

4-2009

Inside UNLV

Shane Bevell

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Diane Russell

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, diane.russell@unlv.edu

Michelle Mouton

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Gian Galassi

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv



Part of the [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Construction Engineering Commons](#), [Curriculum and Social Inquiry Commons](#), [Educational Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Commons](#), [Environmental Design Commons](#), [Higher Education and Teaching Commons](#), [Natural Resources and Conservation Commons](#), [Other Education Commons](#), and the [Radiochemistry Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Bevell, S., Russell, D., Mouton, M., Galassi, G. (2009). Inside UNLV. *Inside UNLV*

Available at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/inside_unlv/46

This Newsletter is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Newsletter in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Newsletter has been accepted for inclusion in Inside UNLV by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.

Write Now!

If you've been planning to write your legislators concerning the higher education funding crisis, you'd better get to it. Important decisions are about to be made. To find out who represents you in Carson City, go to unlv.edu/budget.

News You Can Use

Energy Panel Discussion Scheduled for April 16

UNLV's Institute for Security Studies (ISS) will host a panel discussion April 16 on America's long-term access to global energy supplies in the midst of global conflict.

The discussion, titled "Minimizing the Impact of Conflict on U.S. Energy Security," will feature a panel of regional and national energy policy and political experts, including:

- Tyrus W. Cobb, CEO of the Northern Nevada Network
- Ted Robert Gurr, distinguished professor emeritus at the University of Maryland, College Park
- Dennis Pirages, Dean's Professor of Government, department of political science, UNLV

The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place 6-8 p.m. at the Atomic Testing Museum, 755 E. Flamingo Road.

More info: Contact Nancy Brune, ISS director of research and outreach, at 939-4659 or at nancy.brune@unlv.edu or go to iss.unlv.edu.

\$89 Million and Counting

UNLV Officials Strive Diligently to Save Money

By **Diane Russell** | Marketing & PR

Just as families are looking for ways to trim their spending — a scaled-back cable television package here, buying a used car rather than a shiny new one there — UNLV has been searching for ways to reduce its bills. But when UNLV looks for ways to spend less — and Gerry Bomotti is in charge of the hunt — we're talking millions saved.

In the last few years, UNLV has slashed its spending by \$89 million.

Some of it was particularly painful, as when a number of employees didn't have their contracts renewed, but some of it was done with little or no negative impact to the campus community, particularly in the area of facilities.

Proud of Award

Bomotti, senior vice president of finance and business, takes particular pride in the facilities management department's recent award from the Nevada Taxpayer Association. The Cashman Good Government Award is the group's highest honor and is given for

> See **MONEY**, Page 3



Turf reduction, seen during and after, has reduced UNLV's water consumption by 45 million gallons a year.



Reid Center Reorganizes

Efficiency Efforts Save Dollars as Research Funding Fluctuates

By **Shane Bevell** | Marketing & PR

With all eyes on Washington lately, most people know of Harry Reid. Oliver Hemmers wants to make sure the campus is just as familiar with what goes on inside the UNLV building named after the Senate majority leader.

Hemmers took over as executive director of the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies in November and immediately changed the center's focus. The result has been greater efficiency and the ability to retain staff as research dollars fluctuate. Last fall, funding for some of the center's divisions had dried up, and 12 people were in jeopardy of losing their jobs. Hemmers reorganized the center in a way that made it possible to avoid layoffs.

Nearly all of the center's funding comes from federal grants, particularly from the Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service. The center houses labs for its researchers as well as professors from across

Oliver Hemmers

Hemmers is the executive director of the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies as well as the director of the office of strategic energy programs. He received his Ph.D. in physics from the Technical University of Berlin, Germany and has been at UNLV since 1994.

Over the past 10 years, Hemmers has been directly involved on research projects totaling more than \$6 million. He currently manages a multi-year, multi-million dollar biodiesel project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.



Virginia Tech, and Michigan State. Last year, the program conducted more than \$3 million in

> See **CENTER**, Page 2

Question Corner



What is "UNLV Official" e-mail and who controls it?

UNLV Official e-mail is reserved for messages that

are so important every member of the campus community should read them. That's why you can't opt out of receiving them. Routine announcements should be submitted to *UNLV Today*, a daily digest you can opt in and out of at any time.

The responsibility for selecting and sending out UNLV Official e-mails rests with the campus's vice presidents and deans. Each VP or dean — or a designee — decides which messages merit "UNLV Official" status.

UNLV Today messages are submitted by people across campus. The office of marketing & public relations then reviews the messages to ensure they follow general content guidelines.



More info: Go to facultystaff.unlv.edu/unlvtoday for *UNLV Today* submission guidelines and instructions. To send a UNLV Official message, contact your vice president or dean's office.

Got a burning question?

We've got an answer. Each month, *Inside UNLV* will answer a question of interest to the general campus community. Submit your question to inside@unlv.edu.

Today’s Actions Will Provide Long-Term Benefits

Activities in the Nevada Legislature continue to be at the forefront of campus concerns. The uncertainty tied to the budgeting process has made it difficult to provide the concrete information we all desire. We have used the budget website, town halls, and this column to share what we do know. I hope that soon we will have more definitive information on UNLV’s budget.

Regardless of the final numbers, however, I do believe that UNLV will be a stronger university after this crisis.

We will have a framework for building upon our strengths. We currently have 364 positions vacant, including more than 90 faculty positions. This gives us flexibility to respond to the current changes in state revenue. Short term, this has resulted in increasing workloads and class sizes — things that are not beneficial. Long term, however, I believe we will be positioned to build and strengthen key areas. As our economy recovers and we secure additional resources, our strategic plan will guide our growth.

