1-2009

Inside UNLV

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Humorist Garrison Keillor

is scheduled to be a part of the

series on Sept. 23.

More info: Go to pac.unlv.
edu or call ext. 5-2787.

Barrick on Barack

The first Barrick Lecture Series of the year will feature

three of the nation’s leading political analysts discussing Barack Obama’s presidency.

“The First 100 Days: Predictions for the Obama Administration” is set for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22. It will feature E.J. Dionne, a columnist for the Washington Post and commen-
tator for media outlets; Gloria Borger, a contributing editor at U.S. News & World Report and a political analyst for CNN; and former U.S. Rep. J.C. Watts, who is chairman of the J.C. Watts Companies. Local political anal-
yst Jon Ralston will serve as the moderator.

The lecture is free and open to

the public, although tickets are

required. Tickets can be picked up

at the UNLV Performing Arts Center box office.

The Barrick Lecture Series, which

began in the early 1980s, is funded through a grant from the late philanthropist Marjorie Barrick. It presents nation-

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Prof. Titus Goes to Washington

Political Scientist Sworn in

as Member of Congress

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Heading to colder climes this time of

year to wrangle with fellow law-
makers is nothing new for political

science professor Dina Titus.

But this year, the setting will be

all new. After spending 10 winters

in Carson City as a state senator, Titus is

now in Washington, D.C. She was

sworn in Jan. 6 as a member of the

U.S. House of Representatives.

Titus, a Democrat, represents

Nevada’s 3rd congressional district, which includes a substantial part of

Clark County.

Longtime Professor

Titus has spent the past 31 years

teaching UNLV students about political issues such as nuclear test-

ing and, not surprisingly, the elec-
tion process.

Her long tenure here was

brought home to her last year when a young student ran up to her, say-

ing, “Dr. Titus, I’m so excited. I’m

going to be in your class.” Then the

student added, “By the way, you

taught my mother when she was a

student here.”

“I guess if people remember you

and still care what you have to say

after 31 years, that’s a compliment,”

Titus reflected.

Chris Hudiggins, dean of the

College of Liberal Arts, has known

Titus since her UNLV start in 1977.

> See TITUS, Page 2

Donations Add Up to Excellence

By Michelle Mouton | UNLV Foundation

Endowed professorships help UNLV recruit top

faculty members such as Bill Messier, who joined

the campus community last spring.

Messier, who holds the Ken and Tracy Knauss

Endowed Chair in Accounting, is one of the top

researchers in his field. He recently received the

2008 Distinguished Service in Auditing award

from the American Accounting Association.

“The funding for the endowed chair makes it

possible for me to be here,” Messier said. “I view

this as an opportunity for me to make a contribu-

tion to UNLV’s department of accounting.”

Ron Smith, vice president for research and dean

of the Graduate College, said, “The university is
dedicated to building its research, scholarship,

and creative activity. In order to achieve this goal,

we must continue to hire the best, most qualified

researchers, scholars, and artists.”

Messier specializes in auditing with a research

emphasis in auditor judgment. With a focus on

public accounting, he conducted behavioral research
to determine why auditors make the judgments

they do. He hopes that his connections to the pub-

clic accounting profession will be useful to UNLV’s
department of accounting.

Messier taught previously at Georgia State

University and the University of Florida, where

he saw the quality of his programs grow through

endowments and private support, adding that the

support helps faculty attend conferences.

“Gifts are important whether they are large or

small,” said Messier, who has authored numerous

publications about auditing research. “It allows the

university to bring in nationally recognized aca-

demics and well-recognized faculty.”
2008’s Good Work Doesn’t Go Unnoticed

With budget challenges consuming much of its energy, it can be easy to forget our accomplishments. As this semester starts, I want to highlight a few areas where UNLV continues to advance.

Building Projects

A couple years ago, construction costs were escalating rapidly and builders had difficulty finding enough workers to complete projects on schedule. Today’s economic downturn has created a favorable climate for projects we are building with non-state general fund dollars:

- In February, we will start construction on a 1,000-space parking garage near the Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Instead of the projection of $15 million to $18 million, we secured a contract to build at approximately $13 million. The garage is expected to open in early fall, well ahead of the original schedule. The bond that is financing this project will be repaid through parking fees and non-state athletic funds.

- The regents have approved the $5 million replacement of the 34-year-old MPE pool, which has critical maintenance problems. Our bond debt will be repaid through student fees and athletic funds.

