Inside UNLV

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Mission Accreditation

Trabia Wrangles Accreditation Data
By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Given the task at hand, Mohamed Trabia’s office is amazingly uncluttered. No piles of papers. No jumble of sticky notes.

Maybe the neatness is the result of the computer age — reports filed electronically rather than on paper. More likely, it comes from the organizational skills he developed during decades as a mechanical engineer.

Whatever the reason, a look at his office provides no clue that Trabia is the person charged with pulling together the vast amounts of data needed to prepare for the upcoming accreditation visit by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

As the only employee spending 100 percent of his work time on the accreditation process, Trabia is deep into it. Providing assistance on the accreditation process is policy and accreditation analyst Gail Griffin.

Already, the self-study reports from each department on campus are in Trabia’s hands. Within the next few days, he should have all college reports as well.

The information will be used to write UNLV’s self-study report, which must be in the hands of NWCCU staff months before their visit to campus April 19-21, 2010. Ten task forces have been working for months gathering data in such areas as the mission of the institution, the educational program and its effectiveness, governance, and institutional integrity. The information they gathered will be updated with UNLV’s end-of-semester numbers.

“Sometime next semester we will have a rough draft to share with the UNLV community,” Trabia said. “The campus community will have the chance to comment on the rough draft. The commission expects our report to be the effort of the entire campus community.”

More info: Contact the payroll office at ext. 5-3825.

Winter Break Reminder
Winter Break is around the corner.

Most offices will be closed Dec. 26-Jan. 4. Before you leave, remember to shut down your computers and turn off your lights.

More info: Go to hr.unlv.edu/winterbreak for a list of offices and services that will remain open.

About Mohamed Trabia
Arrival at UNLV: 1987
Current position: A one-year appointment as academic affairs fellow working full-time on UNLV’s reaccreditation effort.

Why he applied for the job: “I was chair of the mechanical engineering department for six years, and during that time we went through a rigorous accreditation process. I saw working on UNLV’s reaccreditation as a way I could contribute to the university. It also is a good transition step between department chair to being a full-time faculty member again.”

Why he was chosen: According to Michael Bowers, senior vice provost for academic affairs, “Mohamed has personal experience as a result of the demanding accreditation process that mechanical engineering went through. Also, he is known and respected by the other department chairs on campus. He understands their challenges. He is an engineer and has an eye for detail and is well organized. So far he has kept everyone on track and on time.”

Professional accomplishments: He is working with professor Brendan O’Toole to design a military vehicle with an interior frame better able to withstand mine blasts or projectile impacts. In 2006, he received a patent along with Dr. Robert C. Wang, a surgeon at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, for a device that allows physicians to attach two sides of a broken lower jaw.

More info: Go to hr.unlv.edu/winterbreak for a list of offices and services that will remain open.

Paperless Payroll
Workshop Dec. 12
If you receive your pay via direct deposit, but have been putting off signing up to receive your payroll notification electronically, the payroll office is hosting a hands-on workshop to walk employees through the process. Employees without direct deposit are also encouraged to attend.

The workshop is 9-11 a.m. Dec. 12 in the System Computing Services building, Room 104.

Jan. 1 Deadline
Effective Jan. 1, the university no longer will deliver paychecks or paper payroll stubs to offices. If you choose to continue receiving your pay by check or a paper pay stub on payday, you will need to pick up your check and stub at the payroll office in the Campus Services building during specified hours.

More info: Contact the payroll office at ext. 5-3825.

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This year, UNLV hosted several major political and national policy events, including the Clean Energy Summit and a Brookings Institution forum. I was pleased that such highly respected organizations chose to partner with UNLV in bringing together political, business, and academic leaders to tackle critical issues. These events are a sign of UNLV’s growing prominence. They also underscore our contributions to our region’s development.

The Brookings Institution discussion, in particular, confirms that UNLV’s research aspirations are exactly what the region requires in the coming decades. Brookings has identified the Inter-Mountain states of Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado as the new American Heartland. The growing population base is transforming the region into an economic and political powerhouse.

