Spring 1992

Oasis

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Taking the Fight Out of Cancer

UNLV Biochemist Steve Carper
Dear Friends of UNLV,

We are pleased to present another issue of Oasis, the magazine of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As alumni, friends, faculty, and staff, you continue to be invaluable sources of support to the university community. It is our goal to keep you apprised of UNLV's advancements through this publication by sharing the campus' good news in the following pages.

We want to tell you about our outstanding alumni — some of whom may have been your classmates — who went on after graduating from UNLV to pursue interesting and successful careers. We want to acknowledge the accomplishments of our exceptional faculty and staff, including their teaching, research, and programs. We also want to recognize the generosity and involvement of our friends from the local community whose support has enabled the university to flourish in many areas. The pages of Oasis are filled with stories about the people who make UNLV a great university.

We feel it is important to share their stories with you because, collectively, you all have helped to shape UNLV into the fine institution it has become.

Sincerely,

Lyle Rivera
Vice President for Development and University Relations
Features

5  A Tale of Two Authors
Award-winning novelists Douglas Unger and Richard Wiley have shared a passion for writing since their college days together. Now, they have a new challenge: instilling it in others.
BY DIANE RUSSELL

8  Taking the Fight Out of Cancer
UNLV biochemist Steve Carper researches the way cancer cells react to treatment.
BY TOM FLAGG

15 From the Campus to the Capitol
UNLV alumnus Jerry Reynolds helps shape environmental law as a legislative aide in the nation's capital.
BY BARBARA CLOUD

16 History in the Making
The first official history of UNLV will offer perspective on the "road we've traveled" — plus some colorful stories about the good old days, according to historian Bob Davenport.
BY SUZAN DIBELLA

19 Wit and Wisdom
Las Vegas Mayor and university supporter Jan Laverty Jones believes good humor and good leadership go hand in hand.
BY LISA STORY
University to Offer Master of Liberal Studies Program

A new master of liberal studies program—designed to allow students to pursue academic topics in a degree program tailored to their individual interests—is now being offered at UNLV.

Program director David Dickens said the topics of study available in the program could be as diverse as German literature, ancient Hebrew civilization, theories of evolution, or new natural science.

A student choosing to study ancient Hebrew civilization, for example, might look at the subject in terms of archaeology, history, and sociology. Because of the cross-disciplinary approach of the program, faculty members from many colleges and departments will be involved, said Dickens, who is also a sociology professor.

All students are required to take a few core courses, but their other classes are tailored to their chosen topic, which must be focused in one of five areas—arts, humanities, natural science, or social science.

He said he expects that most students enrolling in the program will be people who have already established their careers.

"Many people studied subjects in college that they found fascinating, but that didn't have anything to do with their chosen careers," Dickens said. "A program such as this provides those people with a chance to go back and study those subjects just for the pleasure of learning more about a topic that interests them."

Because organizers expect that most students enrolling in the program will also be holding down full-time jobs, courses for the program will be offered at night.

For more information on the master of liberal studies program, call Dickens at 739-3322.

UCCSN Libraries Awarded Grant for Computer Information System

A $230,917 grant was awarded to UCCSN Library and Computing Services to help establish a $1 million computer information system that will be available to people throughout Nevada.

The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Education through its College Library Technology and Cooperation Grants program, said Mary Dale Deacon, dean of libraries at UNLV.

The remainder of the funding needed for the project will be contributed by the University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN), Deacon said.

The new system, called the Nevada Academic Libraries Information System, will offer people throughout Nevada ready access to UCCSN library on-line catalogs, electronic journal indexes, and government publications, she said.

It will also serve as a gateway to other major on-line catalogs, such as those at the University of California System libraries.

The project is the first step toward providing a wide range of electronic information services, including full texts of reference works and electronic journals.

Health Issue Hot Line Established

A newly established hot line at UNLV will offer 24-hour access to information on a variety of health issues, including alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and AIDS.

The hot line will provide those who call with a choice of more than 70 recorded messages.

The hot line may be reached by dialing 597-4679 or 597-4680 and then selecting a three-digit code for a specific message. Copies of the brochure listing the topics and the code numbers may be obtained by calling Rex Parkins, coordinator of UNLV's Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program, at 739-3627.

Among the messages available on the hot line are "Your Money and Your Life: Cocaine Takes Both," "Suicide: Facts and Myths," "Date Rape: "How to Quit Smoking," "What Is Alcoholism?" and "What Are the Symptoms of AIDS?"}

Grant Funding Up at UNLV

UNLV received 23 percent more grant funding for sponsored programs during fiscal year 1991 than during the previous year.

Grant support for funded projects, including research, totaled $12 million for fiscal 1991, up from $9.7 million during fiscal 1990.

An additional $2.9 million in Environmental Protection Agency funding for expansion of the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies brought the total grant funding for fiscal 1991 to approximately $15 million.

"Grant funds, which come to us from federal, state, and local government, as well as the private sector, make it possible for us to carry on important scientific and social science research," said UNLV President Robert C. Maxson.

"Without outside support, much of our research would be impossible."

According to David McNelis, associate vice president for research, the projection for fiscal 1992 indicates that this growth in funding for sponsored programs will continue.

The rate of growth in research funding at UNLV compares very favorably with the national average, placing it in the top few percent of colleges and universities, in terms of growth," McNelis said.

The federal government provided the largest portion of the research funding at more than $8.5 million. Of that, the Environmental Protection Agency provided $6.5 million, including funds for the expansion of the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies and for Superfund environmental clean-up projects, biological studies, and visibility studies.

State government provided $1.6 million, local governments provided $560,000, and the private sector provided $1.6 million in sponsored-program funding, McNelis said.

UNLV Receives Major Donations

UNLV recently received three major gifts, one for the construction of a student service building and two for support of academic programs. All of the donations came through the UNLV Foundation.

The university received $4 million from the Don W. Reynolds Foundation to support construction of a new student service building on the university campus. Reynolds is the founder of the Donrey Media Group, which publishes the Las Vegas Review-Journal and operates Donrey Outdoor Advertising Co. in Southern Nevada.

UNLV President Robert C. Maxson said Reynolds' gift is the second largest single gift UNLV has ever received.