- I am hopeful that, with private support from the Harrah’s Foundation, we will receive approval for our top capital improvement request this legislative session — the academic building for the Hotel College’s Innovation UNLV project. The Harrah’s Foundation will match state funding up to $25 million. At the same time, we are working to secure a partnership with a private developer to build and operate the hotel/conference center that will impact Southern Nevada.

Jobs and Education

When interviewed last month, Titus was operating at a hectic pace. After an orientation for freshmen members of Congress, she was hiring a congressional staff and looking for a place to live in Washington. She still was awaiting her committee assignments, hoping for committees that will help her bring jobs and economic relief to Nevada. Renewable energy sources, particularly solar, would be one way to bring jobs to District 3. “That could be incredible for us. We need to change our economic base away from something so much as gaming.” Education will continue to be a primary interest. She supports allowing people to bundle the costs of higher education and deduct them from their income taxes as well as extending student loans and lowering their interest rates. “As the Millennium Scholarship is depleted and the cost of education increases, I think we have to do all we can to make college affordable and accessible,” she said.

Accomplishments

Titus has accomplished much during her years at UNLV, including:

- Receiving the UNLV President’s Medal in 2002.
- Receiving UNLV’s Spanos Outstanding Teaching Award in 1985.
- Delivering an invited paper on the Nevada Test Site last spring at the War and Peace Conference at Soka University in Tokyo.

Rebel Lawmakers

Congresswoman Dina Titus isn’t the only lawmaker with ties to UNLV.

U.S. Rep. Shelley Berkley started her political career on campus as student government president. A Democrat, Berkley has represented Nevada District 1 since 1999. And, U.S. Sen. John Ensign is an alum, too, having studied at UNLV as an undergraduate before transferring to Oregon State University to complete his degree. The Republican has represented Nevada in the Senate since 2001.

The Nevada Legislature boasts a number of members who are alumni or have worked on campus. “It’s great that so many of our state lawmakers have first-hand knowledge of UNLV,” said Luis Valera, UNLV’s director of government relations. “The more they understand about the institution, the more they understand our needs and the important role we play in the state, especially for the business community.”

State lawmakers who are UNLV alumni:

- Assemblyman Kevin Atkinson
- Congresswoman Barbara Buckley
- Sen. Bob Coffin
- Assemblyman Marcus Conklin
- Sen. Warren Hardy II
- Assemblyman William Horne
- Assemblyman Ruben Kihuen
- Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop
- Assemblywoman Kathy McClain
- Sen. Dennis Nolan
- Assemblyman John Oceguera
- Assemblyman James Ohrenshnell
- Sen. Mike recession
- Assemblyman Lynn Stewart
- Sen. Joyce Woodhouse

At least one lawmaker currently is studying here. Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr. is working toward his MBA degree.

Former staff members currently serving in the Nevada Legislature:

- Assemblyman Paul Aizley
- Assemblywoman Ellen Koivisto

Are We Missing Any Rebels? Anyone missing from this list? If so, e-mail us at inside@unlv.edu so we can include that person’s name in a future issue.

Historic Times

Titus believes she is going to Washington at a particularly exciting time. With Barack Obama’s election, “I think Washington is going to be the center of the universe for the next couple of years. Why wouldn’t you want to be a part of it?”

Titus admits to being a bit awe-struck at her Congressional orientation. “You realize that you are part of a very small group of Americans who have the privilege of actually being a part of Congress. And that’s pretty inspiring.”

Athletic and Cultural Events

One of the benefits of working at a university is the access it provides to a wide range of enriching events. I am very much looking forward to this semester’s many cultural performances and high-caliber athletic events. Also notable is 2009’s first Barrick Lecture (see “Barrick on Barack,” page 1) scheduled for Jan. 22. The panel presentation should be a most lively discussion of the issues facing our country’s new administration; I hope you will join me as we hear the experts’ predictions for President Obama’s first hundred days in office.

Welcome back to campus, and best wishes for a productive, healthy, and personally rewarding 2009.
Avoid Risky Business

Five Things You Definitely Shouldn’t Do

By Cate Weeks | Marketing & PR

1. No piggybacks — Plugging in multiple surge protectors can overtax an electrical outlet, resulting in blown circuits and fire hazards. Instead, talk to the office of facilities management & planning about safe ways to expand electrical capacity.