We will have formed new partnerships. The current budget situation has forced us out of the status quo. On the academic side, for example, we recently introduced our first joint Ph.D.



David Ashley | UNLV President

program with UNR (in public health); I do not believe such a partnership would have been embraced as strongly if both universities were flush with funding.

Educational outreach has been very entrepreneurial in expanding online course offerings and working with local businesses to develop much-needed training programs. (As an aside, the division has been very helpful in creating opportunities for the part-time instructors who were cut from the state budget.)

In the future, you will also see more public-private partnerships when we build facilities. More than ever, we recognize the benefits of forming such partnerships.

We will have stronger advocates for higher education. The crisis heightened the awareness of alumni, legislators, donors, business leaders, and the campus community about higher education’s pivotal role in strengthening Southern Nevada. I am proud to say that K-12 and higher education are strong allies, and the interdependency and mutual necessity of both is now a part of the discussions about the future prosperity of the state. The crisis also created lifelong advocates for UNLV within our own student body; I have been very impressed with the way students have engaged in the budget debate.

We will address funding inequities. Education has been a victim as long as anyone can remember to the swings of budget cycles. One of our primary legislative goals is to get approval for a study of the state’s higher education funding. In addition to funding stability, the study would address inequities among the state’s public institutions as well as the disparity between our funding and our mission. I believe the crisis has created resolve within our leaders to act on these tough issues and to place education at the top of the state’s priority list.

More info: For more budget information, including a recently updated FAQ section, go to unlv.edu/budget.

> CENTER

Continued from Page 1

sponsored research.

The center’s largest research program is the Transmutation Research Program, an ongoing nuclear fuel recycling project that has received approximately \$28 million in funding from the DOE since 2001.

The center’s environmental program conducts research related to understanding the environment and its stewardship, focusing on Southern Nevada. Last year the center conducted 23 cultural and environmental research projects with budgets totaling several million dollars.

Working in Silos

Before Hemmers reorganized the center, it was divided into eight divisions, including:

- Analytical chemistry
- Cultural resource management
- Environmental assessment
- Microbiology
- Nuclear science and technology
- Quality assurance
- Conferencing and training
- Marjorie Barrick Museum.

According to Hemmers the divisions literally divided the groups, creating silos that left each group vulnerable if funding decreased.

That would mean UNLV would lose key researchers whose skills were needed, and sometimes easily transferable, to other research projects, he said.

So, Hemmers eliminated the divisions and reorganized staff around three major program areas:

- Renewable energy
- Radiochemistry and nuclear engineering
- Cultural and environmental sciences.

The Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, a source of

information concerning cultural history of the American Southwest, is part of the cultural and environmental sciences program area.

The change allows researchers to collaborate on multiple projects at the same time.

“The center is now operating far more efficiently in terms of personnel and budget,” said Ron Smith, vice president for research and graduate studies and the person to whom Hemmers reports. “It is saving money and doing more with the money it has.”

Providing Assistance

Hemmers’s next goal is to involve more UNLV faculty members in the center as principal investigators. Some projects can get too large for individual academic departments and the center can provide additional administrative support and infrastructure, he said. This is where the Harry Reid Center comes in — helping with purchases and contracts, interacting with the office of sponsored programs, and providing research space.

This is especially true for projects that involve multiple colleges. For example, a biofuels algae proposal

that the center recently submitted to the DOE brought together researchers from the colleges of Sciences, Engineering, and Urban

Affairs and from the Institute for Security Studies.

Smith credits Hemmers and associate executive directors Craig Palmer and Tony Hechanova for their leadership and vision during the transition. Palmer coordinates the environmental projects while Hechanova coordinates the nuclear waste recycling program.

“We are already starting to see additional grants come in that we never expected,” Smith said.

Invent the Future

Little Gifts, Big Future

By Michelle Mouton | UNLV Foundation

The big gifts may make the headlines, but the little ones add up, too.

Faculty and staff have played an important role in the success of the campaign both by volunteering time and making contributions.

In 2008, more than 220 faculty and staff members contributed to programs, scholarships, and the annual fund. One goal of the Invent the Future campaign is to involve more individuals, including faculty and staff, in the life of the campus.

Employee giving exceeded \$221,500 last year. Throughout the campaign, faculty and staff giving has reached more than \$4 million, including gifts designated through estate plans such as wills and trusts.

These contributions are benefiting all areas of the campus, and every gift counts. “A lot of little dollars come together to work in mighty ways,” said Kristene Fisher, a donor and executive director of the office of the vice provost for academic affairs. “I know that I’m part of a larger community that makes things happen.”

Terrence Clauretie, a professor in the department of finance, said that employees giving their time and supporting the university through their work is important, but so is giving back when they can. “I just have a desire to give back to the university and the community,” he said. “I’ve been fortunate to have a good career in academe, and so it’s a good way to give back.”

Recognizing Donors

A recognition social for all faculty and staff donors will take place 2-4 p.m. April 16 at the Metcalf Art Gallery in the Tam Alumni Center.

More info: Contact Patrice Mickens, development officer for annual giving, at ext. 5-2821.

The annual Holiday Card Tree fund primarily is supported by faculty and staff gifts. This program raised \$6,425 — a record amount — in 2008 for an endowment that funds multiple student scholarships each year.

Professional development funds for staff also are supported by contributions from faculty and staff and provide numerous opportunities for employees to gain skills and expertise in areas relevant to their careers. Campus community members also can choose to designate their gift to a program or college, and many of those contributions go a long way to building the foundation for a stronger university.

