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Inside UNLV

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Magic Moments


While the football game pitting the Rebels against Air Force doesn’t take place until 7 p.m. Oct. 18 at Sam Boyd Stadium, a number of homecoming-related events are scheduled for other times during homecoming week.

The theme of this year’s homecoming is “It’s Magic.” Among the other activities are:

• Oct. 16 — The Rebel Rally. 11 a.m. annual pep rally at the Alumni Amphitheater.
• Oct. 17 — Rebel Red Day. Join this citywide celebration by wearing your Rebel red.
• Oct. 17 — Alumni Dinner. 6 p.m. Student Union ballroom. For reservations, call ext. 5-3621.
• Oct. 18 — Parade. 5 p.m. at Sam Boyd Stadium.
• Oct. 18 — Football Tailgate and Game. 4 p.m. tailgate at Sam Boyd Stadium. 7 p.m. game.

Think Ability Fair

An information fair focused on resources available to individuals with disabilities in Southern Nevada will take place 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 8 on Pida Plaza. Call UNLV’s Disability Resource Center at ext. 5-0666 for information.

News You Can Use

A Rebel of Distinction

Longtime History Faculty Member Receives UNLV’s Highest Honor

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

“Geology, now that would be a great major,” Tom Wright thought to himself oh so many years ago. He enjoyed hiking with his dad, UNLV history professor John Wright. He’d get to use a geologist’s hammer and enjoy the scenery.

But then reality hit: Majoring in geology meant a lot of science and math. A French Revolution class during his sophomore year at Pomona College hooked him on history. Now four decades later, he is one of a select number of UNLV faculty members to achieve “distinguished professor” status.

Talking About A Revolution

Wright’s interest in his eventual field, Latin American history, started with a flier his father handed him about a study-abroad program in Peru. Wright’s junior year in Peru was a particularly interesting time. “I was there in ’61 and ’62, so it was just a couple of years after Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba. I experienced first-hand the impact of the Cuban Revolution.

“On an almost daily basis there were rallies and demonstrations — many staged by students. There were strikes and peasant invasions of haciendas. Walls were painted with slogans, the most common one being, ‘Cuba sí, Yanqui no.’ I heard talk of guerrilla activity, but that didn’t start until I was back in the U.S.”

Wright completed his bachelor’s degree at Pomona and then moved to the University of California for his master’s and doctoral work. UC had an unusually high number of Latin American historians on the faculty and Berkeley in the ’60s was a very interesting place to be.

Wright has a self-deprecating sense of humor. Asked about how it feels to be named a distinguished professor, he replied, “I say my status has now caught up to my hair color — distinguished.” Then in a more serious vein, he adds, “I am in very select company and I am honored to be part of that group of colleagues.”

The most recent professor to receive the UNLV designation of distinguished professor, Tom Wright specializes in Latin American history.

“I was one of the 100 (teaching assistants) who kicked off the free speech movement,” he recalled. “The (university) administration banned what they called political solicitation, which had taken place on campus for a long time, especially on Sproul Plaza. Quite a lot of people thought that was a violation of the First Amendment.”

To defy the ban, the TAs coordinated a day for students to set out tables with literature about their causes. Wright decided to...
Looking Forward to a Year of Action

In his annual academic convocation address, President David Ashley challenged the campus community to take action in the face of uncertain economic times. Here Ashley follows up on the challenges facing UNLV this year.

> Wright Continued from Page 1

**The Wright Stuff**
**Family**
Wife and colleague Dina Titus, UNLV political science professor, state senator, and Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Interesting Fact**
He is the only full-time UNLV faculty member who works in a building named for his father. John Wright (as in Wright Hall) was a longtime professor in the history department.

**Wright**

In his annual academic convocation address, President David Ashley challenged the campus community to take action in the face of uncertain economic times. Here Ashley follows up on the challenges facing UNLV this year.

**How can UNLV move forward amidst so many budget unknowns?**
Anyone following the state’s economic news has to feel the enormous challenge ahead and is wondering, “How are we going to address this shortfall?” Unfortunately, we will not know the details until the Legislature adjourns early next summer.

In the meantime, we must take action and overcome the paralysis that often comes with uncertainty. Although we will not have definitive answers for some time, we are now developing a process to help make decisions when the real budget numbers arrive.