The student service building will contain such programs as the Student Development Center, Student Financial Services, Multicultural Student Affairs, Career Planning and Placement, Registrar's Office, Disabled Student Services, and the Academic Advancement Program.

UNLV has also received a $2 million gift from the family of the late Tom Bean to support music education in the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

One of UNLV's best-known donors, Bean died Sept. 3 at age 73. He was a member of the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees. He contributed to the construction of Frank and Estella Bean Hall, named for his parents, which houses the business and hotel administration colleges. His gifts also helped fund the Thomas T. Bean Engineering Complex and the expansion of the Donna Bean Fine Art Gallery.

UNLV also received a $400,000 gift from the late Mary Dougherty, a long-time Las Vegas, to endow the Honors Program.

Maxson said the students in the Honors Program, which provides advanced coursework for some of the nation's best young scholars, will benefit from Dougherty's gift for many years to come.

He added that an endowment of this sort is particularly valuable to the university, because it guarantees the permanence of a very worthwhile program.

Each year, the Honors Program admits 80 to 100 new freshmen. There are currently some 270 students in the program.
UNLV Physics Professor Awarded Smithsonian Fellowship

Kwong, who specializes in laser physics at UNLV, is attempting to make complex measurements of silicon ions. These measurements require a working knowledge in particular areas of plasma physics, atomic physics, and laser physics. Scientists at Harvard have made several unsuccessful attempts to get these measurements in the past six years.

"If we are successful, these measurements will be used by solar physicists to determine precisely the electron density and temperature in the atmosphere around the sun," Kwong said. "This will allow an accurate model of the solar atmosphere to be made."

Kwong, who developed a unique "ion trap," which allows him to capture and study rapidly moving charged particles, has lectured on ion storage at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and at Lyman Laboratory in Harvard's physics department.

Kwong presented a paper concerning the use of his ion trap at a conference on "Atomic Processes in Fusion Plasmas" in Portland, Maine, last year. He was also invited to the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara to participate in a workshop on the surface interaction of highly charged ions.

Kwong has been a member of the UNLV physics department faculty since 1984.

UNLV Named Up-and-Coming for Third Year in a Row

For the third year in a row, U.S. News and World Report has named UNLV one of the nation's "up-and-coming" universities. UNLV President Robert C. Maxson announced recently.

The news magazine's 1992 edition of the book, America's Best Colleges, lists UNLV as the number one up-and-coming university in the West in the regional colleges and universities category. UNLV was also named as an up-and-comer in the 1990 issue (second place) and 1991 issue (first place) of the college guide.

"We are thrilled to be recognized as a rising star in American higher education for the third consecutive year by U.S. News and World Report," Maxson said. "At UNLV, we truly feel that we are 'up and coming.' It is most gratifying to find that our colleagues at other colleges and universities agree with us."
Unger recalls it as "a conspiracy of writers." The group would be, "over a jug of wine at 11 at night, pulling out our manuscripts and reading them in too-loud voices."
The after hours, informal sessions were like a refueling stop for the graduate students, Unger says. After one of these sessions, "I personally was good for another five or six days at the typewriter."

"Fast forward to 1984. Unger publishes his first novel, Leaving the Land, a book using the fictional experiences of a family of South Dakota turkey farmers to explore the effects of business conglomerate takeovers on American agriculture. For his first published novel, Unger is nominated for the Pulitzer Prize."

Forward again, this time to 1986. Wiley publishes his first novel, Soldiers in Hiding, a book about two displaced Japanese Americans in Japan during World War II. For his first published book, Wiley wins the prestigious PEN/Faulkner Award for best American Novel. Somewhere along the way, the sleepless nights, the long, solitary hours spent hunched over a typewriter, and the endless rewriting paid off for both of them. Each has had three novels published. Wiley’s fourth novel, set in West Africa and titled Jokrig, is scheduled to be published later this year by E.P. Dutton. Unger is wrapping up work on a fourth novel, titled The Disappeared, which is set in Argentina.

Today, Unger and Wiley find themselves consumed by a new obsession — this time it’s an obsession shared by a number of UNLV English professors who are working together to develop a master of fine arts program in creative writing.

In that program, Wiley and Unger hope to kindle among young UNLV writers the obsession and passion they themselves felt about their work in their graduate school days. Both men say they believe UNLV has an excellent opportunity to establish a first-rate program, one with a difference that would set it apart from those offered at other universities. That difference would be a creative writing program with an international slant.

"The whole idea of including the world is not something that’s very common to American fiction," Wiley says. "American fiction tends to be inward looking."

Both Unger and Wiley have spent substantial amounts of time living in other countries; they say those experiences have proved invaluable to their writings.

A creative writing program with an international emphasis could make a valuable contribution to American fiction and also provide a welcome alternative to the regional writing workshops offered at some universities, Unger and Wiley say. They decry the trend toward "regionalism, saying that instead of restricting their horizons, writers should be broadening them. Also, tagging a writer as being reflective of a certain region tends to pigeonhole the writer, they say.

Both Unger and Wiley have spent substantial amounts of time living in other countries; they say those experiences have proved invaluable to their writings. Unger has written books set in Argentina, while Wiley has used Africa, Korea, and Japan as settings for his work.

"We feel that it has been a great help to our writing and feel that it’s really the way an MFA program should go," Unger says. "Also, it would be a chance to establish something at UNLV that doesn’t exist anywhere else."

Such a program, which is in the planning stages, would involve bringing four foreign writers to UNLV on fellowships each year to participate in creative writing workshops. Students would be encouraged to spend a semester abroad and would be required to achieve fluency in a foreign language.

Unger and Wiley say the English department staff is excited about the prospect of such a program and that the administration has responded favorably.

"Establishing an international creative writing program at UNLV “has terrific potential,” according to Wiley. “It could change the face of the whole university.”

"It is that three or four years after the program starts, our trouble will not be finding students, but deciding who to let in and who not to let in,” he says.

Wiley has been at UNLV since 1989. The previous year he had returned to the United States from Kenya where he had been director of the Association of International Schools in Africa. Upon his return, Wiley settled in Tacoma, Wash., to finish his book Festival for Three Thousand Masks. While there, he began looking for a university teaching job.