“We’re grateful for the support of our faculty and staff because it’s important to the quality of the university,” said Christina Kawai, director of annual giving at the UNLV Foundation. “Their support demonstrates an investment in UNLV and provides a base of giving for others.”

Inside UNLV

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

Editor: Diane Russell, diane.russell@unlv.edu
Associate Editor: Shane Bevell
Writers: Gian Galassi, Michelle Mouton
Photographers: Geri Kodey, Aaron Mayes, R. Marsh Starks

Inside UNLV is a monthly publication by the office of marketing & public relations.
UNLV is an AA/EEO Institution.

the most efficient use of taxpayer money in the state. It was given to the UNLV department for having saved \$11 million since 2001 through sustainable practices (see “Taxpayer Group,” this page). “That’s an independent taxpayers’ group not linked to a governmental body verifying that our facilities management department has realized substantial savings for Nevada’s citizens by looking for and implementing ways to be more efficient,” Bomotti said.

Savings Beyond Facilities

While last year’s efforts got some outside recognition, cost-cutting measures are ongoing. “This isn’t something new we are doing just because of the state’s current budget problems,” Bomotti noted. “It’s our job to be good stewards of the taxpayers’ money — in good times and in bad.”

This year, however, extra effort is

Taxpayer Group Rewards UNLV’s Thrifty Ways

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

Teamwork. That’s what allowed UNLV’s facilities maintenance department to save nearly \$11 million since 2001, according to Harold “Arch” Archibald, executive director of facilities management.

The facilities team garnered the Cashman Good Government Award, the highest honor given to public programs by the Nevada Taxpayers Association.

“No one person here earned that award for UNLV,” he said. “It took hard work by everyone in my department. “It’s particularly nice to receive it now when the budget for higher education in Nevada is coming under such scrutiny. This shows Nevadans that UNLV employees are working hard to try to save the taxpayers money.”

Examples of UNLV’s efficiency strategies that were

cited by the association include:

- Converting more than 855,000 square feet of turf to water-smart landscaping at a savings of up to 45 million gallons of water each year.
- Reducing campus water use by 45 percent despite near-constant growth.
- Reducing electricity and natural gas use by 38 percent per square foot.

“Don’t think we’re stopping our efforts now that we’ve won the award,” said Archibald, whose unit was reduced to about 260 employees over the last two years because of budget cuts. “My staff and I are always looking at changes we can make that will save money.”

The association also praised the xeric demonstration garden and the Rebel Recycling program, which recycled more than 697 tons of material in 2008.

“This shows Nevadans that UNLV employees are working hard to try to save the taxpayers money.”

Harold Archibald,
executive director of facilities management

being made to identify potential efficiencies and cuts, he said.

And it’s not just Bomotti’s staff who are looking for ways to

save money. All vice presidents and deans have been given target amounts by which they are expected to reduce their budgets.

And facilities maintenance continues to look for ways to increase efficiency in areas such as utility costs.

student information system that will include admissions, advising, registration, and all student support activities through graduation.

More Ways We’re Saving Money

Among the cost savings UNLV has achieved during the past couple of years are:

- \$9.8 million by holding open 97 faculty positions (about 10 percent).
- \$5.7 million by holding open 70 (about 16 percent) of the state-paid professional staff positions.
- \$4.3 million by holding open 85 (about 11 percent) of the state-paid classified positions.
- \$3.52 million achieved by the Finance and Business Division by eliminating or not filling 42 positions and reducing operating expenses by \$573,000.
- \$1.5 million saved by not filling positions, retasking positions, or appointing an internal person. One example is the combining of the dean positions for the colleges of Allied Health and Nursing.
- \$1 million by modifying cleaning schedules. Cuts focused on non-common area tasks, such as reducing the trash pickup in individual offices to twice per week from five times per week.

Sustainability Links

Many of these efforts tie in well with UNLV’s commitment to sustainability, Bomotti pointed out. The “paperless” push that did away with paper payroll checks at the end of 2008 is one example.

Facilities now is testing an automated leave-reporting system and the university is researching an automated travel system.

Another improvement in automation will come with the new iNtegrate system that UNLV is pilot testing for the NSHE. iNtegrate is a modern, automated

Legislative Watch

Right now, of course, Bomotti and his staff are among the folks on campus who are spending a good part of their time working on issues involving the Legislature.

“We’re working with legislators, providing them facts and figures they need as they work with the state budget,” he said.

Bomotti said the hope is that lawmakers will recognize UNLV’s vigilance in pursuing cost savings and will fund the university sufficiently to maintain its mission.

“Sometime early this month, we hope to know more about the Legislature’s budget plans for all state agencies,” he said.

Fundraising Cain: Teeing it Up for a Good Cause

By Gian Galassi | Public Affairs

If you’ve ever played a full round of golf, you know the body starts to tire a bit somewhere around the 15th hole. So imagine playing 1,000 holes of golf ... consecutively ... in just 12 hours.

That’s exactly what Christopher Cain, UNLV’s PGA golf management director, and Brian Esposito, founder of Par For The Cure, plan to do May 1 at the Las Vegas Golf Club. It’s not just some display of athletic bravado; it’s all for a good cause — two, really. And they need your help.

Their quest, aptly named 1,000 Holes of Golf, is raising funds to benefit the UNLV PGA golf management program and Par For The Cure.

“Setting such an ambitious goal attracts attention to our effort, which will ultimately help us reach our goal of increasing exposure for the golf management program and for our program’s support for breast cancer research,” Cain said.

Cain is no stranger to reaching ambitious goals on the golf course. In 2002, while serving as the golf professional at Penn State University, he played 505 holes in 12 hours. It was, at the time, a record-breaking feat. This time, though, Cain acknowledges that he is not in quite the same shape he was back then.

