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Inside UNLV

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Save the Date

Homecoming 2009 — UNLV Superheroes — is Oct. 11-17. A week of events, including a parade and Rebel Red Day, will wrap up with the big game against the Utah Utes. Go to homecoming.unlv.edu for more information.

News You Can Use

iNtegrate Update

iNtegrate, a much-needed NSHE system for all things related to student records information, is getting closer to becoming a reality.


The university will begin using the admissions part of the system this fall, said Shannon Goodman, executive director for student systems and student area lead for the project. That will be followed in phases by:

- financial aid
- enrollment
- billing
- transcripts
- advising

iNtegrate will be more reliable, easier-to-use, and will allow faculty and staff to better meet students' needs, she said.

It will provide students with more self-service capability, including the ability to check bills, look at schedules, and change their addresses. It will offer users greater flexibility than the current Student Information System and will provide better support for graduate and professional schools.

Administrators expect the system to be fully functional by fall 2010.

 **More info:** Go to integrate.unlv.edu.

Coworkers in Need

Campus Friends Rally to Promote Organ Donation

By **Diane Russell** | Marketing & PR

If Marti Ash's back hadn't hurt, who knows when she would have discovered the kidney disease that now threatens her life.

Tests her doctor ran for the pain revealed another problem. "Do you know you have an atrophied kidney?" the doctor asked her. No, she had no idea.

That was five years ago. Now the 19-year UNLV employee needs dialysis three times a week and is waiting for a kidney transplant once a suitable donor is found. She is on leave from her job as special assistant to Senior Vice President Gerry Bomotti.

A group of her friends, however, isn't just waiting to see what happens. In the spring, they organized



UNLV employee Marti Ash undergoes dialysis three times a week at one of the Fresenius Medical Care Centers while awaiting a kidney transplant.

UNLV's Organ Donor Initiative to help Ash. Then they discovered that Sodexho employee Joe D'Acunto, who managed the Book-N-Bean Café at the Lied Library until his kidney disease forced him to stay home, is waiting for a transplant, too.

"The Organ Donor Initiative came together out of friendship," said one of its members,

Liz Baldizan, assistant dean of the Academic Success Center. "Several of us who knew Marti just couldn't sit and wait. Then we learned that Joe needs a kidney, too.

"Frankly, we're hoping that as a result of our efforts to publicize the need — particularly the need right

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Want to Help?

To learn about becoming a kidney donor for Marti Ash or Joe D'Acunto, call Barbara Kordestani at University Medical Center at 383-2224, option #9.

School's In for Summer

Most UNLV Students Take One or More Summer Courses During College Career

By **Shane Bevell** | Marketing & PR

"Get ahead. Graduate sooner." It's more than a slogan. It's the truth.

In 13 weeks, students can take an entire semester's worth of classes, helping them graduate sooner, said Trish Suske, Summer Term director. Classes are offered in three sessions: a three-week session followed by two five-week sessions. Course content is the same, just compressed. Classes are typically every day rather than two or three days a week.

According to Suske, nearly 96 percent of students attend a summer session during their time here. Last summer, approximately 18,000 students took one of the more than 3,000 courses offered.

"Summer Term is becoming less of an optional semester; it's becoming more and more a part of the fabric of the university," she said.

No State Money

Summer Term was set up as a self-supporting entity by the Board of Regents approximately 45 years ago, Suske said.

None of the state funding set aside for higher education is used for Summer Term. All money for instructors and staff comes from student fees. Fees for summer school are approved by the regents and are separate from fall and spring fees.

Want to Take a Class?

The third summer session runs July 6-Aug. 7. You don't have to be admitted to UNLV to take a summer class. Suske said those taking classes include:


- Current UNLV students



Taking courses during the summer can make commencement day come that much sooner.

- School teachers who need classes for recertification
- Business professionals looking for academic credits
- Students who attend college out of state but are home for the summer

Suske said Summer Term also acts as a feeder program for UNLV; local high school students often choose UNLV after attending a summer class.

 **More info:** To view the Summer Term TV commercial, go to summerterm.unlv.edu.

Question Corner




How do I open a flexible spending account?

Open enrollment for flexible spending accounts (FSAs) for the next fiscal year will end later this month.

So now is the time for employees to decide how much money — if any — they wish to place in a pre-tax FSA account for medical or childcare expenses. To calculate your FSA savings, go to asiflex.com.

In calculating how much money to set aside, employees should factor in cost increases that will begin Nov. 1, said Pat La Putt, benefits manager. The PPO plan deductible, for instance, will increase to \$725.

Prescription costs are projected to increase for both HMO and PPO members. For details, go to unlv.edu/budget/pebp and click on the May 8 PEBP board meeting update.

 **More info:** Call the benefit counselors at ext. 5-0924 or visit hr.unlv.edu. Enroll in the FSA online through the UNLV employee self-service/EQUUS system through June 27. Paper forms will be accepted until June 22.

Got a burning question?

