture: C. Everett Koop. 7:30 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
April 1994

2 Nevada Symphony Orchestra: St. John’s Passion. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
7-17 University Theatre: Dancing at Lughnasad. April 7-9 & 13-16, 8 pm; April 10 & 17, 2 pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.
19 Master Series: Principal Dancers of the New York City Ballet. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
28 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
Exhibition: J. Gordon Edwards Exhibition. 9 am-5 pm. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 895-3801. ( thru May 8)
30 Concert: Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
Alumni Event: Dinner/theatre events. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
University Theatre: Sunday in the Park with George. April 21-23 & 27-30, 8 pm; April 24 & May 1, 2 pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
May 1994

3 Concert: University Chorus. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
8 Concert: Jazz Ensemble I. 2 pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.
11 Alumni Event: Dinner/ballet event. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
15 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
16 Summer Session 3: Session ends.
17 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
28 Summer Session 4: Session begins.
30 Fall Semester 1994: Instruction and late registration begins.

June 1994

3 Summer Session 1: Session ends.
4 Summer Session 2: Session begins.
11 Concert: Las Vegas Gamble-Aires. 8 pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.
15 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
23-24 Meeting: Board of Regents. 9 am-5 pm. Tam Alumni Center.

July 1994

8 Summer Session 2: Session ends.
11 Summer Session 3: Session begins.
16 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
29 Play: Friday Knight at the Fights. 8 pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

August 1994

12 Summer Session 3: Session ends.
17 Alumni Event: Board of Directors meeting. 6 pm. Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.
29 Full Semester 1994: Instruction and late registration begins.

COMING APRIL 8-10: The Barnes Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, featuring 1,200 of the 25,000 panels, commemorating the life of someone who has died of AIDS. Myer Student Union. 2nd floor.
In Tune with the Times

On Time with the Tunes

BY SUZAN DIBELLA

Did you hear the one about the lady tuba player who was a DJ/photographer in her spare time? Meet UNLV alumna Ginger Bruner. In an era when most people find it difficult to manage one career, she juggles three.

I

F YOU EVER HAVE THE OCCA- sion to meet Ginger Bruner and you’re lucky enough to obtain one of her business cards, you might be shocked, but at least a little amused, by its unique, though concise, message:

Ginger Bruner
Bitchin’ Renaissance Chick

“I didn’t make it up. A friend who made up the business card did,” says the 1992 music department graduate, who has turned her love of the arts into three different professions — all at the same time.

Bruner currently serves as the weekday afternoon DJ at radio station KNPR, spinning discs by some of her favorite classical composers and producing several special programs. Often, when she leaves the station, she is on her way to play her tuba at a Dixieland jazz gig or a classical concert. Then, when she’s not booked as a musician, she’s picking up freelance work as a professional photographer.

All in all, Bruner is a pretty busy Renaissance chick.

“Hey, it’s wacky,” she says of her schedule. “But it’s a way to do several things that I enjoy doing and make a living at the same time.”

The roots of her renaissance orientation can be traced back to both her family and her education, she says.

“The arts run in the family. My father played the trombone, and my grandmother, Lucille Spire Bruner, has been painting and teaching art in Southern Nevada for the past 40 years. In fact, UNLV gave her an honorary doctorate because she’s such a cool lady. [Spire Bruner was a 1982 recipient of an honorary doctorate from UNLV for her contribution to the development of the visual arts in Southern Nevada.] She taught me how to draw and paint when I was a kid. Later, when I was learning how to use a camera, I realized that my eye for composition came from my grandmother’s lessons.”

Bruner also seemed to have an ear for music at an early age.

“When I was in fourth grade, a fellow came to school and demonstrated all these instruments, and I just thought that was so cool. So I went home and said, ‘I want to be in the band.’”

Though she was a year shy of the minimum grade requirement, she was allowed to join. She took up the trombone, following in her dad’s footsteps. But by the time Bruner was in sixth grade, her school needed a tuba player for the county honor band tryouts.

“Nobody else would even try to learn it, so I said, ‘Oh, pull-eez, I could play that in a week.’ So I took lessons for a week, and I made it.”

The tuba’s size and lack of popularity among her peers didn’t deter her.

“Some kids we were asking, ‘What’s that?’ So I told them it was my sister,” Bruner laughs hysterically. “It sort of looked like a coffin. A coffin with a bulge.”

The tuba’s size and lack of popularity among her peers didn’t deter her.