“The experience I gained from playing the 505 holes in 12 hours will hopefully outweigh the seven years of age difference and slightly different conditioning techniques this



Christopher Cain, UNLV’s PGA golf management director, takes a practice swing as he prepares to shoot 1,000 holes of golf in just 12 hours. He’ll be joined by Brian Esposito, founder of Par for the Cure, in this endeavor. Funds raised will be donated to the golf management program and Par for the Cure, which sponsors cancer research.

time around,” he said. “The event is extremely demanding because a premium is placed on accurate shot making, all while maintaining speedy performance.”

Speedy is the operative word here.

Consider this: an average 18-hole round of golf takes four to four-and-a-half-hours with the use of a golf cart. Cain and Esposito will need to be on pace to play an 18-hole round in 24 minutes — that’s about 80 seconds a

hole. In the end, they will have covered 100 miles of greens and fairways (and hopefully not too much sand).

 **More info:**
Go to 1000holesofgolf.com.

Academic Success Center Workshops Target Students Struggling Academically

Faculty and staff members are asked to encourage students — especially those on probation or in academic peril — to sign up for an April 22 workshop to help students understand and improve their grade point averages.

The center received positive responses from students who participated in workshops earlier this semester

Starting fall semester, these workshops will be required for students with undeclared majors who are on probation, and will be offered to colleges for their students on probation.

More info: Contact Anne Hein at ext. 5-0663.

Life Skills Skits Help Athletes Improve Decision Making

A series of skits depicting life skills issues was presented to UNLV's student-athletes and to members of the athletic staff in February thanks to the collaborative effort of the student-athlete academic services (SAAS) department, theatre department, and the College of Fine Arts Advising Center.

The CHAMPS/Life Skills Theatre featured undergraduate actors from the theatre department playing the roles of student-athletes involved in more than 30 life skills issues.

Audience members interacted with the performers to choose the endings of the skits, while campus resource experts led discussions about consequences of the actions depicted.

Theatre professor Rayme Cornell recruited the actors, while Aaron Tuttle from the Fine Arts Advising Center organized the event with SAAS.

A Target Campus Grant made the event possible. Also supporting the event were the Jean Nidetch Women's Center, the Rebel Wellness Zone, counseling and psychological services, the NCAA compliance office, the office of student conduct, and the campus police department.

Business Messier Named Outstanding Auditing Educator

Professor William F. Messier has been named 2009 Outstanding Auditing Educator by the auditing



Print to Screen

Award-winning novelist Russell Banks, left, and writer and actress Guinevere Turner trade comments during a Black Mountain Institute at UNLV event last month. The topic was the challenges of adapting books for the big screen. The institute presents distinguished speakers and writers who specialize in literature, politics, social issues, and international affairs.

section of the American Accounting Association.

Messier, who holds the Kenneth and Tracy Knauss Endowed Chair in Accounting, was recognized for his exemplary research and teaching over more than a decade, as evidenced by publications, educational innovations, guidance to graduate and undergraduate students, and excellence in teaching.

He also holds the Pricewaterhouse Coopers Professor II in the department of accounting, auditing and law at the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration and has held a visiting appointment at SDA Bocconi in Italy. He received his doctorate from Indiana University in 1979 and began as an assistant professor at the University of Florida. Before coming to UNLV, he was a faculty member at Georgia State University.

Messier is a past editor of *Auditing: A Journal of Practice &*

Theory. He also served as president of the auditing section of the American Accounting Association and as the academic member of the Auditing Standards Board. He also is the winner of the association's 2008 Distinguished Service Award.

Dental Clinic Gives 200 Kids Something to Smile About

More than 150 dental students, faculty, and local dentists provided free care to more than 200 children during the American Dental Association's seventh annual "Give Kids a Smile."

Participants received free services, including X-rays, restorative dental care, cleanings, and advanced dental treatment at the School of Dental Medicine.

The event was cosponsored by the school and many community partners.

More info: Go to sndsonline.org.

Memorial Clinic Helps Veterans Get Free Dental Care

A dental clinic honoring a U.S. Army soldier who died in Iraq is helping Nevada's veterans receive dental care.

For people who do not qualify for Medicaid and cannot afford dental insurance, the Sergeant Clint Ferrin Memorial Clinic has been held twice at the dental school. So far, 53 veterans have received more than \$21,000 in treatment.

Sgt. Clint Ferrin, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, died in 2004. His brother, UNLV dental student John Ferrin, a second lieutenant in the National Guard, saw a need to provide dental care to Nevada Army National Guard soldiers who were not eligible for deployment because of dental disease. The clinic, which began in July for soldiers of the Nevada Army National Guard, since has been expanded to treat all veterans.

Education School Psychology Degree Receives Stamp of Approval

The department of educational psychology recently received word that its Ed.S. degree in school psychology has again been granted full approval by the Program Approval Board of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP).

This is the highest level of national recognition available for specialist-level school psychology programs. The Ed.S. degree is the entry-level degree for practice as a school psychologist, involving one year of post-master's graduate coursework and a full academic year internship.

NASP describes its program approval/national recognition as an important indicator of quality graduate education, with comprehensive content and extensive and properly supervised field experiences, as

Sciences Rising Star Receives NSF Award

Innovative research to make organic solar cells more efficient has earned chemistry professor Dong-Chan Lee a prestigious CAREER award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineers beginning their careers.

Lee will receive \$484,000 over five years to research new organic n-type semiconductor nanomaterials.