This designation, however, poses significant infrastructure challenges. Brookings notes research universities are critical catalysts for innovation and economic development. Las Vegas, it says, lags behind its Western sister cities of Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Albuquerque, and Denver in two key areas: university research capacity and a well-educated workforce.

Conquering the Challenge
That is a challenge we will conquer; there are several reasons why. First, I believe our strategic plan will keep us on course even amidst budget challenges. There is considerable overlap between our own goals and the agenda that Brookings outlines. This alignment makes a very strong case to our stakeholders that investing in UNLV will support the economic and social health of our community.

Second, where one might see a challenge for us is actually a significant opportunity. Brookings notes that collaboration is needed for the Intermountain West states to reach their potential as the new American Heartland. UNLV is not given to the same turf wars so common to well-established universities; we recognize that we will make important gains through collaboration.

Finally, UNLV’s location is unique among the cities. Robert Lang, a Brookings Institution fellow, noted that Las Vegas develops in such unique ways that people elsewhere often fail to understand how or why they adopt our model. We are seen as true innovators in our community development approaches. In addition, Las Vegas is the country’s leading conference center, making us a center for business networking. Las Vegas has developed unique structures and services to foster face-to-face business interactions. And in the middle of all these changes, UNLV will support the economic and social health of our community.

First, it requires every unit within the university to do some soul-searching. It helps personnel avoid the trap of being so caught up in daily tasks that they fail to evaluate their department and where they want it to be in the future, he said.

The issues that the self-study uncovers may be complicated, Trabia said. For an academic unit, for instance, if the number of students taking classes in a college is increasing but the number of professors is not, does the college begin to rely more on part-time instructors? If a college decides to rely more on part-time instructors, how do they ascertain the quality of those instructors? How do they communicate with them?

Inevitably, each question leads to another, he said; during the accreditation process, those questions get answered.

The higher value of accreditation by a reputable body such as the NWCCU is that it validates that an institution is a real university, he said.

“You walk along the street and you see a storefront with a sign saying the business there is a university. There has to be an agency that can say whether the place really is a university or not. There are standards that must be met before a place qualifies as a university. Otherwise it would be demeaning to UNLV and all universities.”

The commission expects our report to be the effort of the entire campus community, not just a limited group of people.”

Mohamed Trabia, academic affairs fellow

You’ve Got Mail
Here’s What to Do with It
By Shane Bevill | Marketing & PR

Did you know that using a white envelope for intercampus mail could delay it getting into the right hands? Did you know there is a correct way to label your letters and packages?

Mike Lawrence, director of delivery and telecommunication services, offers tips for having a successful mailing experience.

The right envelope: Use letter-size envelopes when possible. The cost for a large envelope up to 15 inches by 12 inches is 83 cents for one ounce and 17 cents per ounce up to 13 ounces. Envelopes that are larger or weigh more start at $4.80.

Don’t overstuff: Postage for letters more than one-quarter-inch thick increases from 42 cents to a large envelope rate. Because of the post office’s equipment, overstuffing an envelope can delay or destroy the piece of mail.

Bundling mail: When bundling mail for metering, keep it facing the same direction. Upside down or backward pieces can slip through the metering machine unnoticed, resulting in the postage being printed on the back or bottom of the envelope. These pieces will be returned to you or mailed to the recipient with extra postage due, and can slow your communications.

Proper labeling: Inbound mail should be addressed as follows: John Doe CSB 241 Box 451044 4505 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas NV 89154-1044 Use just “box,” not P.O., for the box number.

When sending mail off campus, use UNLV’s complete return address (fili xxxx with your campus mail stop number).

DEPARTMENT NAME BOX 4500xx 4505 S MARYLAND PARKWAY LAS VEGAS NV 89154-xxxx

Return address labels should be typed using all caps with no punctuation or handwriting. The preferred fonts are Arial Black, Courier, and New Courier. For foreign mail, the country name should be spelled out in English and appear on the last line of the address.