“One time I took my tuba home from school, and I don’t know why, but I carried it back to school the next day. It would be like carrying somebody in a big black box all the way to school. So the kids were asking, ‘What’s that?’”

She adds for the record that during her 10 years at UNLV, she played in the marching band, the wind ensemble, the jazz band, chamber groups, and the orchestra, and sang with the Collegium Musicum Madrigal Singers. She also

for my sense of humor even then.”

She was also known for her musical ability, so much so, in fact, that after playing in almost every available band in junior high and high school, she was recruited to play in UNLV’s marching band in 1982. And so began her somewhat lengthy tenure at college.

“My time at UNLV was, shall we say, extended?” she says with a wry smile. “It took me 10 years to graduate, but then I have my music degree and, I don’t know exactly how much, but most of an art degree. In the first couple of years, I was playing in five ensembles and singing in one. So I was playing a lot. It sort of put a cramp in my regular schooling.”

Bruner currently serves as a music director, and producer for several programs, such as Guess Who’s Playing the Classics and Desert Bloom.

At classical radio station KNPR, UNLV alumna Ginger Bruner serves as weekday afternoon disc jockey, as well as producer of several programs, such as Guess Who’s Playing the Classics and Desert Bloom.
served as a photographer and photo editor for the student newspaper, and off campus, she picked up a part-time job as an announcer at KNPR.

Add to that a long list of extra-art and photography classes, Bruner points out, and it's easy to understand why it took so long. "People thought I was completely bananas," she says. But looking back, she knows she wasn't crazy; she was just interested in taking a more interdisciplinary approach to her education.

"I think the disciplines are too segregated. It just makes so much more sense to me to study art and music together. What's the use in being a one-dimen­sional person in a multi-dimensional world?"

Her favorite instructors at UNLV include faculty from both the music and art departments, including music profes­sors Isabelle Emerson and Jim Stivers, and art historian Cathie Kelly.

"Dr. Emerson would occasionally bring in slides of images of art from "People recognize my voice occasionally," says Bruner, "but since I am a little bit different in person — more effusive, shall we say? — then I am on the air, it doesn't happen too often. When it does, I think, 'Holy cow! I thought I was safe in radio.'"

After seven years at the station, Bruner still considers the music to be the best part of her job.

"Being on the air is nice, but I've got to tell you that after you've been doing it awhile, it's not all that glamorous. You're on the air, you know; you do it. Essentially, what I want to do is play music for the listeners and have them be happy. If they're happy and like the music, then I've done my job. I'm not here to be a personality on the air; they're not listening to me. It's a different scene here than it might be on a different type of station. I like to keep it as much music and as little Ginger as possible."

Nonetheless, she acknowledges she has gained somewhat of a celebrity status.

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Her work as a photographer who was a volunteer announcer at KNPR, and he knew that they were looking for a regular weekday evening announcer. He also knew that I, being a musician, had some music history and that I liked classical mu­sic. Well, he suggested I try out, and I said, 'Oh, please, radio? Get real, Frank. I have a dumb voice.' But I came down here and learned how to use the equipment, and they put me on the air."

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The first Jean Nidetch Women’s Center Scholarships were awarded this year to four UNLV students who have overcome great adversity in order to attend college. One of them — a victim of the Chinese Cultural Revolution — tells her story.

**By Terry Baskot Brooker**

**Most Scholarships Reward Excellence in Academics or Athletics. But some reward excellence in character and tenacity.**

Such is the case with the Jean Nidetch Women’s Center Scholarship, which was awarded for the first time this year to four UNLV students who demonstrated strength of character and tenacious spirit in their efforts to overcome adversity.

The students — hotel administration major Wei Xia, engineering majors Johnnine Dornak and Angela Molnar, and education major Dorothy Vanette — all have faced some form of adversity.

As part of the scholarship application process, they were asked to describe in writing and documents of Mao. By age 17, she was sent to the countryside for a peasant’s education.

"I was literally isolated from the world," she says. "We had no running water, agricultural machines, or electricity. I was fed only rice with pepper jam, and I slept on a straw mat on a dirt floor in a thatched roof cottage that I shared with two women students."

"We were forced to work 10 hours a day, and after work we were forced to study political documents. My job was to carry natural fertilizer to the fields. The women were given this job because a peasant woman student was considered to be inferior to a peasant man."

But she held tight to her belief that things would change. "Although I was a farmer for five years, I continued to study mathematics and the English language at night, using an oil lamp I constructed from an ink bottle. I had faith that knowledge would in some way be my salvation," she says.