He looked into several openings, and, as he kept narrowing down the list, "UNLV just kept coming back as a most interesting place."

"This place has a lot of energy," Wiley says of UNLV. "Even though it’s not a particularly new university, it’s got the feeling of newness. It’s got the feeling of taking off."

Unger joined the UNLV faculty last fall after working for several years in the creative writing program at Syracuse University.

He says he felt that with the creative writing program at Syracuse firmly established, his job there was done.

Also, he wanted to return to the West, where he was born and where much of his work is set. Knowing that Wiley and others at UNLV were considering establishing an international MFA program made the opening at UNLV an attractive one, he says.

"There’s another thing I’ve noticed just since getting here that makes me glad to be here and that is that I think this university is a really, really good deal for its students," he says. Watching students at Syracuse pay as much as $18,000 a year for an education and then graduate facing major debts was discouraging, he says.

While both Unger and Wiley teach literature classes at UNLV, their bigger challenge is teaching creative writing workshops. They agree that teaching creative writing is not an easy task.

“You can teach technique, but I look at it more as though one can teach writing the same way a director can direct an actor," Unger says. "You direct writing, you don’t teach it."

Continuing the analogy, Unger says, "The director oftentimes can’t tell the actor what to do and have the result be anything that is worthwhile on stage. The director has to do something to the actor that gets the results the director wants."

"I look at myself as having to do something to the writer or to the writing that gets the result that I think the young or developing writer should be working toward," he says.

The young writer needs determination and a good story to tell, but does not necessarily need "talent," Unger adds.

"I would like to take the word ‘talent,’ where writing is concerned, and kind of put it aside. It sounds as though this is some gift of the gods and some fairy godmother has waved a wand and this is a gifted person," he says. "I think there are people who have the ability not to know [talent], where writing is concerned, and not necessarily need it."

Both Wiley and Unger can tell their students a great deal about the frustrations of writing and about the need for perseverance.

Wiley, who describes himself as someone with "a little talent and a lot of tenacity," worked six years on Soldiers in Hiding, a book of 199 pages.

Returning to a way of life when he began submitting the finished manuscript to publishers, he was rejected about 25 times before it was finally published. "Then, it ends up winning a major fiction award, which means that a lot of publishers are full of it," Wiley says. "They’re just not really reading it or they’re too scared or they’re not really looking for something new."

"After Leaving the Land was rejected for the 16th time, Unger gave up. At the time, he was living in Washington state, so he decided to “patch together a living from gig-sitting for salmon and long-lining for dogfish, and doing pick-up teaching jobs.”

Then he was hired to work on a project for HBO that required him to travel to New York.

He was halfway down the muddy driveway that led from his trailer in the woods when he decided on a whim to take the manuscript with him to New York. He slugged back up the driveway, grabbed the manuscript, and threw it in the trash. One month later, he resubmitted the work. A couple of months later, it was accepted for publication.

"It opened when I least expected and least counted on it to happen," Unger says.

Both Wiley and Unger say that they don’t have to go looking for stories — the stories find them.

"I have certain moments that I know I want to have in the story, but the plot, by and large, and a lot of the characterization, comes out of the writing, not the other way around," Wiley says.

"I always have, before I begin, a setting and a little more fairly well-
STEVE CARPER, A BIOCHEMIST IN UNLV's chemistry department, is trying to find a cure for breast cancer. If he succeeds, a great deal of renown will come his way. But he is the first to say that the kind of work he is doing in his lab — as important as it is — would be impossible without the quiet achievements of scientists who do pure research.

Carper, who does applied research, is studying the way cells respond to stress. Although he is interested specifically in cancer cells, he explains that all cells — bacteria, plant, and human — are continually bombarded by various stresses, and they respond in very similar ways. These stresses might include an increase in temperature, exposure to drugs, or the lack of a nutrient in the environment.

When cells are stressed, by an increase of heat or otherwise, they respond by making so-called heat shock proteins, which help the cells survive future stresses, Carper explains. While different stresses cause cells to produce different sets of proteins, heat shock proteins are almost always present in stressed cells.

"All cells will produce these proteins, and they [the proteins] are all very similar to each other, so there must be something fundamentally important about them," Carper says. "This becomes clinically important when you consider that we use different kinds of stress to try to treat and eradicate cancer."

continued on page 10
Common cancer treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and hyperthermia. In the last two of these treatments, when the stress is sufficient, the cancer cells die.

"But some of the cells are left behind after these treatments, and they express stress proteins," Carper explains. "When they receive a second stress, they are better able to survive. Those cancer cells that can survive the stresses can eventually go on to kill the patient."

Carper points to a recent study of breast cancer patients in which the cancer had spread to their lymph nodes. Researchers found that those patients whose cancer cells expressed heat shock protein 27 (hsp 27) did worse clinically: their cancers came back sooner, and eventually go on to kill the patient.

"If we understood the function of that protein, we might be able to go in and knock out its function, which would make those cells more susceptible to chemotherapy," he says.

Carper’s work is funded by a $500,000, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health. He is collaborating with researchers in the department of surgery at the University of Wisconsin, where he spent three years doing post-doctoral cancer research before coming to UNLV in August 1991. He and his collaborators believe hsp 27 may be a valuable biomarker for breast cancer — and very possibly other cancers, as well.

A biomarker, he explains, is something that is biologically present in patients that either express or don’t express a certain protein that over-express hsp 27-producing cells and can be used to distinguish cancer patients from healthy ones. A biomarker can be used to monitor the growth or spread of the disease.

"Once we successfully get a human tumor to grow in a nude mouse, we can take as many as 10 million cells from that tumor and inject them into the nude mouse. The immune system will reject the tumor and express hsp 27 in mice known as a SCID (severe combined immunodeficiency) mouse, which has been given a human immune system. We can then test the immune system by injecting tumor cells into the mice."

Carper says, "If we understand the function of that protein, we might be able to go in and knock out its function, which would make those cells more susceptible to chemotherapy."