Other Tips
• Send intercampus mail in manila envelopes with all markings crossed out. Do not use white envelopes because it delays the processing.

• Mail that is received correctly labeled is typically delivered the same day, except for Mondays and the day after a holiday.

• You may not receive or deliver personal mail through the mail center.

More info: Go to the FAQ section of the delivery services website at unlv.edu/depts/delivery.

Contact mail services at ext. 5-3786 if you have questions about rates.
Employee Perk: Loans Make Computer Purchase Possible

By Mamie Peers | OT

This year, make your holiday shopping a little kinder on the wallet by taking advantage of UNLV’s computer purchasing plan.

Full-time employees who have been with UNLV for at least 12 months are eligible for an interest-free loan of up to $2,500 for the purchase of computers and accessories. The loan is paid back over 24 months through payroll deduction.

“I don’t even notice the payroll deduction,” said Jan Lasagin, administrative assistant for parking and transportation services, who used her $1,400 loan to buy an iMac for home. “Plus, it was the easiest loan I’ve ever gotten. It only took a week.”

Interested? Start by contacting Linda Nishball-Lee in cashing by phone or e-mail. She will confirm your employment status and provide the loan form. You then return the form, along with a quote for your purchases from a preferred vendor. After you are approved, you pick up the check from the cashing office. The check will be written to both you and the vendor. You’ll then sign the check over to the vendor when you make your purchase.

“Employees can purchase equipment from just about any vendor they choose, as long as the store participates in the program from just about any vendor,” said Nishball-Lee. She used the program herself to purchase a digital camera and computer for her son at Fry’s because she likes “the prices and the store.”

Lasagin attributes the ease of the process to the “gold star” customer service provided by Nishball-Lee, who processes applications on the 15th of every month. Employees wait no more than a month for a check, and sometimes less than a week.

Debra Thomas, program officer for the radiology department at the School of Dental Medicine, used the loan last year to purchase an HP computer and an external hard drive. She plans to use the program again this year.

The toughest part of the process, most participants say, is securing quotes and getting good service from computer stores.

Even though Lasagin could have saved about $150 in educational discounts by purchasing her computer through the Apple store, she opted to buy her iMac from Nick Reese at Century 23 because “I want to support local businesses during these hard times, and also because Nick offers excellent customer service and support.”

She also purchased a three-year Apple warranty from Century 23 so she has local help when technical problems arise.

It’s important to keep in mind that UNLV technicians cannot service your personal computer or install software as they do for your office computer.

More info: Go to oit.unlv.edu/faculty/staff/purchase_comp.html.

To reach Linda Nishball-Lee, call ext. 5-3823.

Computer Companies Offer Discounts

UNLV partners with the vendors below to provide employee discounts. Keep in mind, prices change frequently. These are estimates.

Apple
With Apple, the more you spend, the more you save. UNLV employees save $50 on a white, 13-inch MacBook; $100 on a MacBook Air; $200 on a Mac Pro. OIT recommends avoiding online Apple purchases and using a local retail store instead.

Dell
Employees save on all purchases. For example, the low-end Dell Inspiron Desktop costs $679 for UNLV employees instead of the regular retail price of $833. That’s a savings of $154.

HP
Hewlett Packard recently began offering UNLV discounts on computers. In November, it offered employees the HP Compaq 2710 Tablet PC for $959, compared with the regular retail price of $1,599, a savings of $640.

Invent the Future

Professor’s Work Gets Boost from Campaign Funds

By Michelle Moulton | UNLV Foundation

It makes sense when you enjoy what you do for a living, you work harder and feel better about your work. That tends to translate into more productive companies. But what factors promote such job engagement for employees?

With the help of private funding and unprecedented access to employees, professor Cheri Young and a team of hotel administration students will try to find the answer.

Young, a professor in the College of Hotel Administration, is conducting research to find out what factors help employees feel engaged in their jobs. Her research is funded by part of the $30 million gift from the Harrad’s Foundation.