"In order for us to overcome our current and future energy challenges, we need to improve the technologies we use to harness our vast solar resources," Lee said. "Optimizing the efficiency of organic solar cells through synthetic chemistry will be a significant step toward expanding our current energy portfolio. I am grateful to the National Science Foundation for recognizing my potential to help accomplish that goal."

Lee's research seeks to address two of the most limiting factors in organic solar cell performance: scarcity

of useful n-type molecules and challenges in controlling nanostructure morphologies.

The grant includes an educational outreach component. Lee plans to partner with the Clark County School District to provide summer internships in his lab for Basic High School students and to launch a summer research program for high school science teachers. He also will recruit, train, and mentor several graduate and undergraduate students from the College of Sciences.

"Dong-Chan's outstanding research program offers the promise of more efficient energy use for Nevada and the nation," said Wanda Taylor, interim dean of Sciences. "UNLV students are fortunate to find such an accomplished and dedicated scientist in their classroom."

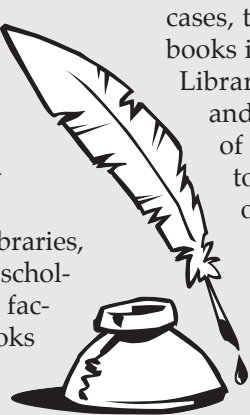
Lee joins professors Brian Hedlund and Frank Van Breukelen from the School of Life Sciences and Chulsung Bae from the chemistry department as the fourth CAREER Award recipient at UNLV in as many years.

Libraries
UNLV Author Celebration
Set for April 14

Faculty members will be honored at the seventh annual Celebration of UNLV Authors at 2 p.m. April 14 in the extended study area of the Lied Library. Hosted by University Libraries, this event celebrates the scholarly accomplishments of faculty members whose books were published in 2008.

President David B. Ashley will be the special guest speaker. All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend.

“This event provides important recognition for our campus



colleagues and their works,” said Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of University Libraries. “In many cases, the research for these books is done in the University Libraries, using our resources and materials. We are proud of the Libraries’ contribution to the research mission of our university and its role as intellectual commons for the campus.”

During the last seven years, University Libraries has recognized hundreds of faculty authors.

More info: For a listing of UNLV authors since 2002, go to library.unlv.edu/external or call Patrick Griffiths at ext. 5-2231. The 2008 honorees’ names soon will be added to the website.

judged by trained national reviewers. Graduates from approved programs are automatically eligible to apply for the National Certificate in School Psychology.

Engineering
Students Compete in
Programming Challenge

The student chapter of the Association for Computer Machinery (ACM), coached by faculty member Lawrence Larmore, competed in the ACM regional Programming Competition, narrowly missing a chance to advance to the national competition.

Members of 53 teams from across the country competed in solving seven programming problems in five hours. Teams were not allowed to use electronic devices or cell phones to arrive at their solutions. However, they were allowed one computer per team to assist them. Scoring was based on how many problems each team completed and how much time they used.

Members of the team, called the Reapifiers, were Talin Salway, Sean Kau, and Scott Miller. All three plan to compete in next year’s challenge.

Fine Arts
Composers Come to Campus

The music department will host NEON, Nevada Encounters of New Music, April 7-12. The composers’ symposium and festival, now in its third year, offers four days of intensive activities, including concerts, lectures, private lessons, and master classes. This program combines active learning with enriching exposure to new music.

Enchanted Evenings in April

The Performing Arts Center (PAC) welcomes Roman Viazovskiy as part of the Classical Guitar Series on April 23. Viazovskiy released his second CD in 2007 and debuted it at the Moscow Philharmonic’s Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.

On April 25, the PAC presents Neil Berg’s “100 Years of Broadway.” Like speed dating for Broadway lovers, this musical revue takes the audience through a century of Broadway in just one evening. The program includes “Some Enchanted Evening” (*South Pacific*), “Think of Me” (*Phantom of the Opera*), and “All That

Jazz” (*Chicago*).

For ticket information, call ext. 5-2787.

Graduate
New Degree Programs,
Certificates Approved

During the past year, two new degree programs and several graduate certificate programs have been approved.

These include:

- Ph.D. in environmental and occupational health
- Master of science degree in oral biology from the School of Dental Medicine
- Graduate certificate in accounting
- Graduate certificate in community mental health offered by the department of counselor education
- Graduate certificate in management information systems

- Graduate certificate in finance
- Business administration graduate certificate in management
- Business administration certificate in new venture management
- Advanced specialty program certificate in pediatric dentistry.

Honors
Students to Host Jane Austen Ball

Jane Austen’s resurgence in popularity is not limited to the worlds of literature and film, but has extended to the Honors College as well.

The college’s 400-level seminar on Austen will culminate with a Jane Austen Ball on May 8.

Professor Maria Jerinic said the students, who read six of Austen’s works as part of the seminar, were enthusiastic about learning in depth about both the author and her books.

“Our Jane Austen seminar meant the world to me,” said student Mary Catania. “Dr. Jerinic combined a passion for the material with an incredible degree of scholastic expertise. In doing so, she allowed all of us to keenly express our love and admiration for Austen and at the same time exposed us to her depth and continued relevance.”

More info: For current and past Honors seminar listings, go to honors.unlv.edu.

Faculty, Students Present
at Regional Conference

College staff recently attended the annual Western Regional Honors Council (WRHC) in Spokane, Wash.

The conference, which focused on preservation, sustainability, and renewal from both environmental and academic standpoints, was hosted by Washington State University at the historic Davenport Hotel.

Presentations by students and faculty focused on what honors colleges and programs could do to help students and institutions “go green.”

UNLV’s Honors College is a member of the WHRC and the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Law
Students Study
Employment Discrimination

Students and professors at the Boyd School of Law are concerned with legal doctrine as well as with “law on the ground,” the practical, real-world effects of legal rules and decisions.