**So how will those decisions be made if the time comes for further cuts?**
I recently accepted a task force — headed by (Executive Vice President and Provost) Neal Smatresk and Faculty Senate Chair Nasser La Putt — to identify the criteria we will use to evaluate programs should more severe budget cuts come. Having such criteria will help us evaluate both academic and support programs in a non-threatening, non-emotional way. There is nothing gratifying about this work, but I do believe we will approach this task in a fair manner, with collaboration between these two groups and the general campus.

**What keeps you optimistic about the university’s future?**
The quality of our student body. I think we should all feel proud of this fall’s enrollment increase. Despite tougher entrance requirements, freshman enrollment was up 8 percent over our projections. This is a testament in part to the marketing and recruitment efforts over the last 18 months. It’s gratifying to see that the incoming class is more diverse and more capable of succeeding academically than ever before.

Our graduate student enrollment is also up. This shows that we are making real progress in pushing our research mission forward.

I am also looking forward to the work that will be done by the campus action teams I recently established. These teams will address the three major areas we must continue to tackle:

- Infrastructure
- Research
- Education

Our Focus: 100 strategic plan provides clarity to the tasks of each action team. It will help them identify immediate, low-cost ways to keep UNLV advancing through this extraordinary time. They will also evaluate the suggestions from the campus community and identify potential funding sources for longer-term needs.

Finally, I am pleased that we were able to launch the Academic Success Center. The center is an example of how we can increase support to our students with limited resources. But more importantly, it is critical to improving our retention and graduation rates. We must succeed in these areas if we are to realize our ambitions.

**Beyond participating in the efforts of action teams, what can individuals do to help UNLV this year?**
I believe the state is at a turning point with education. I have experienced severe budget cuts in other states; the difference here is that our institutions are being asked to make cuts in a system that is already significantly underfunded.

As citizens, we must let our leaders know how important it is to us to support preK-12 schools, higher education, and workforce development. Do we want quality education? If the answer is yes, then our schools and institutions need funding stability; we cannot build a strong educational system while weathering increasing budget cuts and funding fluctuations seen in our local business community.

So I urge all members of the campus community to share their thoughts about the difference that UNLV makes in the Southern Nevada community with their political leaders. During this election season, each of us has the right to know exactly where these leaders stand on educational funding. The resolution to the funding debate will be in their hands this February.

**Employee Benefits**

**Free Counseling Available**

**Having Trouble Balancing Work and Home?**

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

We all have problems, both at work and home, from time to time. When you need a little extra help, call the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), which is a free and confidential service.

Ceridian Lifeworks, which is staffed by licensed and certified professional counselors, is now the university’s EAP provider.

“An employee assistance program is an important benefit of any workplace because it helps employees balance work-life issues," said Pat La Putt, benefits manager. "We all have stress in our life, but we will be more productive employees if we maintain that work-life balance.”

**What is Covered?**

The EAP is for all full-time and regular part-time employees and their dependents. It provides an initial phone assessment and three face-to-face sessions with professional counselors at no cost. EAP services help with many problems, including those related to:

- parenting
- work
- family
- emotional well-being
- addiction and recovery

The EAP is not a long-term solution and is not supposed to take the place of an employee’s mental health benefit. “If you have a crisis where you need two to three sessions with a counselor, then use the EAP because there is no cost,” La Putt said.

**How it Works**

You or a family member can call the EAP any time. You will be asked your name, home phone number, employer, and the reason for your call. If the counselor deems it necessary, he will personally schedule an in-person appointment with a counselor. Or the person seeking help can ask for names of providers. Ceridian will follow up with the individual to verify they sought services.

One of the reasons Ceridian was chosen as the provider is because of its proactive approach and follow-up with clients.

If additional counseling is needed after three in-person sessions, the EAP counselor will provide a referral to a licensed therapist selected by the employee’s insurance plan.

**Lifeworks.com**

Another free resource is the lifeworks.com website that Ceridian maintains. The site is an effective place for adults and specially trained people for people who may not feel comfortable speaking with a counselor. “If you need some advice on parenting or any number of issues, the website is a good starting place,” La Putt said.