When the Cultural Revolution ended in 1976, Wei Xia’s fortunes improved slightly. She left the farm and was assigned to work at the library of the Chinese Academy of Science at Chengdu. In 1977, the universities reopened, and students were allowed to take entrance exams.

In 1979, Wei Xia passed an English placement exam that permitted her to leave China to come to America. Wei Xia carefully researched her options. Seeking the best hotel administration college available, she soon was able to narrow the field to Cornell or UNLV.

The international reputation of UNLV, combined with the reasonable cost of living in Las Vegas, brought her here. In August 1983, Wei Xia enrolled and began her studies in the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration.

Now in her third year at UNLV, Wei Xia is quite clear about her educational goals: She plans to obtain a bachelor’s degree in hotel management and an MBA at UNLV within the next three years.

After that, she hopes to become the owner and president of a Sino-American trade and cultural business that will specialize in the organization of international trade shows and conventions.

"I intend to accomplish this goal by the time I am 48 years old. I am now 29," she says, acknowledging that her professional goals come from knowing that the Cultural Revolution stole 10 years of her life that could have been spent on formal education. That is why the Nidetch scholarship was so important to her.

"This scholarship is a very important financial resource enabling me to achieve my career and education goals. If forced to find a job, I would have less time to study and my plans would be delayed," she says.

Wei Xia didn’t take the task of applying for the scholarship lightly. She worked on her essay for nearly two months in order to make sure that her tenacious command of her second language wouldn’t thwart her desire to be considered worthy of the award.

"Mastering English is still a challenge for Wei Xia. "Although I have been in America for over two years, I still have a lot of difficulty with English and must spend all of my spare time studying," she says.

But she recognizes life in America presents many challenges.

"Becoming comfortable with a new culture and accepting an openness and freedomain unknown in her homeland will take a period of adjustment, she says. There are also bouts of homesickness because her family remains in China, and she says they are never far from her thoughts."

"Yet, her new life is in Las Vegas. She is now married to a UNLV doctoral student in physics, Robert Vaughn, whom she met at UNLV. She plans to become a naturalized citizen in 1995."

And, if her approach to past challenges is any indication, achieving that goal, along with the rest, is just a matter of time.

**About the Scholarship**

The Jean Nidetch Scholarship was funded by a donation made by Las Vegas Jean Nidetch, the founder of Weight Watchers International.

The scholarship provides $2,500 annually to recipients.

Applicants are required to be full-time UNLV undergraduate or graduate students who have a minimum 2.0 GPA and who have completed some form of adversity in their personal lives.

In addition to funding the scholarship, Nidetch’s donation helped fund the UNLV Women’s Center, established in October 1991 as a campus and community-wide support and workshop center for women.
Class Notes

Joe Gauzens, '77, senior year at UNLV, is a contributing editor to the Trail and Desert Research Council, and is a district sales manager for the law firm of Lionel McCrea, Inc., one of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies. He lives in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Steven Sagen, '78 BS Hotel Administration, is the founder and owner of Winery Direct Marketing, a company that handles sales and marketing of the products of small California boutique wineries to hotels and restaurants nationwide. He lives in San Diego.

David D. Robech, '79 BS Business Administration, '97 MBA, is a Peace Corps volunteer in the former Soviet Union. He is based in Saratov, a city located about 1,200 miles from Moscow, where he consults with local businesspeople in their efforts to move from communism to capitalism. He went overseas in November 1992 as a member of the first group of Peace Corps volunteers to be sent to the former Soviet Union. Before going overseas, he lived in North Las Vegas and worked in the banking industry in Southern Nevada, as well as UNLV’s Small Business Development Center.

Bruce F. Dyer, '86 BS Communications Studies, is a director of food and beverage at the Las Vegas Hilton, where he oversees 13 restaurants, 12 bars, and more than 1,000 employees.

Debra Bolding, '80 BS Biological Sciences, is laboratory director of the city of Las Vegas Water Pollution Control Facility. She was recently appointed to the national 40,000-member international association for water and wastewater treatment professionals.

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Ready, Willing
continued from page 13

“When I first started public speaking, my talk was very mechanical and structured,” he explains. “But as I spoke more, I realized that there were things in my own life that I should bring out, that people really want to hear.”