2. Careless cart driving — One of most serious injuries on campus resulted from a passenger falling from a cart. Cart safety training is now required. RMS conducts the training every Friday, and an online course is also available at rms.unlv.edu/training/WebCT.php.

3. Pack rats and “creative” storage — Letting papers pile up and using hallways as storage creates a tripping and fire hazard. RMS often spots boxes blocking emergency exits and fire extinguishers. Centineo also noted that narrowing the size of a passageway can be especially problematic for students and staff with disabilities.

4. Smoking in buildings — Yes, people do ignore the ban on indoor smoking. And Centineo can’t fathom why people put their butts out on walls or throw them on the ground; it’s both unsafe and unsightly.

5. Untidy labs — Faculty and staff need to make it a priority to educate students about lab safety. RMS personnel sometimes find chemicals improperly labeled and stored. “Students may not appreciate the dangers associated with the chemicals,” Centineo said, “just think of the years and years of research that could be lost in just a few minutes due to someone being careless.”

Employee Benefits

Budget Cuts Will Affect Health Care Benefits

By Stephanie Strow | Marketing & PR

UNLV employees will likely see their benefits change this year due to the economic downturn that is forcing everyone to tighten belts.

State agencies like the Public Employees’ Benefits Program (PEBP) have been looking for ways to curb costs in the face of severe declines in state funding.

Budget to be Cut $50.8 Million

Gov. Jim Gibbons directed the PEBP to reduce its budget by $50.8 million. The PEBP board has come up with a plan to meet the budget cuts by taking half of these cuts from a reduction in benefits and the other half by shifting the cost to employee premiums. These changes will take effect in July.

Changes approved by the board include:

- eliminating the health assessment questionnaire that reduced plan deductibles
- implementing a single-deductible PPO plan
- reducing subsidized rates for all plan types.

These changes, among others, probably will result in increased out-of-pocket expenses for state employees. For examples of how the changes may impact you, go to hr.unlv.edu/Benefits/PEBP12-3Boardmsg.

Learn More Feb. 5

The PEBP board will meet again Feb. 5. All meetings are open to the public. For questions regarding your benefits, contact the UNLV Benefits Helpline at ext. 5-0924. Go to the PEBP website at pepb.state.nv.us for more information about PEBP and your benefits.

But when looking at the chart, keep in mind that the premiums shown there will be going up. More accurate estimates about rate increases should be available after the March board meeting.

Still in the Proposal Stage

“The changes the PEBP board has put forward are still proposals,” said Pat La Putt, UNLV benefits manager. “The board will meet in February to finalize plan changes and again in March to finalize rates. I encourage people to either e-mail the board or come to the board meetings to voice their concerns.”

To e-mail the board, go to the PEBP website at pepb.state.nv.us.

Further details on specific changes to your benefits package, including new co-payment information and new premiums, will be provided this spring.
Across Campus

Academic Success Center Faculty and Staff Invited to Weigh In on First-Year Issues

The Academic Success Center and the Teaching & Learning Center are hosting Conversation Café get-togethers for faculty and staff to discuss the first-year experience and learning support. These discussions may lead to the development of unit-specific learning communities and support programs. The hour-long conversations will take place at noon Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 4, March 25, and April 17. The location will vary.

More info: Call Paula Castillo at ext. 5-0667.

Majority of Campus Tutoring Moves to ASC

Starting this semester, the Academic Success Center (ASC) is the new home of campuswide tutoring efforts. Longtime academic advisor Rim Marwah will oversee the program. This move makes the ASC a prime connection for students seeking affordable tutoring. The center will work with academic departments to support current initiatives and to seek expert advice about subject matter.

More info: Call the Academic Success Center at ext. 5-3177.

Business

Entrepreneurship Center Serves as Major Community Resource

The Center for Entrepreneurship, which celebrates its third anniversary this year, has established itself as a major resource to both UNLV and the Southern Nevada business community. The center has been successful in providing entrepreneurship-focused academic and experiential learning opportunities for students. Among its successes have been:

- the graduation last year of the first student with an entrepreneurship major
- the Business Plan Competition
- Entrepreneurship Week activities
- the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour at UNLV.