This fall, the research team will collect data through focus groups and surveys of more than 30,000 employees of Harrad’s in the United States. Those identified as engaged employees will be compared with a control group to help the researchers determine what factors promote engagement.

The research partnership between Harrad’s and UNLV is unique. “It’s difficult to find a company that

Wouldn’t a computer make a great gift — holiday or otherwise — for someone you know?

Employee Benefits

Avoid Co-Pay, Use Wellness Benefit

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Are you missing out on free medical services? Using the wellness benefit can save employees as much as $2,500 per year, but not everyone takes it. It’s easy to do: just speak up at your doctor’s office.

The wellness benefit for employees on the preferred provider (PPO) insurance plan eliminates out-of-pocket costs for such preventive measures as mammograms, prostate screening, routine hearing exams, and even complete physicals.

But, if your doctor’s office doesn’t indicate on insurance paperwork that your visit was preventive, chances are good that you’ll end up paying your usual co-pay. Whenever you use a service covered by the benefit, make sure you notify your doctor’s office of the benefit and the need to use the right code on claim forms.

“It’s important for employers to review what kinds of things fall under the wellness category before they visit their doctors,” said Pat La Pett, UNLV benefits manager. “Nobody wants to spend money unnecessarily.”

Here’s another good thing to know. To help promote use of the wellness benefit, the Public Employees’ Benefits Program, which manages the PPO plan, has contracted with Southwest Medical Associates. That means that Southwest staff members are well versed in the wellness benefit and know how to apply it, La Pett said, adding that it lessens your chance of

being billed incorrectly. Preventative doctor’s visits do not have to be done there, but if you do choose to visit Southwest Medical, the results of any test can be forwarded to your primary care doctor even if she isn’t part of Southwest Medical.

Wellness Benefit — What’s Covered

• Physical exam, screening lab, and X-rays
• Well child examinations and immunizations
• HPV vaccination
• Prostate screening, such as the PSA blood test
• Routine sigmoidoscopy
• Routine colonoscopy
• Adult immunization
• Screening mammograms (in the absence of a diagnosis)
• Pelvic exam and Pap smear lab test
• Osteoporosis screening
• Hypertension screening
• Skin cancer screening
• Routine hearing exam
• Weight loss program, medically supervised
• Stress management program

For more information on the wellness benefit that is part of the preferred provider insurance plan, go to pelp.state.nv.us.

To reach Southwest Medical Associates, call 877-5002 and identify yourself as a PEBB member.

For more information on the HMO plan, go to healthplannevada.com.
Across Campus

Academic Success Center
ASC Hosts Successful Conference
More than 60 people representing colleges from as far away as Hawaii and Kansas attended the West Coast regional conference of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) at UNLV in October.

Hosted by UNLV’s Student-Athlete Academic Services (SAAS), the event involved representatives from a number of Division I athletic conferences, including the Mountain West, Pac-10, West Coast, WAC, Big 12, and Big West. Additionally, 25 people from California community colleges attended.

Among the topics discussed were recruiting, academics, and life-skills programs. Professor Larry Ashley of the department of counselor education spoke about gambling and the impact it has on intercollegiate athletics. Many of the advisors attending were able to see the Rebels take on Air Force at Sam Boyd Stadium.

Lisa Levine of SAAS and Brian Evans from Utah State University, who currently serves as the director for the N4A West Region, coordinated the conference.

N4A is the only national organization for academic counseling advisors.

The five regional conferences play an integral role in the professional development of advisors, allowing them to share information and best practices. N4A culminates each year with a national conference; Miami is the host city for the 2009 gathering.

Business
Trio to Join Hall of Fame
J. Terence “Terry” Lanni, Thalia Dondero, and Charles A. “Chuck” Lenzie will be the next influential leaders to be inducted into the Nevada Business Hall of Fame.

The trio will be honored at a dinner Feb. 19 at the Mirage Hotel and Casino. The event is presented by the College of Business in association with Deloitte.

The inductees exhibit the qualities the college seeks in its students. They exemplify the vision to see opportunity, the imagination to think big, and the desire to give back to the community that they helped shape.