**More Info:** Go to lifeworks.com for more information. User ID: NSHE, Password: EAP. Or call Ceridian any time at 877-234-5151.
Another Take
Stories by Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Each month, randomly selected UNLV employees will be profiled in Another Take, a section that lets you see another side of your colleagues.

Myrna Payabyab
Dental Assistant, School of Dental Medicine
Rebel since: 2004

Typical day: Assist students, faculty, and residents by dispensing supplies and equipment, transporting equipment to various clinical areas. Clean, package, and sterilize instruments utilizing ultrasonic cleaners, automatic washers, and autoclaves.

Biggest challenge: Making sure that everything runs smoothly. Also, dealing with different personalities and people every day can be a challenge.

What makes you successful? I take pride in my job to ensure quality work, am a team player, and am dedicated to the mission of the UNLV School of Dental Medicine. My positive outlook on life also makes me successful.

Can’t work without: The cassettes that need to be sterilized as well as my protective mask, goggles, and gloves.

People would be surprised to know: I have a good sense of humor and can make others laugh. This comes in handy to calm patients down, especially children when they are about to undergo a painful procedure — they laugh first and then cry.

Your own teeth: I have always been meticulous about taking care of my teeth. I have brushed and flossed regularly since I was little. I see firsthand the consequences of not properly caring for your teeth.

Tips for having healthy teeth: Have regular dental visits. Brush and floss your teeth properly and regularly. Change your toothbrush every three months. Avoid too much sugary food. Eat a well-balanced diet.

Sharon Altman
Administrative Assistant IV, Public Lands Institute
Rebel since: 2001; previously worked in women’s basketball and athletics business offices.

Biggest challenge: Anticipating the needs of everyone ahead of time.

What makes you successful? I know what I am doing and how to do it. I’m not saying I don’t make mistakes — everybody does — but I don’t make the same mistake twice.

Why you do what you do: I like doing office work and helping others. I like knowing that at the end of the day someone could do their job more effectively because I did my job.

Can’t work without: My computer. Everything I do is on the computer.

People would be surprised to know: That I temporarily have regular length fingernails. I can’t stand looking at my hands right now (she didn’t even want her hands in the photo). A lot of people know me for my long and elaborately decorated fingernails. For more than 10 years, I have sat in the nail technician’s chair every two weeks for approximately two hours. My nail bill is like any other monthly utility bill.

For Halloween last year, I had witches, ghosts, and even Frankenstein on my nails. Another time I had blue nails with squiggly lines that looked like seaweed. I would tell everyone that if they looked closely they could see Nemo from Finding Nemo, even though he really wasn’t there. I got such a kick out of watching people look for Nemo and not be able to find him.

Tom Jones
Hotel Management Professor
Rebel since: 1990

Typical day: Teach undergraduate classes in facility management, housekeeping, and front office management, and a graduate class in hotel operations. On the days I don’t have class, I work on research projects and write textbooks. I also serve on the board of directors for the International Executive Housekeepers Association and the Cleaning Industry Research Institute.

Biggest challenge: Being more selective in my projects. I tend to say yes quite a bit and take on more than I should.

What makes you successful? I enjoy what I do. I encourage my students to engage themselves in activities they truly enjoy and that truly inspire them.

Why you do what you do: My first degree was in theater and I was an out-of-work actor. Between engagements, I waited tables and tended bars, which provided me a steady paycheck. I also had a short stint teaching early in my career and after several years in the hospitality field, I realized that I could put these two passions together, so I returned to school.

Can’t work without: The computer. When I was working on my master’s thesis here at UNLV, I typed it…over and over and over again. When the computer came along, I threw away the Wite-Out.

People would be surprised to know: That I love to ride a motorcycle. I have a Honda ST 1100 sport-touring bike. I love the sense of freedom I get from riding.

What about your name? Sad to say, but I have never seen one of his concerts. I guess I should go before either he gets too old to do one or I get too old to go to one.

Your own teeth: I have always been meticulous about taking care of my teeth. I have brushed and flossed regularly since I was little. I see firsthand the consequences of not properly caring for your teeth.