The center has improved coordination of existing and planned entrepreneurship initiatives within the college, across the campus, and with external constituencies. The center focused heavily on developing campus-based initiatives, community outreach, and new venture creation and growth. These initiatives have resulted in:

- establishing a Center for Entrepreneurship website
- establishing student organizations, including Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) and the newly formed Collegiate Executive Organization (CEO)
- offering an entrepreneurship major in the college as well as a minor for students in any discipline
- creating an internship program. The center also has made available research funding for faculty studying entrepreneurship issues, initiated a speaker series, and offered seminars and short courses. Donations have funded a minority and disadvantaged entrepreneurs program.

The college is working on the next phase of the Center for Entrepreneurship, which includes entrepreneurship in K-12 education, networking opportunities, and a joint entrepreneurship research center.

More info: Go to entrepreneurship.unlv.edu.

Engineering

Foreign Students Bring Old Vegas to Life

Visiting Italian students recently completed an interactive virtual tour of the now-defunct Sands Hotel and Casino, using photos and slides from the collection of the Libraries. The tour allows participants to experience the Sands in a new interactive manner through the use of a computer and technology. Every detail — from the patterns of the Sands carpet to the “S” on the napkins — has been recreated from photos in a virtual form. Participants can actually stop and play virtual roulette.

Students Marco Antognozzi, Aniello De Santi, and Marco Locatelli from Italy’s Politecnico di Torino worked under the direction of UNLV’s entertainment engineering & design program co-coordinators (mechanical engineering professor Daniel P. Cook and theatre professor Joe Aldridge). “This project was created from scratch using C4 Engine, a computer programming tool typically used to develop video games,” said Cook. In other words, they have taken a previously developed program and created a new use for it, thus strengthening the entertainment educational value. What they have developed is outstanding.”

This was the inaugural project in a series aptly titled “Re-Living Las Vegas.” UNLV and Politecnico are developing a long-term partnership to advance both institutions’ entertainment engineering programs to the elite ranks within their disciplines.

Fine Arts

Upcoming Performances

The Performing Arts Center welcomes internationally acclaimed classes violinist Joshua Bell at 8 p.m. Jan. 29 as part of the Charles Vanda Master Series. Bell, hailed as “the greatest American violinist active for the Libraries’ website that includes an expanded search box

- adding specific pages oriented toward the needs of faculty, graduate students, undergraduates, and distance education students
- providing laptops for checkout at Lied and all the branch libraries and replacing more than 500 student PCs
- replacing approximately 324 computer workstations chairs in Lied, Architecture Studies, and the Curriculum Materials libraries. Used by libraries in the United States and abroad, LibQUAL+ measures patrons’ perceptions of libraries’ services and collections. The survey has been given at UNLV three times since 2002. Participating libraries receive access to the data from hundreds of libraries and can compare scores in the areas of library as a place, the helpfulness and competence of library staff, and access to print and online resources. In addition to the survey, the Libraries regularly solicits feedback from the campus. Suggestions they have resulted in the launching of programs and exhibits as well as improvements in daily operations.

Holiday Hoedown

UNLV folks gather at the Cox Pavilion last month to chat, drink, and eat at the annual campus holiday reception. The party had an unusual decorating motif, as evidenced at right, thanks to the just-departed National Finals Rodeo.

Libraries

Faculty and Staff Asked to Take User Survey

Help shape the future of UNLV Libraries by taking the 2009 LibQUAL+ online survey. The survey will be available to faculty, staff, and students Feb. 17-March 9. In addition to completing the survey themselves, faculty are asked to encourage their students to participate.

To better support the teaching and research mission of the university, the Libraries needs input on collections, on the effectiveness of its teaching program, and on the contributions of its staff and facilities to teaching and research. Results from past surveys have resulted in:

- increasing the number of electronic subscriptions to 24,000 from 9,000
- adding 225,000 electronic books and more than doubling database subscriptions to 300
- joining the LINK+ consortium of more than 30 libraries, giving patrons access to 7.6 million volumes with delivery within six days
- designing and launching a new front page

The Libraries regularly solicits feedback from the campus. Suggestions they have resulted in the launching of programs and exhibits as well as improvements in daily operations.

The Performing Arts Center welcomes internationally acclaimed classes violinist Joshua Bell at 8 p.m. Jan. 29 as part of the Charles Vanda Master Series. Bell, hailed as “the greatest American violinist active
today” by the Boston Herald, performs with award-winning pianist Jeremy Denk.

The Russian National Ballet also appears as part of the Vanda Master Series at 8 p.m. Feb. 11. Leading dancers from across Russia and stars of the Bolshoi and Kirov ballets form this company that stages stunning productions of timeless classics.