An example is a class co-taught recently by Boyd professor Ann McGinley and professor Mitu Gulati of Duke University School of Law on “Employment Discrimination: Dress and Appearance Regulation in the Casino Industry.”

A 2006 federal court decision involved a suit by a female bartender who alleged that her Nevada casino employer committed illegal sex discrimination when it fired her for refusing to adhere to the casino’s appearance policy by wearing make-up. Although the court ruled against the bartender, it stated that appearance policies can be illegal under certain circumstances if they impose unequal burdens on men and women or impermissibly sex-stereotype female employees. It was widely predicted that the decision would lead to changes in casino appearance policies and staffing patterns.

The professors and their students are testing these predictions. Under the professors’ direction, the law students visited casinos, interviewed casino workers, and talked with attorneys and casino executives. Students then wrote papers

> See **ACROSS CAMPUS**, Page 6



Here Comes the Sun

The Amonix 7700, a new photovoltaic system at the Center for Energy Research, is the world’s largest and most powerful solar generator, according to the company. Professor Bob Boehm, the center’s director, said the photovoltaic system is capable of converting as much as a quarter of incoming sunlight for power generation. The center will be studying the Amonix 7700 to test its reliability, accuracy of aim, and temperatures generated.



> **Diane Sessions** (Student Accounts) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for February. She worked part time at UNLV during registration for about nine years before joining the staff full time in 1996. Among her duties is billing third parties for tuition payments. (An example would be a company that is paying for an employee to attend UNLV.) She also works closely with several departments handling employee grants-in-aid.

> **Tiffany Schmier** (Honors) presented “Great Expectations: Meeting the Needs of Today’s Honors Student” at the National Academic Advising Association’s region 9 conference at the Tropicana Hotel. **Lisa Chastain** (Honors) created the presentation, which was selected as Best in State at the Nevada State Academic Advising Drive-In Conference last year. It highlighted the cross-campus and inter-campus communication model the college uses to best serve its students.

> **William Sullivan** and **Keith Rogers** (CAEO) presented U.S. Rep. **Dina Titus**, who is on leave from her job as a UNLV political science professor, with the prestigious Educational Pioneer Award during the 2009 National TRiO/GEAR UP Day celebration at the Rio Hotel in February. The center annually recognizes individuals for their participation in community efforts and for going “above and beyond” to support higher education for low-income and first-generation students. Also recognized for their academic and personal achievements were 13 outstanding TRiO and GEAR UP honorees, both current program participants and alumni.

> **Erika Engstrom** (Communication Studies) wrote an article, “Creation of a New ‘Empowered’ Female Identity in WETv’s *Bridezillas*,” which appears in the winter 2009 issue of *Media Report to Women*.

> **Tom Sommer** (Libraries) has been invited to address the 2009 joint annual meeting of the Council of State Archivists and the Society of American Archivists in August. Sustaining archives has become more important in recent years because of the changing expectations of local and global audiences. His paper is titled “UNLV Special Collections: Expanding Our Reach and Use in the 21st Century.” It will focus on the history of Web 2.0 and how the UNLV Special Collections Division is addressing the current needs of researchers via digital management software, search boxes, blogs, and virtual exhibits.

> **DeeDee Roberts** (Registrar) was named a classified employee of the month in the administrative category for February. An admissions and records assistant III, she has worked at UNLV since 2006.

> **Glenn Casale** (Theatre) recently received the Board of Regents’ Award for Creative Activity. This award, which was established in 1993, recognizes significant accomplishments that bring recognition, as well as national and international stature, to the Nevada System of Higher Education. The recipient receives a \$5,000 stipend and a medal.



> **Dave Loeb** (Music) served as guest conductor of the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra in February. The program included the notoriously difficult third movement of Rachmaninoff’s “Second Piano Concerto,” played by Otto Ehling, one of UNLV’s jazz studies students and a Liberace scholarship recipient. Ehling received a standing ovation at the event at the Long Beach Arena that was attended by more than 5,000 people. Additionally, Loeb conducted his arrangement of “Climb Every Mountain” for vocalist Nita Whitaker.

> **Louis Kavouras** (Dance) has written a book, *The Aesthetics of Dance*, which has been accepted for publication by Human Kinetic Books. It is an aesthetic/philosophical investigation for how to look at a dance work and understand it as a work of art.



> **Larry Letourneau** (CAEO) was selected by the U.S. Department of Education to serve on a negotiated rule-making committee charged with writing new regulations to implement the Higher Education Opportunity Act. The act, which became law in August, is the most current reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965. He is one of 18 members of the Discretionary Grants Committee. That committee is focusing on the regulations that govern TRiO, GEAR UP, and other discretionary grant programs. UNLV is host to 13 TRiO projects and two GEAR UP partnerships.

> **Bill Halley** (Student Recreation and Wellness) was named classified employee of the month in the custodial category for February. He has worked at UNLV since September 2008.

> **Chad Hensley** (Radiography) has been sworn in as president of the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology. He will hold that position for two years and then will become chairman of the board. The ceremony took place at the group’s conference in Las Vegas in February.

> **Karl Kingsley** (School of Dental Medicine) is co-author of the article, “A Case Study for Teaching Information Literacy Skills,” which was published in January by the journal *BMC Medical Education* as a collaborative effort with the University of New Mexico.

> **Vicky Albert** (Social Work) has written two articles that were published recently. One, titled “Citizenship Status, Poverty, and Government Transfers for Families

with Children,” was the lead article in the *Journal for Social Service Research*. The second, titled “Reframing Child Maltreatment,” appears in *Forum on Public Policy: Child Neglect and Exploitation — Immortality on a World Scale*.