Tips for having healthy teeth: Have regular dental visits. Brush and floss your teeth properly and regularly. Change your toothbrush every three months. Avoid too much sugary food. Eat a well-balanced diet.
Across Campus

Academic Success Center

First Academic Success Week Set for Oct. 6-10
UNLV’s first Academic Success Week, featuring a variety of events, will take place Oct. 6-10. The week will begin with open houses at both the new Academic Success Center (ASC) and at the nearby Student Services Complex (SSC) on Oct. 6. The ASC open house is set for 1-4 p.m. The Student Services open house will take place 2-4 p.m. Student Services tours will start at the kiosk on the first floor of SSC-A.

Academic Success Week is sponsored by the ASC in partnership with the colleges, Student Affairs, Libraries, Career Services, and Enrollment Services. Some of the week’s events include:

- Oct. 9. “Make the Grade” presentation for students, with information on services that assist students with academic success. ASC, Room 146.
- Oct. 10. “Coffee and Career Conversations.” Career Services staff will talk about how various majors translate into possible career choices. ASC, Room 146.

More info: Call the ASC at ext. 5-3177 or go to academicsuccess.unlv.edu.

Business

Maureen Dowd to Speak as Part of Moskow Lecture Series
New York Times op-ed columnist Maureen Dowd and television critic Alessandra Stanley will be the speakers at the inaugural event of the Moskow Speaker Series at 10 a.m. Oct. 16 in the Student Union theater.

The presentation will focus on the intertwining of pop culture with politics as well as how the influence of the media is having on the current presidential election. It is free and open to all students, faculty, and staff. Jeffrey Moskow, a part-time finance instructor at UNLV for the past five years who now is battling kidney cancer, donated $1 million to the college to fund the series.

He said he wants to leave behind a “legacy of learning” for his students. He also said he wants to make students aware of how current events impact the business world every day.

Moskow is teaching a current business topics class in the college this semester while continuing to undergo medical treatment. He named the series after his parents, Morris and Sylvia. His donation is allowing a previous lecture series sponsored by Wells Fargo to be revamped. Dowd is a Pulitzer Prize-winning op-ed columnist. Previously she served as the newspaper’s White House correspondent, metropolitan reporter, and feature writer. She also reported for Time magazine.

Stanley has been a television critic for The New York Times for the past five years. Before that, she was the newspaper’s bureau chief in Moscow and Rome. She also worked for Time magazine in Paris, Los Angeles, and New York City. Stanley also worked in the magazine’s Washington bureau, where she covered presidential campaigns and the White House.

Education

Ed Psych Program Ranked Among Best Nationwide
The educational psychology program at UNLV again was nationally ranked in the top 25 specialty programs in the most recent U.S. News & World Report survey.

In the publication’s ranking of top-tier educational psychology programs, UNLV was tied with the University of Nebraska and the University of Pittsburgh. It ranked just below Harvard University, the University of Colorado, and the University of Georgia. It ranked above Florida State University and the University of Southern California.

The rankings are in the U.S. News & World Report guide, America’s Best Graduate Schools, for students enrolling in 2008-09. Specialty program rankings are based on nominations by education-school deans and deans of graduate studies throughout the nation.

Hotel

Take a Big Bite with Guy Fieri
UNLV alumni and Food Network celebrity chef Guy Fieri will prepare some of his signature dishes for the next chef artist dinner series. The event will take place 6 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Starn Fulton Building.

The gourmet event, which costs $100 per person, will begin with a reception of hors d'oeuvres, wine, and entertainment, followed by a three-course dinner planned and prepared by Fieri. Each course will be paired with an appropriate wine selection. The chef artist dinner series is held each semester and is sponsored by Bon Appetit magazine. Proceeds from the event benefit the students, faculty, and facilities of the food and beverage department.

More info: Call ext. 5-1330 for reservations.

Colleges

College to Host Higher Ed Conference 2009-13
The College of Education has been selected to host the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) for 2009-13. ASHE is considered the premier scholarly organization for the field of higher education. ASHE, which has about 2,000 members, promotes collaboration among entities engaged in the study of higher education through research, conferences, and publications, including its highly regarded journal, The Review of Higher Education. The study of higher education has an extensive body of literature examining the complexity of historical issues, such as access and excellence, institutional diversity, curriculum development, administrative and faculty roles and training, student achievement, participation of women and ethnic minorities, and public accountability.