The PAC Classical Guitar Series presents Anabel Montesinos at 8 p.m. Feb. 17. After her first solo concert at age 12, she won multiple awards and participated in numerous international festivals. She possesses “precision and graceful flexibility,” according to one reviewer.

**More info:** Call ext. 5-2787.

**Urban Affairs**

**UNLV Debate Team Argues Its Way Through Tournaments**

The Sanford I. Berman Debate Forum, UNLV’s debate team, advanced two teams to elimina-

tion rounds at its first major regional debate tournament in October. UNLV competed against several regional rivals at the tournament at Idaho State University. One of the squad’s two-person teams scored four wins and only two losses in the preliminary rounds, and advanced to the octafinal round.

Another two-person team also won four of its six prelimina-

dy debates, and defeated a team from Whitman College in the octafinal round. The team then advanced to the quarterfinal round, losing a very close debate against the University of Wyoming. Team member Elliot Carr-Lee also received an award for being ranked as the eighth best individual speaker at the tournament out of a field of more than 50 individual debaters.

The Debate Forum also hosted two tournaments the first week of October.

“Know Your Rights” sessions and workshops, and engaged in immigration projects with a systemic impact. “Nevada’s immigrant population is expanding and legal services for immigrants have not kept pace,” Morrison said. “As a result, NIRP stands ready to help fill a gap in legal services for a truly under-

**Hotel**

**UNLV Singapore to Host Hospitality Conference**

UNLV Singapore has been selected to host the 7th annual Asia Pacific Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (A-PacificRIE) conference May 28-31.

“This is an exceptional opportu-

nity for UNLV Singapore to show-

case itself as a leader in hospital-

ity education in Asia,” said UNLV Singapore Dean Andy Nazareth. He believes the theme of this year’s conference, Creativity, Hospitality, Research, & Innovative Education, is a perfect fit for the campus’ mission. “We want every hospitality educator who attends the conference to understand the impact that Singapore will have as a top tourism destination and to demonstrate that Singapore offers some of the best hospitality education opportunities in the region.”

Hospitality educators and stu-

dents from at least 15 countries will attend the conference. UNLV Singapore also has recruited valu-

able sponsors for the event, includ-

ing the Singapore Tourism Board. For the first time in Asia, an A-PacificRIE youth conference will be held at the same time as the annual conference. It will also be hosted by UNLV Singapore. The youth confer-

ence aims to teach students from the various hospitality institutions in the region about hospitality-related issues in a practical and academically enriching session. It also will be used as a platform to nurture the future industry leaders.

Billy Bai, a hotel administration professor on UNLV’s main cam-

pus, has been appointed as head reviewer for the conference.

**More info:** Go to apacchrie09.org or unlv.edu.sg.

**Law**

**Immigrant Project Fills Gap in Legal Services**

With the hiring of Angela Morrison as its new legal director, the Nevada Immigrant Resource Project (NIRP) continues its mission as a center for accurate and timely information concerning immigration. A project of the Boyd School of Law’s Immigration Clinic at the Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic, NIRP provides training and information to community partners, including local law enforcement agencies, government service-providers, and non-governmental organizations. Additionally, NIRP provides opportunities for law students to engage in immigration projects with a systemic impact.

“Nevada’s immigrant popula-

tion is expanding and legal ser-

vices for immigrants have not kept pace,” Morrison said. “As a result, NIRP stands ready to help fill a gap in legal services for a truly under-

serviced population.”

Each semester, a group of law students works in NIRP as part of the law school’s community service program. Students have conducted outreach to immigrant victims of domestic violence and provided roll-call training to Las Vegas Metropolitan Police officers about human trafficking. NIRP’s work in immigrant communities has consisted of projects such as “Know Your Rights” sessions and citizenship fairs.

Morrison joins NIRP from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), where she served as the first EEOC trial attorney in Las Vegas. She graduated summa cum laude from the Boyd School of Law, where she was a student attorney in the Immigration Clinic and the editor-in-chief of the Nevada Law Journal.

**More info:** Go to law.unlv.edu/clinical.html.

**Liberal Arts**

**Mental Health Clinic Revitalized with Expanded Mission**

In celebration of its 10th year, the campus mental health clinic is being renamed, refurbished, and revitalized.