> **Alo Falefine** (Accounts Payable) was named classified employee of the month in the technical/service category for February. An accounting technician I, he spends all his time working on travel expense reimbursements for employees. He earned a bachelor of science degree in finance from UNLV in 2004. He has worked at the university almost three years.

> **Lisa Chastain** (Honors) was part of a consortium of faculty and staff members from various colleges who traveled to Italy to complete Universities Studies Abroad Consortium site assessment of Torino and Viterbo, Italy. The faculty and staff who attended from universities across the United States were given the chance to interact with local faculty and staff and attend student presentations, as well as learn more about Italian culture through a variety of activities. The goal of the visit was for participants to become a resource for students who wish to study abroad.

> **Deanna Davis** and **Kyle Ethelbah** (CAEO) presented numerous workshops during the UNLV National TRiO Training Institute conference at the Riviera Hotel in January. Davis presented “Coordinating Services Offered by TRiO and Other Programs,” “Differentiating Allowable from Non-Allowable Costs,” “Conducting Project Evaluation, Part 1,” “Collecting Data Needed for Evaluation & Performance Reporting,” and “Analyzing Data Needed for Evaluation & Performance Reporting.” Ethelbah presented “Collecting Data Needed for Evaluation & Performance Reporting,” and “TRiO Reporting Requirements, Part 2.” The seminars focused on the laws, program regulations, and general administrative regulations to which TRiO project grantees must conform, as well as information on managing TRiO budgets in accordance with federal requirements.

> ACROSS CAMPUS

Continued from Page 5

detailing the results of their research, commenting on the casinos’ responses to the 2006 decision, and analyzing the prospects for future litigation. The results of this “on the ground” legal research will be described in published work.

More info: Go to law.unlv.edu/faculty/ann-mcginley.html.

Liberal Arts
English Faculty Reap Honors

World-class scholars in the English department earned acclaim and prizes this season.

Charles Whitney won the 2008 Elizabeth Dietz Award for Best Book in Early Modern Studies for his landmark work, *Early Responses to Renaissance Drama* (Cambridge, 2006). The prize, for studies in English Literature 1500-1900, was presented by Robert Parten of Rice University at a special ceremony at the Modern Language Association meeting in December.

Whitney’s book overturns the oft-held assumption that we could never know how the earliest audiences responded to the plays of Shakespeare, Marlowe, and other Renaissance dramatists. Through painstaking archival research and close study of period texts carried out over 14 years, Whitney presents a convincing picture

of how people in Shakespeare’s time actually thought about plays, and how they applied and placed value on the use of dramatic language and character references in their lives.

This fall also saw the publication of the Library of America’s *Katherine Anne Porter: Collected Stories and Other Writings*, edited, with full chronology and publishing history, by Distinguished Professor of English Darlene Unrue. This volume of 1,000-plus pages was named one of the 10 best books of the year by reviewer Alan Cheuse of National Public Radio.

Unrue also is author of the widely acclaimed biography, *Katherine Anne Porter: The Life of an Artist* (Mississippi, 2005). She currently is awaiting publication of another book, *Remembering Katherine Anne Porter*, and is at work selecting letters for a collection drawn from the vast archive of correspondence by Porter, who is one of the most seminal American writers of the 20th Century.

Urban Affairs
Frosh Learning Groups Step Toward Retention

About 90 freshmen representing all seven disciplines in the college are participating in UNLV’s first freshman learning community.

The students took three courses together in theme-based learning communities during fall semester. The communities are:

- Civic engagement
- Crime and punishment

- Living in a diverse world
- Global media.

The program aims to facilitate on-time graduation, better student academic performance, and a stronger connection to the campus and the community. It was developed and implemented by Joseph Valenzano, basic course director for the department of communication studies, and Adam Sikula, director of the college’s Student Advising Center.

Learning communities “serve as a terrific venue for students to introduce themselves to their discipline, their college, their university, and the city of Las Vegas from the moment they set foot on campus, allowing them to build a foundation of knowledge in their major and truly see how what they learn in class applies to the community and their careers,” Valenzano said.

Three of the learning communities — civic engagement, crime and punishment, and living in a diverse world — completed off-campus service learning projects. Students presented reports on their experience at the college’s first service-learning event.

“Our fall event served as what we hope was only the first of many activities for students from our four learning communities to interact with one another, both academically and socially. It also served as a stepping stone to retention and provided the students a strong sense of commitment to the college and UNLV,” Sikula said. Plans call for more learning communities to begin in the fall.

David Henry

Professor of Communication Studies

Rebel since: 1998

What brought you to UNLV? I came to be the director of the Hank Greenspun School of Communication, which at that time included both my department of communication studies now and what is now the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies.

What about the reorganization? It’s been good for both groups. For our part, we have developed a program defined around two areas, interpersonal communication and public discourse. Increasingly, our graduates go on to pursue doctoral degrees. Also, as both the university and our program grow stronger, we’re seeing increased rigor in what we expect from our students and what they expect from us in return.

Are you enjoying teaching full time again? Yes, because I enjoy working closely with students. I’m especially enjoying teaching in the Honors College. Because of the smaller class sizes, I’m able to write as much back to them as they write to me in their essays and papers. It allows you to teach them the way students should be taught.

Since you study presidential rhetoric, talk about the top orators: Among the presidents of the 20th and early 21st centuries, three stand out — Franklin Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama. Kennedy would certainly have joined that group if he had lived longer. Clinton was very good, too. It may be too soon to put Obama in the top three, but the potential is evident.