Lanni is former chairman of the board and chief executive officer of MGM Mirage, one of the world’s leading and most respected development companies. Dondero is a member of the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents and has made numerous contributions to the Las Vegas community for more than 50 years. Lenzie served as chairman of the board and chief executive officer for Nevada Power for 10 years and has been a mainstay of the Las Vegas community with his involvement in the Boy Scouts of America and the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees.

The college created the Nevada Business Hall of Fame in 2002 to honor leaders who have significantly contributed to the economic prosperity of Nevada, and who have brought positive recognition to the state. Previous inductees include Michael A. Saltman, Howard Hughes, William F. Harrah, Robert Lewis, James Rogers, Sr. Redd, Claudine Williams, Kitty Rodman, Howard Hughes, William F. Harrah, Robert Lewis, James Rogers, Sr. Redd, Claudine Williams, Kitty Rodman, Laura Del Webb, and Stephen Wynn.

More info: Go to business.unlv.edu. To purchase tickets, call ext. 5-3608.

Education
Strong Department Emerges After Change
After a merger of two departments in 2006, the counselor education department has made a number of improvements.

The department resulted from the merging of the community counseling program and the school counseling program. It has upgraded the community counseling program to a mental health counseling program that meets the national Council on Accreditation for Counselor Education and Related Programs standards, the National Board of Certified Counselors certification requirements, and the new license guidelines for clinical professional counselors in Nevada.

The department has a clear professional identity. Faculty know they are counselor educators who prepare professional counselors to work in community, school, mental health, and addiction settings. An accreditation team recently noted the department’s clear sense of identity and mission, its responsiveness and commitment to diversity and to the needs of Nevada residents, and its student-centered focus.

Also, the faculty swept the regional awards at the recent fall conference of the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision-Western Region, earning awards for research, mentorship, special recognition, service, and social justice.

Fine Arts
Charlie Brown Brings an Early Christmas to Campus
The UNLV Performing Arts Center presents David Benoit’s “A Charlie Brown Christmas” Dec. 6. Celebrate the holidays with this show from Benoit, a three-time Grammy nominee, contemporary jazz pianist, and Peanuts composer. Don’t miss this collection of holiday favorites and Peanuts classics by legendary Vince Guaraldi, including the instantly recognizable “Linus and Lucy.”

More info: Call ext. 5-2787.

Architecture Opens New Center
The School of Architecture recently hosted the grand opening for its Downtown Design Center, located in the historic Fifth Street School.

Jeffrey Koep, dean of the College of Fine Arts; President David Ashley; and other UNLV dignitaries formally opened the center, which currently hosts the Klas Juba Lecture Series. In his comments, Koep said he hopes the center becomes vital to the city, the state, and the entire Southwest for matters relating to design and environmental and urban planning.

Graduate College Launches Electronic Initiatives
The college launched two electronic initiatives this fall to improve access to information.

A new online VIP page allows the college to communicate with graduate students with greater ease and also provides students 24/7 access to their current status. Students can check their application, admission, and residency status; which forms they have submitted already and which they still need to submit; scholarship information; and graduate assistantship information.

The second initiative involves the storing of all graduate student files online in a new database. This database allows graduate faculty to have 24/7 online access to their graduate students’ official documents.

These initiatives are part of a larger project to use online and electronic resources to dramatically improve services to students and faculty.
reduce paper consumption, increase efficiency, and better serve graduate applicants, current students, faculty, and graduate programs. More electronic initiatives are scheduled for implementation in the coming months.

Hotel Graduate Research Showcase at Conference

The Hotel College will host its 14th annual Graduate Student Research Conference in Hospitality and Tourism starting Jan. 4 at the South Point Hotel, Casino and Spa. The three-day conference provides an opportunity for graduate students, program administrators, and faculty to meet and exchange information and ideas about research and to explore contemporary and near-term issues and opportunities in research and graduate education.