The newly named UNLV Center for Assessment, Research, and Effective Solutions (UNLV CARES) is a signifi-

nant community outreach program for the department of psychology. The department’s clinical psychology

**Across Campus**

**Graduate Research Forum Set for March**

Graduate and professional stu-
dents interested in presenting their schol-

arship in either a poster or oral pre-

sentation format. The deadline to register is March 1. The entry form

can be found at gpsa.unlv.edu/ register.
**Spotlight On Accomplishments**

**Jovita Bayogu** (Graduate College) was named a classiﬁed employee of the month in the administrative category for the month of January. Jovita, a student assistant in the Admissions and Records Assis-
tant III, maintains student records from the time of admission through graduation. She has worked at UNLV for two years.

**Rainer Spencer** (Anthropology & Ethnic Studies) recently was appointed by U.S. Sen. Harry Reid as a member of the U.S. Senate Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade. In November, he delivered the closing plenary lecture at the national confer-
ence, Race: Future of an Illusion, Future of the Past, held at Monmouth University in New Jersey. The title of his lecture was “New Age Multiraciality: Generation Mix and the Fascinating Phenomenon of Non-Multiracial Multitudes.”

**Jacob Murdock** (Campus Life) was named the 2008 Outstanding New Professional at the 2008 Western Regional Conference for NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) in Long Beach, Calif. He is the program coordinator of services program in the office of student involvement and activi-
ties. At a conference, Ali Albrecht, who is a student graduate in the same office, was named the 2008 Rising Star Graduate Student.

**Philip Xu** (Nursing) published a book chapter on tenure and promotion in American universities for Personal Perspective on American Education: Experiences and Reﬂections from 20 Overseas Chinese Scholars. The book, which is written in Chinese, was pub-
lished by Peking University Press.

**William Smith** (Environmental Studies) is the policy and outreach section coordinator for “Policy and Outreach Component,” a $2.5 million part of the National Science Foundation Experimental Program for the Stimulation of Competitive Research (EPSCoR) grant, “Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future: Nevada’s Climate Change Initiative,” a multidisciplinary collaboration between UNLV, UNR, and DRI.

**John Massengale** (Kinesiology and Nutritional Sciences) is the 2009 recipi-
ent of the Distinguished Administrator Award from the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education (NAKPEHE). He was recognized for his work as a depart-
ment chair and dean as well as for hav-
ing served as president of several pro-
essional organizations. He also is the recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award in 2007 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1996. He is just the second person to ever receive all three of NAKPEHE’s major awards.

**Alan Holt** (Academic Success Center) represented UNLV’s department of student-academic services academic at the NCAA Regional Leadership Conference in San Diego in November. Students Beau Brence, a football player, and Alejandro Gueacame, a golfer, also par-
ticipated in the conference.

**Kyle Ethelbath** (CAEO), Jane Hafen (English), Michelle Chino (Public Health), Patricia Holohan (English), Carolee Dodge Francis (Public Health), and Christopher Kypyros (Financial Aid), all members of the UNLV American Indian Council, were honored by the Las Vegas City Council in November for the extensive work they have done on behalf of Native American students and staff at UNLV.

**Alfredo Fernandez-Gonzalez** (Architecture) recently received the U.S. Green Building Council’s Nevada 2008 Leadership Award in Research. He was hon-
ored for his research exploring alternative systems and ideas that one day may help resolve some of the environmental chal-
lenges faced by the state.

**Susanna Priest** (Journalism and Media Studies) presented “Impact of Information about Abortion and Regulation on Public Perception of Nanotechnology” at the Society for Risk Analysis Annual Conference in Boston. The paper was co-authored with Ph.D. student Ted Greenhalgh (Environmental Studies) and Ron Yarons at the University of Maryland.

**Nancy Menzel** (Nursing) was among the first group ever to test for and earn cer-
tiﬁcation in public health from the National Board of Public Health Examiners this fall.

**Erika Engstrom** (Communication Studies) wrote an article, “Exploring Women’s Music Radio Programs in the U.S.,” which appears in the Broadcast Education Association journal Feedback.

**Larry Ashley** (Counselor Education) has been appointed to the state Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors.

**Patricia Cruz** and Mark P. Buttrum (Harry Reid Center) co-authored an article, “Development and Evaluation of a Real-Time Quantitative PCR Assay for Aspergillus Flavus,” that was pub-
lished in the October issue of the journal Mycologica. The research described in the article was partially funded by a UNLV Applied Research Initiative Award.