Says Carper, "In fact, each patient has slightly different medical problems that have allowed a cancer to arise. A slow-growing tumor may require one type of therapy, while a fast-growing one requires something different. If the physician only knew what type of tumor a patient has, he or she would be better able to choose the best treatment.

Carper and his collaborators have succeeded in isolating certain cells that can recognize hsp 27 and kill the cells that over-express the protein, without damaging other cells. This works with cell cultures growing in the lab, but Carper and his associates won’t be sure it is ready for clinical testing on human patients until tests are done using an animal model.

"The question is, will it work in an animal model in the same way," he says. "If it does, then we would be ready to go on with clinical trials in a couple of years."

Animal modeling is done with nude mice — that is, mice that have no functioning immune system and, incidentally, have no hair. Carper takes human breast cells that he has genetically engineered to express hsp 27, and puts them into the nude mice, where they grow tumors. He could not use regular mice, because their immune systems would recognize the implanted cells as foreign material and destroy them.

"Once we successfully get a human tumor to grow in a nude mouse, we can take as many as 10 million cells from that tumor and inject them into a slight variation of the nude mouse, known as a SCID mouse, which has been given a human immune system. We can then test the immune system by injecting tumor cells into the mice."

"If the answer is yes, we are ready to go to the FDA and say, ‘Look, it works in animals really well, and we’d like to try it in patients, because we think it would benefit them.’"

Although Carper’s work appears to the layman to border on the miraculous, he modestly refers to it as "cookbook science." To accomplish the fairly complicated process of genetically engineering cells, he uses "a variety of techniques that real scientists have developed and won Nobel prizes for." Real scientists! What? I’m doing very much applied science," he says. "The people who a lot of times don’t get the headlines are the scientists who do the basic research. They don’t get a lot of recognition, but it’s because of all their hard work that I’m able to come in and do all my research. They have gone ahead and made the path really clear and easy to follow."

Carper feels strongly about the value of pure scientific research.

"The stuff that I do, although it’s important, is sort of cookbook," he says. "I think the general public thinks science is fast, but it takes a long time to get all this stuff done. That’s why it’s important — often in ways that aren’t obvious. The pay-offs can be very large." There is a significant amount of uncertainty for scientists, Carper says. Unlike technology, in which the application of sufficient funding will result in a better car or a faster airplane, there are no such guarantees in science.

"In science, researchers are given money to do the best job they can," he observes. "Some may hit the pot of gold; others hit a brick wall. But you never know. The path to that brick wall may be very important to another researcher."

Carper admits that, in the grand scheme of things, hsp 27 might not be important. He hopes that he and his fellow researchers will be able to prove that hsp 27 is a good biomarker that clinics can use for screening patients. If he can figure out exactly what makes the protein protect cells, he may be able to develop a way of killing the cells that produce it. He may discover that hsp 27 is a key to the formation of all types of cancer.

"There may be some other protein that we’re not aware of now that is much more important than hsp 27. But at least we are developing the techniques, collecting the breast tissue, and developing the animal models. So if some smart guy comes along behind us, he can say, ‘You guys were doing pretty good, but if you did it this way. . . .’"
April 1992

1-10 Exhibit: "Annual Juried Student Show."] Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donn Bean Fine Art Gallery. 739-3993.

2 International Film Series: "Torrents of Spring." 7pm. Wright Hall 103, 597-INTL.

Softball: UNLV vs Cal Poly Pomona. 1pm. Lady Rebel Diamond. 739-3207.

2-12 University Theatre: "Too Close to the Sun." April 2 & 4-11, 8pm; April 5 & 12, 2pm. Black Box Theatre. 739-3801.

3 University Forum Lecture: "Philosophy and Computer Modeling of the Brain." Paul Churchland. 7:30pm. Wright Hall 116, 739-3401.

Softball: UNLV vs New Mexico State. 1pm. Lady Rebel Diamond. 739-3207.

3-5 University Dance Theatre: "Dance '92." April 3 & 4, 8pm; April 5, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 739-3801.

Baseball: UNLV vs Long Beach State. April 3, 7pm. April 4 & 5, 1pm. Barron Field. 739-3900.

6 Chamber Music Southwest: Master class with Robert Bluestone, classical guitarist. 12:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

7 Chamber Music Southwest: "Robert Bluestone -- Music for the Classical Guitar." 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

8 Concert: Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

9 International Film Series: "The Aviator's Wife." 7pm. Wright Hall 103, 597-INTL.

University Forum Concert: "Sixth Annual Home Concert." University Chamber Chorale. 7:30pm. Tam Alumni Center. 739-3401.

10 Women's Tennis: UNLV vs CS-Northridge. 1:30pm. UNLV Tennis Courts. 739-3207.

11 Festival: UNLV Fourth Annual Invitational Choral Festival. 9am & 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

Track & Field: UNLV Invitational. All day. Partridge Track. 739-3207.

Women's Tennis: UNLV vs Fresno State. 1pm. UNLV Tennis Courts. 739-3207.

Celebration: Earth Day. Booths, speakers, food & entertainment. For details, call 739-3877 or 798-2186.

12 Concert: "Judas Moutanenius; George Frederick Handel." Musical Arts Series, Orchestra & guest soloists. 3pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

May 1992

1-3 Baseball: UNLV vs Fresno State. May 1 & 2, 7pm. May 3, 1pm. Barron Field. 739-3900.

1-29 Exhibit: "UNLV Art Student BFA Exhibit." Weekdays, 8am-5pm. Tam Alumni Center. 739-3237.

2 Festival: Desert Winds Band Festival. All day. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3332.

3 Concert: UNLV Wind Ensemble. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

5 University Forum Lecture: "Japan-Soviet Relations In the Post-Cold War Era." Mayumi Itoh. 7:30pm. Wright Hall 103. 739-3401.

7 University Forum Lecture: "AZTEC: The World of Moctezuma." Jane Day. 8-9:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall lobby. 739-3401.

9 Softball: UNLV vs CS-Fullerton. 11am. Lady Rebel Diamond. 739-3207.

11 Concert: Nevada Symphony Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.


16 Concert: Kolloniti Concert. 7pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.
**May • 1992**

17 Graduation: Commencement. 1pm. Thomas & Mack Center.

18 Summer Session 1: Instruction begins.

21 Master Series: Billy Ameiling with the Alexander String Quartet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 739-3801.