Save the Date for UNLVino

The 35th annual UNLVino will be held April 16-18 at various locations around the valley. Presented by the Hotel College and Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada, UNLVino provides wine enthusiasts and winemakers the opportunity to sample the latest releases, the best vintages, and the finest varietals from more than 350 wineries. Proceeds from the event support the advancement of higher education at UNLV.

Additional details will be posted soon to hotel.unlv.edu.

Law Students to Serve as Mediators in Bankruptcy Court

Starting next month, law students will have the chance to act as mediators in real-life disputes. Under a new clinical program, students will act as mediators between disputing parties at Las Vegas’ Neighborhood Justice Center and at U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The Strasser Mediation Clinical Program is funded by a gift from Steven Z. Strasser, CEO and chairman of the board of Power Efficiency Corp. The program will be offered through the law school’s Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution in conjunction with the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic. Students in the program will begin the semester with a four-day training program, learning the theory and practice of mediation. For the rest of the term, they will spend four hours a week at their assigned placement, handling cases that come from the center and the bankruptcy judges send to them. But they won’t be alone. Professors Ray Patterson and Peter Reilly, faculty at the Saltman Center, will supervise and critique their performance. Patterson, who participated in a mediation program when he was a law student and taught in a mediation clinic at the Cardozo School of Law, developed the program.

“The experience is wonderful,” he said. “It’s an incredible feeling to help two — or more — parties work out their differences in mediation and settle their disputes. In litigation, one side wins and the other loses. In mediation, both sides can feel like they won.”

More info: Go to law.unlv.edu/chin.html.

Liberal Arts

Philosophy’s Finocchiaro Keeps Researching, Publishing

The philosophy department employs several active young scholars, continually producing a substantial output of articles and books. However, it is still hard for them to keep up with Maurice Finocchiaro, emeritus distinguished professor. His research productivity has not slowed since his retirement from the classroom. Finocchiaro’s 10th book, The Essential Galileo, a new collection and translation of Galileo’s most important essays, was published in September by Hackett.

Michael H. Shank, professor of the history of science at the University of Wisconsin wrote, “Finocchiaro’s new and revised translations have done what the Inquisition could not: They have captured an exceptional range of Galileo’s career while also letting him speak — in clear English. No other volume offers more convenient or more reliable access to Galileo’s own words.”

This book follows two well-received books: Retrying Galileo 1633-1992 and Arguments about Arguments: Systematic, Critical, and Historical Essays in Logical Theory. He also published six articles in the last year. “Maurice sets a standard that is inspirational, if a bit daunting for all of us,” said Ian Dove, the department’s director of logic and critical thinking. With his record of productivity that goes back decades and includes grants from The National Endowment for Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and the Guggenheim Foundation, it’s unsurprising that Finocchiaro recently won the coveted Distinguished Research Award from the International Society for the Study of Argumentation (ISSA), Dove said. The award comes with a prize of 500 euros and also covers the cost of his attending the next ISSA conference at the University of Amsterdam to deliver the keynote address.

Libraries

Libraries Accepted to Participate in Regional Group

UNLV Libraries recently joined the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA), a prestigious group of 32 academic research libraries from 17 states.

“UNLV brings many strengths to GWLA,” including excellent general and special collections, an excellent digitization operation, the Oral History Research Center, and the world-renowned Center for Gaming Research,” the GWLA Board of Directors stated in accepting UNLV’s request for membership. “The GWLA deans and directors felt that UNLV would be a strong partner in the alliance’s projects, including scholarly communication, resource sharing, digital libraries, and other cooperative activities. UNLV is already a significant contributor to the Western Waters Digital Library and participates in several licensing offers.”

The membership process included a rigorous weeklong evaluation, an on-site visit with more than 22 library staff, and an interview with the executive vice president and provost. It concluded with a unanimous vote of the directors of 31 member libraries.

“The Libraries staff is very proud of the invitation to join this research library alliance,” said Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of University Libraries. “I believe that membership in GWLA will provide an important path for professional development and contribution for UNLV library faculty and professional staff, and will allow the Libraries to both benefit and contribute in new ways. This affiliation will help us keep connected to the work of large research libraries while providing a forum for us to influence the future of other research libraries.”