**Tish Smyer** (Nursing) was awarded $348,643 from the Health Resource and Services Administration to develop a collaborative approach to expanding RN to BSN education in Nevada. The multi-year grant is a partnership with Nevada State College.

**Mary Wahl** (Health Physics) was named a classiﬁed employee of the month in the administrative category for November. An administrative assistant III, she is assigned to the radiography and clinical lab sciences programs, per-
forming general ofﬁce work and coor-
dinating appointments for students and advisors. An eight-year employee of UNLV, she has been in health physics for two years. She began her UNLV career as a custodian. After five years in that job, she moved to the Student Health Center as an administrative assistant I.

**Carolee Dodge Francis** (Public Health) was an invited guest speaker at this year’s Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science Conference in Salt Lake City. In October she received an award from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development for her contribution in building research capacity between UNLV and tribal col-
leges and universities.

**M. Christopher Brown** (Education) and Vicky Rossor (Educational Leadership) were instrumental in having the Association for the Study of Higher Education move its headquarters to UNLV’s College of Education for a five-
year period that began this month. The agreement with UNLV is the result of a competitive request for proposals issued in the summer of 2007.

**Vicky Albert** (Social Work) wrote an article, “Survival Analyses of the Dynamics of Sibling Experiences in Care,” which appeared in Families in Society.

**David Hassenzahl** (Environmental Studies) received the Outstanding Educator Award at the Society for Risk Analysis annual meeting in Boston in December. He and graduate student Ilene Ruboy presented their paper “A Risk Management Approach to Unused Pharmaceuticals.” Hassenzahl also con-
ducted two workshops, “Risk Analysis: Fundamental Concepts, Applications and Controversies” and “Current Topics in Risk Analysis.”

> **ACROSS CAMPUS**

**More info:** Call ext. 5-3106

**Science**

**Buck Named Geological Society Fellow**

Geoscience professor Brenda J. Buck was named a fellow of the Geological Society of America (GSA) in October — an honor bestowed upon the professor’s best.

Buck was one of 65 scientists and educators selected to receive the honor at the society’s annual meeting. The GSA is a world-
wide society with more than 21,000 members from 85 countries. GSA members are elected to fel-
lowship in recognition of distinguished con-
tributions to the geosciences. Buck is one of the world’s foremost experts on arid soils.

In nominating Buck, Tim Lawton, a profes-
sor at New Mexico State University, observed, “Brenda is a pioneer, both as a woman in a male-
dominated field and in her studies bridging geol-
y and soil science to solve real environmental problems. She’s tough and rigorous in her science while equally welcoming and encourag-
ing of new ideas — qualities that she no doubt acquired growing up on a Montana ranch.”

Buck also is an adjunct professor in the depart-
ment of environmental science at the University of Montana-Western, in her hometown of Dillon.

**Clinical**

She is active in national and international soil and geology research and has conducted research with the National Science Foundation and the International Union of Soil Science. Buck has co-authored 44 peer-reviewed articles and 125 abstracts and has worked in 18 countries on six continents. She is the founding director for the Environmental Soil Analytical Laboratory at UNLV, part of the only soil-science degree program in Nevada.

**Submit Your News**

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

**Inside UNLV**

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

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Another Take
Stories by Cate Weeks & 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.

Christian Hardigree
Assistant President/Chief of Staff

Rebel since: 1990 as a student; ’97 as a part-time instructor; ’01 as full-time faculty in the Hotel & Hospitality Management department, my first position.

What you do: My job is new and in a state of fluidity. To some extent it combined duties from three previous positions — deputy to the president, chief of staff, and senior advisor to the president. I handle everything from office staffing matters to developing policy to being a liaison for faculty.

Skills: I’m an attorney by trade and a state-appointed arbitrator with a lot of alternative dispute resolution experience. I teach employment law. So when dealing with an issue, I try to look at it from an HR perspective and a legal perspective; I can analyze the situation to balance out the pros and cons.

Style: I’m very informal. I don’t pretend to have all the answers — but I can find them.

Biggest challenge: Getting through the semester. (When interviewed, she was wrapping up hotel management teaching and department chair duties while getting up to speed in the new job.) And I have a family. My husband, Chris Brown, is a Ph.D. student and internship coordinator for the professional golf management program, and we have two boys: Parker, 2, and Hudson, 1. We don’t have family in town and don’t have a network of caretakers yet. And to make lining up sitters that much harder, we have a Great Dane.