Engineering

Boehm Receives Nevada Renewable Energy Award
Robert Boehm, distinguished professor of engineering, recently was honored as the second recipient of the annual Nevada Renewable Energy Leadership (NEVREL) Award. Boehm also is director of the college’s Center for Energy Research. The NEVREL award honors individuals for significant contributions to a secure energy future through innovations in conservation or renewable energy technology in Nevada. The contributions may be through research, education, or practice.

Boehm was cited as having proven himself as a renewable energy leader with supporting research in such cutting-edge renewable energy technologies as hydrogen, concentrating solar thermal power, concentrating photovoltaics, and building efficiency. He also has made significant contributions to the industry and education by supporting students and the community.

“It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and privilege to conduct research with a distinguished professor like Dr. Boehm,” said graduate student Mark Campbell, who relocated from Pennsylvania to ensure he did not miss the opportunity to work with the professor.

More info: Go to the Center for Energy Research website at cen.unlv.edu.

A Schorr Thing
Daniel Schorr, senior news analyst for National Public Radio, left, spoke at UNLV last month as part of the Peace in the Desert lecture series. The series is sponsored by the Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution, which is housed in the Boyd School of Law. Seen with Schorr is businessman Michael Saltman, who, along with his wife, Sonja, endowed the center.

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Across Campus

Fine Arts
Quadrophenia Threat Rita Moreno to Perform in Concert

Rita Moreno, one of only nine performers ever to win all four of the most prestigious show business awards — the Oscar, Emmy, Tony, and Grammy — will open the New York Stage & Beyond series season at the Performing Arts Center on Oct. 3. Also on Oct. 3, The Nevada Conservatory Theatre opens its Main Stage season with Shining City by Irish playwright Conor McPherson. The play takes place in contemporary middle-class Dublin. It deals with a former priest/therapist and his patient who recently lost his wife in a car accident. Both men are working through the ghosts of their pasts: Ian with his loss of faith and John with the loss of his wife. Because of the language and subject matter, the play is intended for mature audiences. Performances are at 8 p.m. Oct. 3-4 and 9-11; and 2 p.m. Oct. 5 and 12.

The UNLV's Hispanic law student association of the Year

La Voz Named Law Student Organization of the Year

The Hispanic National Bar Association (HNA) named La Voz, UNLV's Hispanic law student association, student organization of the year for its support of Latino law students and the Las Vegas Latino community. La Voz members accepted the award last month at the 2008 HNA annual convention in Hollywood.

“Civic engagement is a key component of what La Voz does,” said Leslie Nino Fidance, treasurer and former president of the group. “By volunteering at local elementary schools that have many Hispanic students or reaching out to Hispanic parents, we are showing them that anyone can persevere and get an education, no matter what the odds.”

Graduate
Hundreds of New Grad Students Attend Orientation

More than 400 new graduate students attended new graduate student orientation in August. Representatives from graduate admissions, financial services, student services, and outreach spoke to the students. Also making presentations were Kate Hausbeck, associate dean of the college, and Ron Smith, vice president of research and dean of the college.

“For many graduate students, orientation is their introduction to the UNLV collegiate community,” said Harriet Barlow, associate dean for graduate student services. “It is really important, therefore, that our students are given the information necessary to help navigate their graduate education successfully. As a member of the Graduate College, I am honored to be a part of such an exciting and important activity.”

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Law
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First in the nation to be endowed so it will be presented in perpetuity.

The Libraries also received two grants. A $95,000 from the Nevada State Library and Archives under the Library Services and Technology Act is creating the digital collection “Southern Nevada: The Boom Years 1900-1925.” Drawing primarily from the UNLV Special Collections Division, it will offer an extensive and easily searchable digital collection of primary historical material documenting the early years of Southern Nevada. A second grant of $69,074 from the Las Vegas Centennial Commission for the “Voices of the Historic John S. Park Neighborhood” is funding an oral history of the first Las Vegas neighbor-hood to be included on the National Register of Historic Places.

A Helpful Welcome

Criminal justice professor Tamara Madensen, left, assists students at an Ask Me! booth on Pida Plaza the first week of school. This year, the Rebel Connection welcomed 28,000 students to campus. Faculty, staff, and students filled more than 260 volunteer jobs, and passed out more than 5,000 campus maps and 21,000 bottles of water.