Concentration

Tuba player Huston Pullen, a sophomore music education major, focuses on the music as he performs during a recent UNLV Symphony Orchestra concert. The orchestra’s spring semester schedule is not set yet, but information will be posted on pac.unlv.edu once it is available.

For more information, please visit the UNLV website: law.unlv.edu/chin.html.
Drama his book, the best book in early modern studies for Nichols from the chancellor's office, 70 administrators, faculty, and staff academic materials and offer concrete advice Baldizan is creating a model for a re-lege credits and wish to return to school. fies "ready adult learners" who have col-
No More.” Funded by a grant from the Education project titled, “Non Traditional (Academic Success Center) are spear-
ervice as a resource on current patterns Against Censorship for the National 
serve on the Standing Committee 
tive program prepares skilled practitio-
and NASW. She had a key role in devel-

< ACROSS CAMPUS

Dramatic Justice Research Supports Safe Village Initiative

Now in its second year, the Safe Village Initiative (SVI), a community response to gun violence in West Las Vegas, uses consultative justice response with community outreach to disrupt the cycle of vi-

The department of criminal justice serves as the program's analysis and research partner by com-

“bust practices” in violence reduction from around the world. SVI's gun violence-reduction efforts, such as calls-for-service data for gun-related incidents from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, data on gunshot wounds from University Medical Center (UMC) patients, and information on at-risk youth from social service agencies. UNLV researchers, headed by professor Jeffery Wedding, worked with assistance from the department's Center for Analysis of Crime Statistics, take part in strategic meetings, document evolving SVI collabora-

Submits Your News
E-mail entries to inside@unlv.edu. Items should be no more than 100 words.

Launches 6th Edition of Popular "Great Reno

" geographical guidebook series for the re-nowned "Great Reno 500," a 500-mile roadrace event held each July in Reno, Nevada. The book includes detailed information on the history and tradition of the event, as well as comprehensive coverage of the course, including maps, course descriptions, and race strategies. The book is a valuable resource for both racers and spectators, providing important information such as safety guidelines, rules, and regulations, and offering tips and advice for success on the track. It also includes features on the rich history of the race and the city of Reno, making it a must-read for anyone interested in the sport of road racing or the culture of the American West.

" Great Reno 500" is a popular roadrace event held each July in Reno, Nevada. The book includes detailed information on the history and tradition of the event, as well as comprehensive coverage of the course, including maps, course descriptions, and race strategies. The book is a valuable resource for both racers and spectators, providing important information such as safety guidelines, rules, and regulations, and offering tips and advice for success on the track. It also includes features on the rich history of the race and the city of Reno, making it a must-read for anyone interested in the sport of road racing or the culture of the American West.
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.

Debi Shaffer
Criminal Justice Professor
Rebel since: 2005
Typical day: Work with students on various projects, whether in the classroom or one-on-one, and on my own research and writing. I also teach one graduate and two undergraduate classes this semester.
Biggest challenge: Not having enough time to do everything. It would be nice to have more hours in the day.
Your area of study: I am fascinated by prisons and have been in prisons all across the country. I love the challenge of going into prisons to learn how they operate and look at how to do things better.
Why you do what you do: I know the work I am doing impacts all of us. The work I do centers on improving correctional programs for offenders, which hopefully correlates to a reduction in offenders committing new crimes.
Can’t work without: My morning Americano. I made it through grad school without relying on caffeine, but now I need an Americano to get me going.
People would be surprised to know: I manage the Balance Café inside the Student Recreation and Wellness Center on weekends. I love interacting with people I wouldn’t otherwise.