25 Exhibit: "Private Collections/Public Viewing: The Graphic Medium." Call for firms. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 739-3893. (tentatively scheduled to run through Sept. 28)

31 Fall Semester 1992: Instruction begins.

**June • 1992**

8 Summer Session 2: Instruction begins.

**July • 1992**

13 Summer Session 3: Instruction begins.

31 Play: "Friday Knight at the Fights." 8pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 739-3801.

**August • 1992**

25 Exhibit: "New York Photographers of the Eighties." Weekdays. 8am-5pm. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 739-3893. (tentatively scheduled to run through July 26)

**September • 1992**


**October • 1992**

17 Football: UNLV vs. UNR. Detables TBA. Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. 739-3900.

31 Football: UNLV vs. San Jose State. Detables TBA. Sam Boyd Silver Bowl. 739-3900.

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**From the Campus to the Capitol**

UNLV alumnus Jerry Reynoldson helps shape environmental law as a legislative aide in the nation's capital.

**BY BARBARA CLOUD**

The first time I met Jerry Reynoldson, he was stirring a huge pot of chili over an open fire at Christmas Tree Pass, between Searchlight and the Colorado River. A group of university folk had trekked to the scene to do our bit for the Christmas spirit of the local wildlife by decorating the juniper trees with popcorn, cranberries, and crusts of bread.

Reynoldson, then a UNLV student, had been invited by his mentor and friend, political science professor Dina Tinaus. In his lumberjack plaid shirt, hunkered down beside the fire, Reynoldson looked right at home.

This image accompanied me as, four years later, I passed through high-tech security and found my way to his office on the third floor of the U.S. Senate's Hart Office Building in Washington, D.C.

How, I wondered, did I make it to this kind of work? And how I deal with people. I like working with the people who are involved in these issues — the forest service, BLM, and others. They are great issues, for me at least, being an outdoors person and concerned with the environment.

Reynoldson joined Reid's office on a full-time basis a year ago after serving as an intern there. (The internship was organized through UNLV's political science department.) Previously, he had served in the U.S. Army, attended the University of South Dakota, and then dealt poker and blackjack in Las Vegas casinos for about a dozen years.

Five years ago a broken wrist sidelined him from the gaming tables, and he decided to return to college to finish his bachelor's degree in political science. One course led to another. He graduated from UNLV in 1988 and went on to pursue a master's degree in the same program. He has since completed his coursework and thesis and expects to have his graduate degree in hand this May.

"I've always had this thing about political science," he says. "Back when I went to college the first time [at the University of South Dakota] I didn't really know how to apply political science in the real world, but I'm proving proof that you can.

Reynoldson says that before he went back to school, he was like most citizens, sitting around carping about the political process but feeling helpless.

"I always felt that if I could do anything about it or have some input close to where I could make a difference, I would. I always had it in the back of my mind that if I could work in this kind of capacity, I would — and it just worked out that way."

Reynoldson has been described as being adept at grassroots politics. "I was raised with rural kinds of people," he says, "and I suppose my roots reflect how I deal with people. I like communicating with them out there, listening to what they think about things."

But, he adds, referring to shepherding legislation on Capitol Hill, "This is the part of it I like the best."

The balancing of interests inherent in the political process intrigues Reynoldson. "Some of these issues don't have a clear cut right or wrong answer. There has to be a cooperative attitude. You can't look at the environment as something that's got to win and continue on page 21"
History in the Making

The first official history of UNLV will offer perspective on the "road we've traveled" — plus some colorful stories about the good old days, according to historian Bob Davenport.

BY SUSAN DIBELLA

A SMALL BAND OF NEVADA Southern University fraternity brothers — organized under the moniker of "Mills Marauders" after their leader, Chip Mills — plotted an elaborate strategy to steal a World War I cannon from the UNR campus in 1945. Their colorful caper failed just short of completion when a UNR security officer spotted them loading the cannon onto a trailer for transport. UNR's dean of students at the time, who seemed amused by the escapade, ordered the fraternity boys released — without the cannon, of course.

Though the attempted prank spanned the idea of a revolving trophy for athletic competition between the two schools, Mills' Marauders never gained much in the way of public notice for their mischievous effort to make a name for their small but burgeoning school to the south. Yet, the pranksters will finally gain their small share of notoriety when their story, along with a host of others from the past 35 years of campus life, will be told in UNLV's first official history.

Commissioned by the UNLV Alumni Association, the history is being researched and written by UNLV history professor Bob Davenport, himself a 27-year veteran of the university campus. "I have been here for nearly 30 years, and there are still so many things I never knew about this place," says Davenport, whose research specialty is Nevada history. He was granted a year's leave from teaching to research and write the book-length history.

Davenport has already finished writing a chronicle of the early years of the university, up to the dedication of Maude Frazier Hall in 1957; that period will form the first two chapters of his book on UNLV's history. (Davenport has since condensed those chapters into an article and submitted it to the Nevada Historical Society Quarterly for scholarly publication.)

The rest of the history, which Davenport is still writing, will include chapters on the university's early expansion of both the campus lands and programs, student life, during several notable periods, and each UNLV presidential administration.

Davenport hopes to paint a lively portrait of the campus, complete with spirited anecdotes about its people and events — like the one about the dedication of Frazier Hall. "The community was fascinated by the dedication," he says. "We had a thousand people standing out here in the dirt. The Masons were there, sprinkling water and corn for their ritual, and there was a quartet singing "Rock of Ages" in the background. The whole Boulder City High School Band was there, too. It was quite an event."

Another of Davenport's favorite anecdotes was the one about the 1955 theater department production that never made it to the stage. "Years ago, when they wanted to put on one of the first plays, they had a secretary typing up the scripts for the play. In those days, there were no Xerox machines, just typewriters and carbon paper. Well, she announced one day that the play was off because the typist had left school and taken the play with her. They asked if anybody knew her whereabouts and if they'd contact her because they couldn't hold the play without her. They never did have the play."

