Inside UNLV

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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 commentator 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 analyst 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 nationally and internationally known speakers from a variety of fields. Over the years, speakers have included Bob Dole, Mikhail Gorbachev, Arthur Ashe, and Jane Goodall.

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.
2008’s Good Work Doesn’t Go Unnoticed

With budget challenges consuming much of our 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 $13 million and $18,000 per space, we received a contract to build at approximately $13,000. 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 College of Medicine’s 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 join my colleagues at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

> TITUS

> Continued from Page 1

“She has more than lived up to her promise, earning a richly deserved reputation as one of our most beloved teachers and mentors, as well as a richly deserved reputation as a talented scholar and public intellectual, particularly with her groundbreaking work on the Nevada Test Site,” he said.

Titus plans to return to campus to give guest lectures when possible when she’s home in Southern Nevada. “I missed teaching this past semester while I was campaiging, I was supposed to teach the campaigns and elections course. When interviewed last month, Titus said her constituents can expect to see a lot of her. She plans 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.

Accomplishments

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

- Receiving the UNLV President’s Medal in 2002.
- Receiving UNLV’s Spans 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.

Jobs and Education

When interviewed last month, Titus said she 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 gaming,” she said.

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 accessible and affordable,” she said.

One assignment Titus had received as of December was that of Democratic regional whip for the West. In that leadership position, she will have an opportunity to advocate for regional policies that will impact Southern Nevada.

Titus said her constituents can expect to see a lot of her. She plans to travel home almost every other weekend and to host frequent public hearings and informal meetings.

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 running with a really large group of Americans who have the privilege of actually being a part of Congress. And that’s pretty inspiring.”

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’s 3rd District 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 alums or have worked on campus.

“He’s great — just not a lot of our state lawmakers have first-hand knowledge of UNLV,” said Luis Valera, UNLV’s director of governmental 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 alums:

- Assemblyman Kevin Atkinson
- Assemblywoman 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 Ohrenschall
- Sen. Mike Schneider
- Assemblyman Lynn Swartz
- Sen. Joyce Woodhouse

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

Former state members currently serving in the Nevada Legislature:

- Assemblyman Paul Aizley
- Assemblywoman Ellen Krosvit

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.

Multicultural Center Opening

When I joined UNLV in 2006, a group of students requested my support in creating a multicultural center. I am pleased that, after much work by the office of the vice president for diversity and inclusion, we can finally open HandsHouses House this month. The center will foster community-building activities both on campus and within our larger community.

Athletic and Cultural Events

One of the benefits of working at a university is the access it provides to a wide range of enriching opportunities. 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

Go ahead and admit it. You’ve stood on a rolling office chair to hang a poster. And you pooh-pooh the advice to lift with your knees. It’s the kind of thing that makes the folks in risk management and safety (RMS) a little nervous. Such seemingly innocuous actions can have terrible consequences, said Johnny Centineo, executive director of RMS. “No wife, husband, parent, or child wants to receive a call informing them that their loved one was injured or killed while attending work or classes,” he said. “We do all that we can to ensure a safe work environment, but, ultimately, it comes down to each individual to make sure proper procedures are followed.”

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
- reducing plan deductibles
- implementing a single-deductible PPO plan
- reducing subsidized rates for all plan types.

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 pebp.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.

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 pebp.state.nv.us for more information about PEBP and your benefits.

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That reduced plan deductibles
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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 sanitized.education/Benefits/PEBP12-3Boardmtr.

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

The Academic Success Center (ASC) is the new home of campuswide tutoring efforts. Longtime academic advisor Rimi 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 has been successful in providing entrepreneurial-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.

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 Rimi 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.

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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 entrepreneurial-focused academic and experiential learning opportunities for students. Among its successes have been:

- 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

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, 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

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.

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More info: Call the Academic Success Center at ext. 5-0667.

Entrepreneurship Center Serves as Major Community Resource

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- 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
- replacing computer workstations chairs
- establishing a Center for 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 sponsored 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 Sands, collected from the Special Collections Division of UNLV 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 “5” on the napkins — has been recreated from photos in a virtual form. Participants can actually stop and play virtual roulette.

Students Marco Antognozzini, 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 classical 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
Urban Affairs

UNLV Debate Team Argues Its Way Through Tournaments

The Sanford I. Berman Debate Forum, UNLV’s debate team, advanced two teams to elimination 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 preliminary 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 Elliott 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. The team hosted the elite Las Vegas Classic Round Robin Debate Tournament, which accepted only the top eight applicants from across the nation. More than 80 debate teams representing 32 colleges and universities from across the country participated in the Las Vegas Classic Invitational Debate Tournament.

More info: Call Jacob Thompson at ext. 53747 or go to unlv.edu/orgs/debate.

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 and the editor-in-chief of the Nevada Law Journal, NIRP stands ready to help fill a gap in legal services for a truly underserved 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, 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/clinic.html.

Liberals 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 significant community outreach program for the department of psychology.

The department’s clinical psychology

Across Campus

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.