Bridget Byrne
Administrative Coordinator, Men’s Basketball
Rebel since: 2005; previously worked in the athletics business office, but joined men’s basketball in June 2007, just after the team’s trip to the Sweet 16.
What you do: I handle all administrative functions, including accounts payable, team travel, requests from coaches, mail-outs to recruits, and assisting in the organization of coaching clinics and summer camps. My primary goal is to ensure that daily operations run smoothly so that our staff can focus on coaching.
Perfect day: A Rebel victory at the end of the day.
Biggest challenge: Being able to multitask and not losing sight of what I am doing since there is a constant level of activity in the office.
Can’t work without: A smile and a positive attitude. It sounds rather cliché but I interact with the public a great deal, and it’s important to establish a friendly rapport with everyone we meet.
This year: There are high expectations and a buzz surrounding the program. We have a good group of guys this year. I am confident that they will live up to those expectations.
Game day: I host the former players before the game, but come tip-off, I’m in my seat in Section 102.
People would be surprised to know: I was a tap and jazz dancer for 14 years but quit to concentrate on softball. I played for UNLV from 2001-04.

Michael Frazier
Conservator, University Libraries
Rebel since: 2002
What you do: I conserve books, which can include page repair, spine replacement, or a complete rebind. I also service photographs, maps, and archival materials such as letters and artifacts. Preservation, which includes environmental monitoring and emergency preparedness, is also an important part of what I do.
What makes you successful? Perseverance. There are not many jobs like mine out there. Currently, our laboratory is the only one in the state. The job requires specialized training and experience. It requires dedication to turn this into a career.
Why you do what you do: I love the cultural impact. I like the fact that my work will be here long after I am gone. Also, I get calls all the time with people asking me how to save the family Bible or their grandparents’ photo collection.
Can’t work without: Scalpels, bone folders, straight edges, and paste — we make our own paste.
Being surrounded by books: That is why people love libraries. They want the experience of walking in the door, smelling musty leather, cracking open a spine, and maybe seeing something that hasn’t been seen in 100 years.
Occupational hazard: I have been cut a lot of times, and always from something I didn’t expect.
People would be surprised to know: I manage the Balance Café inside the Student Recreation and Wellness Center on weekends. I love interacting with people I wouldn’t otherwise.

More info: Go to pancan.kintera.org/miamimarathon/shaffer.
T&M Staff Cowboy Up for NFR

Garth Brooks famously sings about bulls and blood, dust and mud, boots and chaps, and cowboy hats in the thing they call rodeo. It’s an accurate description of what can be seen at the 50th annual National Finals Rodeo (NFR) Dec. 4-13.

The 10-day event will bring approximately 180,000 people and $60 million in non-gaming revenue to Las Vegas, said Daren Libonati, Thomas & Mack Center executive director.

The Thomas & Mack staff has perfected the daunting transformation over the years. “Because we have been doing this for 24 years, we have pretty much mastered the process,” Libonati said. “We have great people who communicate and understand what needs to get done.”

After the Runnin’ Rebels played Nov. 29, Thomas & Mack crews spread 400 cubic yards of dirt on the arena floor. Another 600 cubic feet of dirt is used for walk paths and the space where the livestock is stored.

The dirt is stored on campus by the Butler Building. Crews “manicure” the dirt daily and chemicals are added to allow it to compact properly. “Lots of love is put into the dirt to allow it to be packed and used to benefit the stock and contestants,” Libonati said. “It’s no different than a racetrack for horses.”

Although breaking down the event is easier than setting up, it has to be done quickly. The Rebels play Dec. 17, just four days after NFR.

The dirt, together with all the droppings from the livestock, is taken back to the Butler Building, where it is compacted and piled to resist wind and other weather variables. With special additives, the dirt can be used year after year, Libonati said.

There are 70 full-time Thomas & Mack Center workers involved with NFR and approximately 400 part-time employees who work at the event each night. Responsibilities include food and beverage, hospitality, hosts, security, and ushers. Thomas & Mack employees who interact with those attending the event or with sponsors wear cowboy clothing to make the guests feel more comfortable.

The livestock begin arriving in mid-November to acclimate to the desert climate. Both the animals and athletes must compete throughout the year to win the right to compete in NFR, the Super Bowl of rodeo.