Davenport maintains that anecdotes of this type show how limited resources were in those days. But, more important, they add a personal touch to the past. During the research phase of the project, Davenport spent a sizable portion of each day in the James R. Dickinson Library's special collections department, where he pored through all available material on UNLV. He copied any pertinent information from UNLV's archives and conducted oral interviews with administrators, regents, faculty, and alumni from both ends of the state. He also used the student newspaper.

"I have just finished parsing 35 years of the Rebel Tell, the Tell, the UNLV Tell, the Annotated Tell, and the Tellin' Rebel, and now it's back to the Rebel Tell. It seems incredible to me that the name has been changed so many times through the years. This is a place that craves tradition, but the student newspaper hasn't had the same name for more than a few years at a time."

Despite its numerous name changes, the student newspaper has been a fabulous tip-sheet, according to Davenport. It has contained or led to many valuable stories. However, not all of the leads he has pursued have panned out. There was one engaging rumor from an interview that Davenport was disappointed to find untrue.

Though he plans to provide a thorough depiction of the nearly 40 years of university history, Davenport finds it important to weigh the value of each fact, anecdote, and statistic before including it in his manuscript. "It's not a decision of what to put in;
it's the decision of what not to put in that plagues historians. You just have to call it the way you see it."
Looking ahead to the completion of his project, Davenport says he has approached the University of Nevada Press in the hope that it will publish UNLV's history within the next year or so. He feels the time is definitely right for it.
After all, he points out, the last history of the University of Nevada System was published in 1974. "Even then, only about 15 percent of the text was devoted to UNLV."
Judging from the abundance of reference materials, photocopies, manuscript drafts, transcripts, and old photographs surrounding him, it won't be difficult to surpass that, he adds with a smile.

**A Tale of Two Authors**

continued from page 7

defined character," he says. "Then I'll have anywhere from a half dozen to a dozen or so moments — "touchdown points" — that I think the story will touch down on. Not scenes particularly. Maybe just a line.

"When I'm writing it, I follow it and see where it goes."

But where it goes is not the right direction.

"Sometimes you can spend a horrible amount of time going down what ultimately will be a dead-end street. Then you have to go all the way back. It can be pretty defeating," Unger says. "I have done it for as long as a year. You get kind of suicidal when you realize that it's no good.

Unger says that wrong turns are certainly not unknown to him. But rather than being a problem, they often are an integral part of the writing process. "I think you write at a story, and you think you know where you're going and what you're doing," he says. "But, if the novel's worth anything at all, by the time you're a certain distance into the whole process, you realize that everything's changed and the story has changed.

"You have to learn to live with those changes. You have to learn to throw what you think is your best work away and start over again.

"I don't think a novel is knowable until you've gone through the process of writing and rewriting at least three times," Unger says. "For me, it's a glacial process. It takes years.

He recalls the time that a fire destroyed half of a book he was writing. He went back to the first draft and started again. "I could just about see the pages of the lost draft in front of my face, and I tried to reconstruct them, but there was always something missing, something wrong."

Finally, he returned to Argentina for nine months to do additional research for the project before starting to write again.

When he sat down again and began rewriting, he took a whole new approach to the story. The new approach was so much better than the first that he now thinks he was lucky that one draft burned.

When a story is working, it propels itself along, Unger says. "But, then craft comes in and you have to know where to make it work when it doesn't want to.

"Once a story's working well, I think the author is the last person who should get in the way of it," Unger says. "The author should just let it happen."

**Books by Douglas Unger**


**Books by Richard Wiley**


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**Las Vegas mayor and university supporter**

**Jan Laverty Jones believes good humor and good leadership go hand in hand.**

**BY LISA STORY**

**While driving recently** with her children and her parents, Las Vegas Mayor Jan Laverty Jones was amused to hear her 12-year-old daughter's commentary on the adults' lively conversation.

"You all laugh a lot," her daughter observed.

"You'll laugh like that, too, the day you learn to laugh at yourself," the child's grandfather, and Jones' father, replied.

The mayor agrees heartily with her father's advice; it has been his wise counsel on the subject of laughter that has led her to develop what she considers one of her best traits — a sense of humor.

An energetic businesswoman and the first female mayor of Las Vegas, Jones possesses a sharp wit and a spirited laugh. But, despite her light hearted approach to life, she is very earnest about her job.

"I believe you should always take what you do very seriously, but you should never take yourself too seriously," she says.

One endeavor Jones is serious about is her support of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As members of the President's Inner Circle, she and her husband, Ted, have given UNLV $5,000 annually since 1988. She is also an active member of the UNLV Foundation's Board of Trustees, which governs the foundation and helps guide the university's academic fundraising efforts.

"I really believe in the UNLV Foundation and what it is trying to accomplish," says Jones, a Stanford University graduate. "I support Stanford as an alumna, but I'm much more active in soliciting monies for UNLV because the university affects the community in which I live."

Jones believes the university has undergone a metamorphosis over the past few years; she feels the goals she hoped to see UNLV attain when she joined the foundation have already been achieved.

"The institution has rebuilt its academic credibility, expanded and established several master's and doctoral programs, earned individual accreditation of some of the major schools, and created a real campus environment through the addition of more dorms," says Jones, whose oldest daughter is a freshman at UNLV. The only thing lacking at the university, according to the mayor, is a law school.

"We're losing a lot of our Nevada talent to law schools in other states," Jones says. She adds that a law school would not only enable Nevadans to study
in their home state, but would also increase the academic credibility of
the university.

As an elected official trying to change the perception of the city she
serves, Jones believes earning national respect for both the university
and the community is no laughing matter.

"I realized how different the reality of Las Vegas is far different from
what people perceive it to be. The university’s growing reputation
gives me something to showcase when I’m trying to prove those
perceptions wrong," Jones says. "With its improved academic
reputation, UNLV also encourages a high quality of people and
businesses to relocate to Southern Nevada, which gives the
university a real pool of talent to draw from.

In addition to supporting the university through the UNLV
Foundation, Jones has also guest lectured in business and the
community. As an elected official trying to prove her ability to
serve in a circumstance, you can lose yourself too seriously.
Jones insists light-heartedness and humor in check.