>> See ACROSS CAMPUS, Page 7
> JoAnn Kittrell (KUNV) received a Media Leadership Award from the Nevada State Ballet Theatre’s (NBT) in June. The event honored community members who go above and beyond to support NBT.

> Kenji Masumoto and Jerrold Monk (Kinesiology) had a manuscript published titled “Biomechanics of Human Locomotion in Water: An Electromyography Analysis.”

> Paul Dzerk (Exercise and Sport Sciences) was honored community members who worked at UNLV for 25 years.

> Steve Curtis and Kathy Lauckner (Harry Reid Center) and Janet Hollinger (Science) organized the first Middle School Science Bowl, which took place at UNLV in the Spring. The Bowl committee thanks Ellen Leigh (DRI) and all of the UNLV departments that contributed prizes and services to help make the event fun. Hyde Park Middle School won the event and moved on to the National Science Bowl in Colorado. The local bowl consisted of not only a round robin quiz session, but also the design and racing of a hydrogen fuel cell car kit.

> Molly Michelman (Nutrition) received a grant from the Southern Nevada Health District to continue her work on the WeCan program, which is a national program designed for families and communities to help children maintain a healthy weight.

> Erin Sahlein (Communication Studies) presented “To Talk or Not to Talk: A Pilot Study of Post-Deployment Topic Avoidance between Military Families” at the International and American Perspectives conference in Mexico where she spent a month at Ibero American Perspectives. She recently received a UNLV Research Development Award.

> Deanna Davis, Kyle Ethelbah, and Mike Wilde (CAEO) made presentations in Chicago during the UNLV TRO Training Institute Summer held in May. The teachers target professional employed by different TRO projects across the nation that serve middle school and high school students, undergraduates, and adults. Seminars focus on the laws, program regulations, and general administrative regulations that project grant recipients are expected to as well as the intricacies of properly managing TRO budgets. Other CAEO attendees were Bryan Szudnik, Keith Rogers, Muriel Grimm, Larry Letourneau, Rafael Topete, and Miriam Dunbar.

> Steve Ochsner (OIT) was named classified employee of the month in the technical/service category for July. An IT Tech IV, he has worked at UNLV for three years—the first year as a student worker. He deploys, troubleshoots, and repairs the desktop computers for the Division of Student Affairs. In 2007, he earned a BSBA in management information systems from UNLV.

> Vicki Holmes (English Language Center) recently returned from Puebla, Mexico where she spent a month at Ibero Americas University on a faculty development award. She participated in a program to enhance her writing and speaking of Spanish.

> Karl Kingsley and Susan O’Malley (Dental Medicine) are the senior authors of the article “Cranberry and Carrot Seed Extracts Inhibit the Proliferative Phenotype of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma” published recently in the Oxford University Press peer-reviewed journal, Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

> Erika Engstrom (Communication Studies) presented her refereed paper, “Alternative Media on the Airwaves: Exploring Women’s Music Radio Programs in the U.S.,” at the annual conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in Chicago. Included in her study is KUNV’s all-women’s music program, “Women’s Voices” hosted by Gerrie Bilas. Holmes received top paper reviewer for 2008 by the association’s Cultural and Critical Studies Division.

> Mark P. Buttnar, Patricia Cruz, Joanne L. Henry (Harry Reid Center) and Linda D. Stetzenbach and Chad L. Cross (Public Health), along with Ecezheu Ezaenoue (University of Nevada School of Medicine), presented a poster, “The Prevalence and Antibiogram Susceptibility of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus in Pediatric Patients in Las Vegas” at the 109th general meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Boston.

> Michael Hammer (Research and Graduate Studies) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for July. An administrative assistant III, he supports the associate vice president for research, the director of research compliance, and the director of the Office of Research and Development. He recently was hired by Parminders Publishing, a press specializing in Greek philosophy, dialogues, and philosophical fiction. He is planning to work on a new book division there devoted to articulations of philosophy as expressed in cinema.