The “Bedbug Queen”: I’m a national expert on bedbug litigation. It’s becoming a significant issue because bedbugs are increasingly pesticide-resistant.

Biggest challenge: When I first moved to campus, I had to make the adjustment from living in a house to a dorm.

Family of Rebels: My dad, Don Hardigree, was director of UNLV’s Institute for Insurance and Risk Management in the College of Business. My mom, Margaret, was director of the office of international students and scholars. Go Rebels!

Words of wisdom: My father used to tell me, “You can spend a lifetime building a reputation for honor and integrity. It just takes suspicion — not fact — to destroy it.”

David Smee
Archeological Illustrator, Harry Reid Center of Environmental Studies

Rebel since: 1996

What you do: When roads are being built or gas lines are being dug, the land that will be impacted is surveyed for cultural resources. In the field, I make notes of what we find during the excavation process. I collect prehistoric tools or beer bottles or pottery. I especially like the historic pieces because it gives me a real sense for the people that once lived there.

Perfect day: In the field all day — camping and finding a good site to work on.

Biggest challenge: The heat. You have to drink lots of water, which I am not very good at.

Why you do what you do: I love the idea of exploring something that has never been seen before. I can’t think of a better job for me. I’m an artist and an explorer — I’m like a kid at heart.

What makes you successful? I have a good work ethic, which was a pearl of my generation. I found a job where my talent could be used to its fullest.

Can’t work without: Pen and paper. I am always sketching.

People would be surprised to know: I have a national expert on bedbug litigation. It’s becoming a significant issue because bedbugs are increasingly pesticide-resistant.

World of work: Quiet — especially when it comes to schoolwork.

Day in the life: I volunteer on weekends on “Whitey’s” crab fishing boat in the Chesapeake Bay. I didn’t even get paid — I just enjoyed doing it.

Full-time student and employee: It takes so much time. When most people go to bed, I am studying for another couple hours.

Army experience: I was in the Army as a mechanic for two years after high school. I was serving when 9/11 happened. I went from having a wrench in my hand to having an M-16 as I had to guard the airfield for Blackhawk helicopters in Killeen, Texas.

Carlos Morales
Administrative Assistant II, Thomas & Mack Legal Clinic, and Full-Time Student

Rebel since: 2006

Typical day: Answer phones, enter information, and maintain supplies. I also am the primary secretary for the Kids’ Court School. On nights I have school (sophomore psychology major), I am on campus until 10 p.m.

Perfect day: When I feel like I have accomplished something both at work and at school.

Biggest challenge: Making it through school while working full time.

Why you do what you do: I’ve seen how it can be when you don’t have a degree. I worked as a security guard for two years and couldn’t see myself doing something similar for the next 30-40 years of my life.

What makes you successful? My mom and the way she raised me. Through her example, she taught me to have a strong work ethic. If you can’t motivate yourself and don’t have a good work ethic, you won’t be successful.

Can’t work without: Quiet — especially when it comes to schoolwork.

People would be surprised to know: In high school in Maryland, I volunteered on weekends on “Whitey’s” crab fishing boat in the Chesapeake Bay. I didn’t even get paid — I just enjoyed doing it.

Full-time student and employee: It takes so much time. When most people go to bed, I am studying for another couple hours.

Army experience: I was in the Army as a mechanic for two years after high school. I was serving when 9/11 happened. I went from having a wrench in my hand to having an M-16 as I had to guard the airfield for Blackhawk helicopters in Killeen, Texas.
Winter Wonderland

A rare winter storm swept through Southern Nevada on Dec. 17, dumping the most snow on the valley in nearly three decades. Flights were grounded at McCarran International Airport, major highways were closed, and the Clark County School District canceled school Dec. 18. The U.S. Weather Service measured a record-breaking 3.6 inches of snow at its offices, while other parts of the valley received more.

(Top right) Tracy Johnson, an academic advisor with the Wilson Advising Center, tries to catch snow near Wright Hall.

(Above) Colleagues take a stroll through campus as the snow begins to fall. (Right) From left to right, Izy Sandoval, Student Union facility coordinator; Savannah Baltera, CSUN business manager; and Shawn Dewey, Student Union conference and event coordinator, build a mini-snowman on a table on Pida Plaza.