"I tell the students that success is not really how people perceive you,
but rather success is how you perceive yourself," Jones says. "In politics, I find
that is very important. If I base my decisions on everyone else’s perception of
what I’m doing, I’ll lose sight of my goals and objectives.

Once considered Jones a master
of the corporate world and the political arena
she values to this day.

With several years of management
experience under her belt, Jones
returned to the family business in 1976
as Thriftmart’s director of research and
development. In the early 1980s, Jones
moved to Las Vegas, married her second
husband, Fletcher “Ted” Jones, Jr., and
helped the growing company develop
the Fletcher Jones Management Group.
And, as the car dealership’s new
spokesperson, she became a television
commercial personality.

"Before the election, it didn’t matter
that people perceived me to be the dippy
blonde who did the commercials. I didn’t
care about it because I knew what I had
achieved in the corporation," Jones says
of her pre-campaign image. "I think people
intrinsically liked me and felt I was running
for the right reasons, but I had
to convince them I had the intelli-
gence to do the job."

During her bid for office, Jones
focused the public’s attention on her
business experience, and she presented a
much more conservative persona in the
Fletcher Jones television ads.

Since taking office last year, Jones has
not served as company spokesperson;
hers television commercial appearances
are now limited to public service
announcements for charitable organiz-
tions. She acknowledges that while
serving as an elected official, she must be
careful about the message she projects.

"It’s been one of the most difficult
things for me to realize because I love
to go laugh with others, and
I was running for the right reasons, but I
had to convince them I had the intelli-
gence to do the job."

The mayor’s staff often comments
about her ability to stay calm and
laughing even when things get tough.
Jones insists light-heartedness and
laughing are important tools in both the
business world and the political arena
because they keep her from taking
herself too seriously.

"If you get caught up in yourself or
in a circumstance, you can lose your
objectivity. When you lose your objecti-

vity, your decisions are going to be
affected," says Jones, who admits there are
times when she gets angry, especially
during heated discussions.

Although Reynoldson himself hopes
to come to a city like this.

"I have found hunting,
fishing, and backpacking opportunities in
the area, as well as a wealth of
museums and cultural events.

There are days when I long to be
in the Santa Rosas of northern Nevada,
where you can see for miles. But the
truth of the matter is, I’m really enjoying
this. And it’s not just because of the
work. There are museums, plays,
and other events on a continuous basis here.
I find myself going to museums
throughout downtown Las Vegas,
where they are looking over here at what
we come up with- and it’s day in and
day out from work."

The University grad urges
carefully about the message she projects.

"I feel very good about my UNLV
dergrees," Reynoldson says. "I guess
people who work very hard for a degree
probably feel good about it."

Reynoldson has served
UNLV from both sides of the classroom — as student
and as instructor, having worked as a
graduate teaching assistant while
holding

Reynoldson adds that sometimes he has
to be creative in his role as facilitator.

"You are looking over here at what
business people are doing, and then looking at
what you’re trying to accomplish. You’re
telling people to and trying to imagine
what it is that you can do that
can live with out there and what will
give everyone some mutual benefit. That
part is fun, and I hope I’m good at it."

Reynoldson admits that moving
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Working in a highly competitive
environment /* has its disadvantages though.
Reynoldson acknowledges that
having colleagues with degrees from
universities like Harvard and Princeton can
sometimes result in academic one
upsmanship. Reynoldson handles it all in
a forthright, easy-going manner.

"Oh, when people say things about
UNLV or Las Vegas, I just say, "Oh, you
shameless fool!" People want me to
be so smug and you just wonder why we can be
accomplished and more relaxed about it."

I just tell them to go visit where we’ve come
from and see for themselves.

UNLV alumnus Jerry Reynoldson

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from and see for themselves.
Paul B. Steffens, '66 BS Accounting, serves as a staff supply logistics officer for the U.S. Navy. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars, the Navy Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Battle E Ribbon, the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, and the Vietnam Service Medal. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Honolulu.

Thomas Wilson, Jr., '67 BS Accounting, is the assistant director of the Denver district of the IRS. Prior to his current appointment, he served as chief of the quality assurance division in San Francisco.

Thomas Brooker, '69 BS Accounting, is managing shareholder of the Las Vegas office of Kofsky, Dewmsey & Co. His wife, Angela DVincento Brooker, '68 BA History, teaches English at Chaparral High School.

Robert Cole, '70 BA Philosophy, is an attorney. His 1992 forecast can be read in the Del Horizon Yearbook.

Janice Fullman Jolley, '70 BA Spanish, married her high school sweetheart in November 1990 after rediscoversing him at a Las Vegas High School class reunion. She and Craig live in Sacramento, Calif.

Mary Campbell, '70 Mary Mortimer Campbell, '70 BS Education, is president of the Matrix Energy Corp. She lives in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Fred J. Samuels, '70 BS Hotel Administration, is the manager at the Hawaii Yacht Club in Honolulu.

Robert M. Wood, '71 BS Hotel Administration, was promoted to vice president of operations and general manager for the American Hotel in Atlanta in 1993. He also received his certified hotel administrator certificate in 1995. He is married to Anita Boemer Wood, '72 BS Business Administration, lives in Fayeville, Ga.

Malcolm Armot, '73 BA History, is a military colonel. He participated in Operation Down Storm and Operation Sea Angel while serving with the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Dorin J. Deckery, '73 BS Hotel Administration, is a vice president and beverage cost accountant at the Mirage. He is also pursuing a master's degree in business administration at UNLV.

Lee A. Gates, '74 BA Political Science, is a Clark County District Court judge. He spent several years in private law practice before becoming a judge. He is married to Yvonne Atkinson Gates, '78 BA Political Science and Communications Studies, '82 Master of Public Administration, who is a member of the Clark County School Board and is a research manager for Clark County's social services department.

Louise W. Creel, '74 MA English, wrote Star Machine Memory and Vide Poker Machine with her son, Dwight.

Patrick Ann Watten, '74 BA Economics, '77 MA Economics, has finished her doctoral work in financial economics at the University of California at Riverside and is now working on her dissertation.

Richard Wright, '74 BA Art, is a part owner of Gale Belyant Associates, a sales and marketing firm in NV.