> Johnny Centrone and Robert Deaver (Risk Management) received awards while attending the Campus Safety, Health and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) 2008 Conference in St. Louis. Centrone accepted the Award of Merit for the department’s Complete Safety Program. Deaver received the Award of Distinction for his chemical inventory management and reporting application (CHIMERA), which is being used to track chemicals on the main campus and at NSC. Deaver also gave a presentation on the CHIMERA program at the convention.

> Arondy Sohn (Journalism and Media Studies) presented an award at the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) for his proposal titled, “Human Papillomavirus Modulation of Breast Cancer Growth.”


> Pamela Gillion (Cannon Survey Center) was a featured speaker at the Health and Human Services Innovation Action: Innovations in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Conference in Chicago in July. Her presentation, “The Challenges of Acquiring Customers for a Home Energy Display (HED) Trial,” summarized the results and described the research methodology used for one of the nation’s first HED trials in which participants were recruited via a third-party call center using telephone research methods. She worked for Nevada Power and in conjunction with Paragon Consulting, Portland, Ore., and the Boise Dunham Group of New York.

> Spotlight On Accomplishments

> Submit Your News

E-mail entries to inside@unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 100 words.
Invent the Future
UNLV Center Preserves Local History

By Allison Miller | UNLV Foundation

In an era of blogging, YouTube, and instant communication, there still are some who take the time to slow down, listen, and make a personal connection. “Oral history affords us an opportunity that the written word cannot; it is rich in immediacy, nuances, accent, and the tone of the person speaking,” said Lisa Gota-Acres, a UNLV graduate and volunteer for the Oral History Research Center. She has been recording the accounts of Broadway,.vue.de, and jazz stars. “Each interviewee gives me something I take away. In just the two years I’ve been doing oral histories, I have heard some poignant and memorable stories.”

Clayte White, director of the Oral History Research Center, said, Oral history is another tool in the arsenal of a historian’s equipment. It makes history more real, similar to a journal or a diary.”

Firsthand Observations
Center staff and volunteers con-duct and collect audio taped inter-views — sometimes supplemented by video segments — of people selected for their ability to provide firsthand observations on historical topics focusing on Las Vegas and Southern Nevada.

Located in the Special Collections Division at the Lied Library, the center was formally established in 2003, in part by private funding.

“Our initial donor was Dr. Harold Boyer. His donation actually justified the start of the center,” said White. The gift created the Boyer Early Las Vegas Oral History Project, which focuses on documenting a variety of early Las Vegas history — experiences such as lists, Helldorado parade, cruising Fremont Street, and relaxing at the Blue Onion. This project will remain active as the center continues to early Las Vegas life.

Unique Opportunity
For oral donors, they know what a unique opportunity this is in a town like ours. Las Vegas is a new city with a lot of old-timers who have great memories,” said White.

Those memories don’t come just from high-profile citizens. The valets, maids, and dealers who helped make Las Vegas not just a vacation destination but also a community have had their say. “Without their history, our history will not be complete,” White said. Oral history is a way of collecting history from the bottom up instead of from the top down.”

White is enthusiastic about the work that the growing center will contribute to Southern Nevada.

“Collecting history in this manner is exciting and allows the university to enter the community in a very intimate way,” she said. “It makes learning an exciting, one-on-one experience for our narrators, volun-tees, and especially the wonderful students we are blessed to train.”

More info: Contact Clayte White at ext. 5-2222.

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sciences and are far less reliable than any other group in the United States to complete a bache-lor’s degree. There is also a critical need to link the two years-tribal college system with four-year universities.

The program is unique in its focus on tribal col-lege quality support, sometimes supplemented by video segments — of people selected for their ability to provide firsthand observations on historical-topics focusing on Las Vegas and Southern Nevada.

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The program offers students the opportunity to work on cutting-edge research as undergraduates. They engage in each phase of standard research work on cutting-edge research as undergraduates.

Promotes the new public awareness initiative, “My Source.”

One of the grants went toward the hiring of a student producer. The station now has 10 students working or serving as volunteers.

KUNV was nominated by the industry publica-tion JazzWeek as best jazz station, while music direc-tor Kim Linzy was nominated as best jazz program-mer in a medium-sized market. The station also is producing a new compilation CD featuring local artists, which will serve as a prequel during the station’s fall pledge drive starting Oct. 3.

More info: Call JoAnn Kittrell at 796-9115.