What makes Obama so good? He is smart, he reads a lot, he thinks before he speaks, and when he does speak, he has something to say. During the campaign when people were taking shots at him, he stayed focused on his message and what he wanted the voters to think about. He didn’t let other people determine the focus of the day.

Why do so many people view him as inspiring? With him you get the sense that being elected president wasn’t his ultimate goal. Instead, being elected was a means toward achieving his goals for the county. For some presidents, getting elected seems to be an end in itself.

Last book read: *Born Fighting: How the Scots Irish Shaped America* by U.S. Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia.



Phyllis Thompson

Administrative Assistant III, College of Liberal Arts

Rebel since: 2000

Typical day: I start off by going through my e-mails and answering any questions. I am the leave-keeper for a college with close to 200 people. I receive many leave-related questions every day. I also consider myself the unofficial events planner for the college. Right now, I’m working on the Honors Convocation. In the fall, I help plan a get-together so that our dean can meet with new faculty and staff members.

Can’t work without: I’m always telling people how much I love my scanner. One change I’ve made is that I scan employees’ leave forms and then send them their copies electronically. I know the university is emphasizing “paperless,” processes and I’m trying to help by saving paper.

People would be surprised to know: My husband and I had a stained glass business back in New Jersey. In 1985 we took a stained glass class just for fun. We started making pieces and selling them at craft shows. It was a fun hobby and we brought in a little extra money. I kind of miss it. We just don’t have the room here to set up a full workshop like we had there.

What you did before? For almost 30 years I worked for NYNEX, which was the telephone company for New York and New England. Then I spent three years at Rutgers University. The first time my husband and I came out to Las Vegas we fell in love with the desert and the surrounding mountains. We’re so acclimated now that when the temperature is in the 60s, we’re wearing long pants and sweaters.

Last book read: The Harry Potter series.

Dream vacation: One place my husband and I have always talked about going is Australia. Since I don’t think we can travel that far, I would love to go to England, Ireland, and Scotland instead.

Nancy Cleveland

Artist/Designer, Reprographics and Design Services

Rebel since: 1978

Typical day: There really isn’t one. I design a variety of brochures, catalogs, and programs for a number of campus clients. Sometimes I’ll work on the same project for two weeks if it’s something lengthy and detailed. Other days I rush to turn a project around in a day or two. It just depends which fire leaps the highest.

What makes you good at what you do? I’m good at paying attention to detail. I tend to do the long, detailed projects like the undergraduate, graduate, and ed outreach catalogs. The commencement program is a major project, and not just because it’s long — usually around 48 pages. It is incredibly detailed and those details are important. Parents don’t spend all that money on college to see their child’s name spelled wrong at graduation.

Can’t work without: The people in this building. We’re like family.

How you came to UNLV? My husband, Wayne, came here on a football scholarship in the ’70s. He played in the opening game at Sam Boyd Stadium. Later, he worked at UNLV in the receiving department.

People would be surprised to know: I’m a big Elvis fan. One of these days I’m going to make it to Graceland. Everyone I know who goes there brings me a souvenir.

Last book read: *The Shack* by William P. Young.

Dream vacation: I’ve had one dream vacation and have another in mind. An aunt took my sister and I on an Alaskan cruise. We had a suite complete with butler service. It was *wonderful*. The staff was a little appalled that I wanted to do my own laundry. But someone else wash my underwear? No thanks. I’ll do it myself. Now I would like to see the Panama Canal. It’s always fascinated me. Look at the difference it’s made in so many people’s lives.





(Left) Mary Pluff, right, an academic advisor in the Division of Health Sciences, has coached the women's lacrosse team since it formed two years ago. She played collegiately at Niagara University. Katie Bane, left, is a sophomore studying elementary education. Molli Morgan, second from left, is a senior majoring in physical education. Jessica Lowe, second from right, is a freshman political science major.

For the Love of the Game

By **Shane Bevell** | Marketing & PR

For the love of the game. Yeah, it's a cliché, but why else would hundreds of student-athletes sacrifice their own money and a lot of time to compete for a club team?


Unlike UNLV's official athletic teams, sports clubs don't offer scholarships or support staff to help with logistics, said Steven Thiele, club sports program coordinator. "The teams raise money to keep out-of-pocket costs low, but player dues can run into the thousands of dollars," he said.

The student-athletes do all the work to make their clubs function — deciding team rules and game schedules, organizing jersey purchases and travel accommodations, and developing sponsorship deals and fundraising activities. While not affiliated with the NCAA, club

teams compete regionally and nationally against other colleges for national championships.

Student-athletes who did not make the university-sanctioned team can form a club team to compete at a different level (as is the case with baseball and soccer). UNLV club teams include:

- Baseball
- Bowling
- Boxing
- Cycling
- Ice Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Roller hockey
- Table tennis
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball

 **More info:** Go to unlv.recportal.net/sportsclubs.



(Above) The rugby team scrums for a photo. (Right above) Ryan Krametbauer, left, and Anthony Greener led the hockey team to a ninth place finish in the West Region and its first-ever regional tournament. Meanwhile, another UNLV team, the roller hockey team, placed second in the Western Regional Tournament and will play in the College Roller Hockey National Championships in Pennsylvania this month. (Right) John Priest, left, Jerome Foster, center, and Henry Namauu at the UNLV boxing gym. Priest is a graduate student in exercise physiology who wants to train fighters as a career. Foster, a junior university studies major, is preparing for the upcoming regional tournament. Namauu is an assistant coach and boxed for the team from 2004-06. In 2006, he won an individual championship, helping the boxing club win the National Collegiate Boxing Association title.