Stuart tells a story about his first day at UNLV that is both humorous and touching. Feeling apprehensive and more than a little insecure, he hoped, like virtually every freshman, that he would fit in at the university. So it was with agonizing embarrassment that he stumbled and fell at the top of the concrete steps in Frank and Estella Beam Hall, landed on his Samsonite briefcase, and rode it to the bottom like a sled.

“I looked up, and there was a girl standing there looking at me and smiling,” he recalls. “She said, ‘Are you OK?’ and I said, ‘Yeah,’ and my eyes started watering a little bit, because I was so embarrassed. ‘She said, ‘That really was quite funny. I’ve never seen anyone take such an exciting ride.’ And she started laughing — not at me, but at the situation. It made me feel so much better that she came up and smiled, not in a condescending way, but as if to say, ‘It’s OK. We all fall down in life.’”

Stuart uses that story in his talk to make the point that we can make a big difference, just by smiling at someone.

“We need to be able to tell people we meet or work with that, when they are down, either emotionally or physically, it’s OK. They can get back up and get on with their lives.

“We can help ourselves to get back up,” he says, “if we accept ourselves for who we are.”

Stuart continues to draw inspiration from the story of his ride down the Beam Hall steps. “I still carry that briefcase around with me,” he says. “The thing holds up great.”

Stuart’s talks for the MGM Grand are designed to familiarize supervisors and other employees with the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the federal law that requires businesses to make accommodations for employees and customers who have disabilities. It requires, for instance, wheelchair access to buildings.

“It is really a law that says employers should look at people’s abilities, not their disabilities,” Stuart says. “So I come in and give a 15- to 20-minute speech on discovering your perfections and unique abilities, and the perfections of your co-workers and the people you serve.”

Stuart finds that a little humor goes a long way in helping him relate to audiences and make his point. He understands that when he first walks into a room to speak, people are looking him over, thinking that he moves strangely and shakes. So he introduces himself as a mover and a shaker.

“And they laugh, and you can kind of see them thinking, ‘Oh, he knows he’s different. Now we can relax.’”

Stuart has spoken to church and school groups, civic and service clubs, numerous businesses, and conventions. He is also working with Jostens, a maker of class rings, which has a speakers bureau that sends him on speaking engagements in public schools.

Having spent his undergraduate years at UNLV and now continuing his studies here, Stuart has observed considerable improvement in the campus’ accommodations for people with handicaps.

“I’ve seen a great evolution in the awareness of the disabled population at UNLV,” he says. “I think that when I first came here, I was one of the few disabled students. I felt like a lost soul at orientation, and I thought, ‘How am I going to do this?’”

Stuart eventually found help, for instance, in test-taking, during which he needs someone to write down his answers for him. But he believes the system is much improved today, and he credits Anita Stockbauer in Student Support Services with building up the program. He is also pleased to see that access to buildings is being improved with the addition of automatic doors.

“It’s not a program that gives disabled persons an easier way,” he says. “It accommodates students’ unique needs, physically, but it doesn’t make it easier academically.”

Stuart has unique needs, no doubt about it. But he has also developed abilities that enable him to meet those needs.

Speaking mainly to groups of non-handicapped persons, he urges them to focus on what people can do — what they can contribute — rather than what they can’t. In telling his audiences that everyone has his or her own perfections, he is also saying that everyone has disabilities to overcome.

“You can see my challenge,” he says. “What’s your challenge?”

Witch-hunts
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at the history of witches when she became interested in various deviant or outsider groups, such as heretics, Jews, gays, and lepers, as well as witches, in the Middle Ages.

“You wouldn’t think on the surface that these groups would have had anything in common, but they tended to be treated very much the same in lots of ways.” For example, at one time or another all were accused of sodomy, infanticide, and cannibalism, and were used as scapegoats by mainstream society, she notes.

Considering witches as an outsider group, rather than a unique aberration, points to new directions for research and confirms that the question of witches is, as Whitney warned, far more “complicated” than a Halloween image.
From heavy metal concerts to light-hearted comedy, bears on bicycles to men on bulls, Las Vegas Thunder ice hockey to Runnin’ Rebel basketball, the Thomas & Mack Center has been the site of just about every type of entertainment and sporting event imaginable.

On this, our tenth anniversary, we’d like to take the opportunity to thank all of Las Vegas for the support and patronage over the past decade and promise to bring better shows, more variety and the same exceptional service.

So if our first ten years have been this great, just imagine what our teens will be like!

THOMAS & MACK CENTER
The Valerie Pida Plaza, located southwest of the Flora Dungan Humanities Building, provides a pleasant spot for students to meet, socialize, and relax.