Emergency Management Degree Program Receives National Recognition
Both FEMA and the Homeland Security Defense Educational Consortium recognized the crisis and emergency management degree program as a top graduate degree program this past year. The degree is offered by the department of public administration.

The program’s second cohort graduated in June, with many students appointed to new posi-tions, such as director of emergency management for Nevada Power and assistant director of home-land security for the state. The restructured pro-gram currently has a new cohort beginning the 24-month program.

Applications for the cohort that will begin in the spring are being accepted and are due in November.

More info: Call Christine Springer at ext. 5-1813.

An Artful Year Ahead

By Jennifer Vaughan | Fine Arts

A diverse season of entertainment and information is on the way cour-tesy of the College of Fine Arts and its schools, departments, and units.

Theater

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre (NCT) opens its Main Stage season in Bayley Theatre with Shining City by Irish playwright Conor McPherson, Oct. 3-12. The season concludes with:

• Oscar Wilde’s The Importance of Being Earnest, Dec. 5-14
• A new adaptation of The Diary of Anne Frank by Wendy Kesselman, Feb. 13-22
• The Cradle Will Rock (book, music, and lyrics by Marc Blitzstein), March 29-30
• The Music Man (book, music, and lyrics by Meredith Willson), May 1-10.

The NCT also offers the Second Season in the Black Box Theatre:

• The Marriage of Betts and Boo by Christopher Durang will be presented Nov. 7-16. The Cheon by Laura Neubauer will be Jan. 30-Feb. 8. These plays are for mature audiences.

Dance

The dance department presents its fall concert, Together 2, Oct. 24-25 in the Bayley Theatre. Projects, a concert of student choreography, will be featured in Ham Fine Arts dance studio 111 on Nov. 20-22.

Anecdote

The School of Architecture continues the Klaib Jula lecture series in the new Downtown Design Center, 401 S. 4th St. Lectures begin at 7 p.m. and are preceded by receptions at 6 p.m. The events are free and open to the public. Call ext. 5-3011 for information.

Music

The music department presentations range from jazz to orchestra and percuSSION to choral.

The PAC’s Charles Vanda Master Violinist Joshua Bell performs Jan. 29 at Ham Concert Hall.

Series welcomes:

• Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Oct. 30
• Russian National Ballet, Feb. 11
• Munich Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 22
• Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, March 24

The New York Stage & Beyond series will feature:

• Oscar, Emmy, Tony, and Grammy award-winning artist Rita Moreno, Oct. 3
• American Ballet Theatre II, Oct. 29
• Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa, Nov. 19
• Defying Gravity: The Music of Stephen Schwartz in Concert, Jan. 31
• Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra, March 12
• Neil Berg’s 100 Years of Broadway, April 25
• Tony Award-winning Broadway star Lea Salonga, May 1

The UNLV Classical Guitar Series, held in the Rando Recital Hall of the Bean Music Center, features:

• Montreal Guitar Trio (MGC), Nov. 4
• Multiple award winner Anabel Montesinos, Feb. 17
• Brasil Guitar Duo, March 17
• Roman Viazovskiy, April 23.

More info: Contact Clayte White at ext. 5-2222.
All the Buzz: Honeybee Research

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

UNLV’s honeybees produce about 100 pounds of honey a year. There are thousands of bees housed in hives outside the back door of life sciences professor Michelle Elekonich’s lab in White Hall.

However, Elekonich and her team of undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers are interested in more than just honey. They consider the honeybee lab, or the Elekonich lab, as one of campus’s “Great Places.”

In addition to making honey, honeybees are critical pollinators of a variety of crops so any biological information is potentially applicable to other real-world situations, Elekonich said. “The honeybee genome was sequenced in 2006,” she said. “We know that honeybees share a large number of genes and proteins with humans and other vertebrates, making the bee a good biomedical model.” Elekonich’s National Science Foundation-funded research focuses on mechanisms controlling behavior, stress, and aging in honeybee muscles, brains, and organs and the effects of the bees’ interactions with the environment inside and outside the hive. Faculty research using honeybees has garnered more than $1 million in research funds.

Elekonich also teaches a biannual beekeeping course offered through UNLV Educational Outreach.

More info: For more “Great People. Great Places,” go to unlv.edu/greatpeople.