Graduate Research Forum Set for March

Graduate and professional student research will be showcased at the annual Research Forum on March 1.

Sponsored by the Graduate College and the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), the event provides students the opportunity to share their GPSA-funded research with peers and faculty from across campus.

Last year’s event featured more than 130 participants.

The Research Forum is open to all graduate and professional students interested in presenting their scholarship in either a poster or oral presentation format. The deadline to register is March 1. The entry form can be found at gpsa.unlv.edu/research%/26forum.htm. Awards are given at the close of the event to recognize outstanding presentations.

Faculty interested in being judges may contact Heather Lusty, GPSA vice president and chair of the Research Forum Committee, or Rebecca Boulton, GPSA manager, at ext. 5-2261. The campus community is encouraged to support the participants by attending the forum sessions.

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 PACCHRIE) conference May 28-31.

“This is an exceptional opportunity for UNLV Singapore to showcase itself as a leader in hospitality education in Asia,” said UNLV Singapore Dean Andy Nazarechuk.

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 education 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 students from at least 15 countries will attend the conference. UNLV Singapore also has recruited valuable sponsors for the event, including Singapore Tourism Board.

For the first time in Asia, an APACCHRIE youth conference will be held at the same time as the annual conference. It will also be hosted by UNLV Singapore. The youth conference aims to teach students from the various hospitality institutions in the region about hospitality-related issues in a practical and academically enriching session. It will also be used as a platform to nurture the future hospitality leaders.

Billy Bai, a hotel administration professor on UNLV’s main campus, has been appointed as head reviewer for the conference.

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

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Winter Walk

Winter Commencement took place Dec. 16 at the Thomas & Mack Center. More than 3,000 summer and fall graduates were eligible to participate—a number of nearly one-third compared with the previous December’s commencement.

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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 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 underserved 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.

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\textbf{Spotlight On Accomplishments}

\textbf{Jovita Bayoga} (Graduate College) was named a classi-
cified employee of the month in the admin-
istrative category for the month of November. In addi-
tion to her current position, she maintains student records
from the time of admission through graduation. She has worked at UNLV for two years.

\textbf{Rainier Spencer} (Anthropology & Ethnic Studies) recently was appointed by U.S. Sen.
Harry Reid as a member of the U.S. Senate Commission on the
Aboriginal 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-
Malatto Malattas.”

\textbf{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
for the office of student involvement and activi-
ties. At the same conference, Ali Albrecht, who is a graduate student in the same
office, was named the 2008 Rising Star
Graduate Student.

\textbf{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-
blished by Peking University Press.

\textbf{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.

\textbf{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.

\textbf{Alan Holt} (Academic Success Center) represented UNLV’s department of
student-athlete academic services at the
NCRAA Regional Leadership Conference in
San Diego in November. Students Beau Breenc, a football player, and
Alejandra Guacaneme, a golfer, also par-
ticipated in the conference.

\textbf{Kyle Ethelbah} (CAEO), Jane Hafen
(English), Michelle Chino (Public
Health), Patricia Holthrub (English),
Carolee Dodge Francis (Public
Health), and Christopher Kyupuros
(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.

\textbf{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-
enges faced by the state.

\textbf{Susanna Priest} (Journalism and Media Studies) presented “Impact of
Information about Genetically Engineered
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.

\textbf{Nancy Menzel} (Nursing) was among the first group ever to test and earn certi-
fication in public health from the National Board of Public Health Examiners this fall.

\textbf{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.

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

\textbf{Patricia Cruz} and Mark P. Butter-
ner (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 Mycologist. The research described in the article was partially funded by a UNLV
Applied Research Initiative Award.

\textbf{Tish Smyer} (Nursing) was honored $548,645 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.

\textbf{Mary Wahl} (Health Physics) was named a classified employee of the
month in the administrative category for
November. As an administrative assistant,
she is assigned to the radiography

training program staffs the center along with faculty and graduate students from the marriage and family
therapy program.

Opened in 1998 as the Center for Individual,
Couple, and Family Counseling, the clinic has become a valuable resource in the Las Vegas
Valley for affordable psychotherapy and psycho-
logical assessment services.

With its new, expanded mission, the center will:
• provide a consortium setting where resi-
dents of the Las Vegas and campus commu-
nities can receive low-cost, quality mental
health care.
• offer essential clinical training to graduate
students under close faculty supervision.
• engage in mental health research.

UNLV CARES operates year round and
serves as a point of care for all students.
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Another Take

Stories by Cate Weeks & Shane Bovell | 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: 1996 as a student; ’97 as a part-time instructor; ’01 as full-time faculty in the Hotel College; two months in new 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. My luggage doesn’t ever come into my house. If you think about it, you place your suitcase on your bed in the hotel room and then put it on your bed at home to unpack. It’s like the cross-contamination that happens when handling raw chicken.

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. In the lab, I produce a rendering of what the site may have looked like work on.

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 been a practicing Buddhist for 25 years.

Working without a computer? A computer would really clutter my office. I make a hell of a mess; artists usually do. I cleaned for this photo.

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, Izzy 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.