Jon J. Clay, '75 BS Business Administration, is an independent partner with Timothy R. Mose & Associates in Las Vegas. He was formerly chief accountant with the Clark County Auditor's Office.

Phillip H. Haswell, '75 BS Engineering, is the nuclear engineering manager for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Athens, Texas.

Stephen W. Turner, '75 BS Education, has his own computer school in Reno and is a computer analysis consultant specializing in Microsoft products for Macintosh and DOS companies.

Janetti, '77 BS Finance, is the vice president of risk management at the Mirage Resorts, Inc. He is also president of GN&N Corp., an insurance subsidiary of the Mirage.

Jania Pettis, '77 BS Finance, serves as vice president of Service Roofing & Sheet Metal of Martinez, Va., until 1991 when he became president of Martin Service Roofing and Air Conditioning Co. of Ocala, Fla.

John Allen Hume, '79 BS Accounting, is currently practicing law at the firm of Nesert, Raile, and Hume in Las Vegas.

Honore Ribolla, '79 BS Master of Business Administration, recently returned from Japan, where he taught graduate accounting courses for the MBA program offered by Chapman College.

Randy DeLelles, '78 Randy DeLelles, '78 BA Music, '80 Master of Music, teaches elementary music for the Clark County School District. He also writes music for children. He travels throughout the U.S. as a workshop clinician and has given presentations in 21 states.

David Randel, '78 BS Hotel Administration, is director of marketing at Marriott's Orlando World Center, a Florida hotel and resort.

David Randel, '78

Timothy Shunahan, '78 BA English, served as vice president of Service Roofing & Sheet Metal of Martinez, Calif., until 1991 when he became president of Martin Service Roofing and Air Conditioning Co. of Ocala, Fla.

Joni Eulogio Perez, '79 BS Biology, is a resident physician in internal medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jodi Diana Randell, '79 BA Political Science, is an associate attorney at Fitzgeralds and Anderson in Las Vegas.

Alyeho Tai, '79 BS Hotel Administration, is manager of the Chung Shan hot Spring Golf Club in Hong Kong.

Kevin Kranp, '81

Kevin John Kranp, '81 BA Chemistry, works as a pharmacist for Payless Drug in Las Vegas. He received a degree in pharmacy from Idaho State University, from which he graduated with honors in 1990. While at Idaho State, he served as pharmacy class president and received several scholarships and awards.

Susan Bouldin, '82 BS Marketing, is sales manager at the Rio Suite Hotel and Casino.

Ralph J. Citizens, '82 BS Hotel Administration, is a sales executive for Mecher-Tucker Printing Co. in East Rutherford, N.J.

Kevin Kranp, '81

Linda Kay Jacobs, '82 BS Business Administration, has been promoted to director of police records for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

Mark J. Leonard, '82 BS Business Administration, recently formed his own law partnership, Leonard & Surnches, in Encino, Calif. He is licensed as an attorney in both Nevada and California.

Michael J. Small, '82 BS Accounting, joined the certified public accounting firm of O'Rearn, Dune & Co. as a partner after nine years as a senior tax manager at Deloitte & Touche.

Duff Williams Ester, '83 BS Chemistry, recently opened a cosmetic and general dentistry practice in Las Vegas. He earned his dentistry degree from the University of the Pacific where he was president of the dental honor society.

Adrienne Cassidily, '78 BS Hotel Administration, is chief concierge at the Ninaic Sheraton Hotel in Santa Monica, Calif.

continued on next page

Bill LaFollette, '83

Bill LaFollette, '83 BS Criminal Justice, is owner and president of Sierra Business Services in Caney City. His company specializes in workers' compensation and unemployment representation, insurance investigations, and business consulting. He previously served as director of operations for the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles.

We'd Like To Hear From You!

We would like to invite all UNLV alumni to submit information about themselves to Class for inclusion in the Class Notes section. Please fill out the form below completely, type or print clearly, and avoid abbreviations. Also, please supply home and office telephone numbers so we can reach you if there is a question about your entry. We encourage you to submit a black and white photograph of yourself to accompany your Class Notes entry.

Name:

Graduation Date:

Major:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone Numbers:

Home:

Office:

Career or Personal Information:

Additional Information:

Entries should be mailed to: Class Notes, University News and Publications, UNLV, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89101-1512.

Class Notes
Wit and Wisdom

continued from page 20

disadvantage to being the first female mayor of Las Vegas has been the excessive scrutiny of her actions.

"I really believe a man coming into this office would not have nearly the visibility in the media during the first six months that I have had," she says. "Many more people seemed to have been waiting to criticize my performance and make statements about my ability — or perceived lack of ability — to integrate effectively in a male structure."

The real challenge for Jones has not been dealing with public opinion, but rather the demands of her family. The mother of two teen-age stepkilds and three young children (aged 5 to 12), Jones says it is difficult for working mothers to reconcile their own personal goals and the needs of their families.

"You feel guilty all the time," Jones says, adding that kids often demand more from their mothers than from their fathers. "My children's focus is not on where Ted is or isn't. Their focus is on where I am."

Because of the demands our culture places on women, Jones believes there will be a long transition period before her daughters are on an equal playing field with men.

"Ninety-eight percent of the CEOs in this country have full-time wives. These men can work 60 or 70 hours a week because they have a structure at home that allows them to be singly focused," Jones says. "Women can do several things at one time because they have to — men don't. And that's one thing you better keep your sense of humor about."

Despite the challenge of balancing a successful career and family life, Jones seems to have unlimited energy and enthusiasm. Again, she credits her father for giving her the drive to succeed and an appreciation for laughter. She stands by his advice that in order to have a sense of humor, you have to be able to laugh at yourself.

"Until you can laugh at yourself in your own ridiculousness, you can't really move forward."
When you’re a “rising star” in higher education, what do you do for an encore?

How about building new physics, architecture, and classroom buildings; opening the nation’s only National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment; offering new Ph.D. programs in history, computer science, and civil engineering; winning national championships in music and athletics; and, of course, offering academic programs receiving national and international recognition?

Being named a “rising star of American higher education” by *U.S. News and World Report* has only made UNLV work harder to keep pace with an ever-growing population of young scholars.

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