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

Keep Up the Advocacy Efforts

The Nevada Legislature has included an unpaid furlough of one day per month or a 4.6 percent salary reduction for state employees in its 2009-11 budget. How to implement the reduction for the various employee classifications is one of the most complicated issues now facing the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). A system personnel task force has been examining options and will provide options to the NSHE and presidents for consideration. I also have been gathering your concerns through a number of channels and sharing them with our system leaders.

Transitions Coming

Almost lost amidst these budget discussions is the fact that NSHE will undergo some major transitions this month. The regents welcomed four new members earlier this spring, and will elect a new chair and vice chair in June. Also, I am sure all of you realize Chancellor James Rogers is stepping down as NSHE’s chief executive on June 30. Since there has been no external search for his replacement, the board will name his successor from internal candidates,



David Ashley | UNLV President

on either a permanent or interim basis.

Better Understanding

I think we can all agree that Jim has brought great passion to the office. His message — our message — has been heard clearly in Carson City. Legislative leaders better understand the vision for a three-tiered higher education system and, in turn, responded to support education under extraordinarily difficult economic and political pressures. That message could not be heard without the

heightened coordination of advocacy at the system level. For our part, UNLV spent a great deal of time educating our community leaders, alumni, students, and employees about the issues. They then sent more than 3,000 letters and e-mails to legislators during the past several months. We have built an effective, informed, and engaged network of advocates within the UNLV community.

Advocacy Imperative

This legislative cycle, however, underscored a significant and continuing issue: a lack of strong public support for higher education in Nevada. We continue to be challenged by a funding formula that is at odds with UNLV’s mission. This makes it imperative that we continue the advocacy efforts that grew out of the state’s current budget crisis. Jim Rogers spent considerable energy generating passion; UNLV responded by engaging its supporters. Now I hope you will help build on this framework by continuing to serve as ambassadors for UNLV by reminding others of our critical mission, and the essential link between UNLV’s success and our community’s prosperity.

Tech Savvy

Spammed a Lot?

OIT Offers Advice for Keeping It Under Control

By Mamie Peers | OIT

Rolex replica watches! 40% Off Training Videos! Have you noticed such unsolicited e-mails in your inbox? You’re not alone. “The days of a spam-free inbox are gone,” said DeAnna Schoendienst, manager of client services in the office of information technology. “We can only take precautions to avoid unwanted e-mail and to manage spam when it arrives.” The more public your e-mail address, the more spam you’re likely to receive. Some unwanted e-mail may come from your participation on open mailing lists, forums, or from purchases that require an e-mail address. Many online forms require an e-mail address and contain obscure privacy notices that say you will be added to mailing lists. But keeping your e-mail address private will not eliminate spam. Spammers create Internet robots to scan websites for addresses. They also generate e-mail addresses, hoping that they are legitimate. Once spammers collect a good list, they sell those e-mail addresses to

companies that distribute advertisements. In worst-case scenarios, spammers sell their lists to criminals who create phishing scams. They mimic organizations you trust and ask for credit card numbers and passwords via e-mail. This is the spam that you may really want to avoid, but can’t.

Manage Spam in Lotus Notes

Spam is unavoidable, but tools in your e-mail program can help you manage it. Lotus Notes uses a spam manager system called Proofpoint, which scores e-mail based on the likelihood that it is spam. (A message marked 90 percent is probably spam.) Each day Proofpoint sends you an e-mail called “UNLV Spam Digest.” It shows all the messages that have been quarantined as spam. Through settings, you can have Notes quarantine more or less spam, set safelists to always allow messages from specific addresses to come through, and create blacklists to always block specific senders.

i More info: Go to oit.unlv.edu and click on the Lotus Notes link for easy, step-by-step instructions on managing spam. The OIT help desk can also walk you through the steps; call ext. 5-0777.

Tips for Avoiding Spam

- 1 Uncheck “Yes” on web forms that ask if you want to receive information from the vendor.
- 2 Read privacy agreements when making purchases to assure that the company is not selling your information to third parties.
- 3 Stop revealing your real e-mail address on web forms or for temporary transactions. Instead, use a “honeypot” or “spam trap” e-mail address. Spamgang.com offers free temporary accounts that do not require passwords or activation. Read the website for more details and ways to use this service to your advantage. (Don’t use this practice for communicating with companies for which you have an ongoing relationship, like your bank or doctor’s office. They should have your real address because they are e-mailing you private information.)
- 4 Use two e-mail addresses, one for personal and one for professional correspondence. For example, use a Hotmail or Gmail account for communications between friends, family, and doctors. Use your @unlv.edu address for professional purposes only.



A Greener Day Dozens and dozens of elementary school students traveled to UNLV in April to participate in the annual Earth Day celebration. **(Above)** Children learn about recycling from Chloe Klangos of UNLV’s Rebel Recycling program. **(Right)** Nicholas Arocha, a third-grader at Paradise Elementary School, sorts recyclables as part of an obstacle course.



InsideUNLV

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

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Family Members Provide New Lease on Life



“If anyone hears of a person who needs a transplant, I would urge that person to seriously consider becoming a donor. You would be giving somebody a new lease on life.”

*Aurali Dade,
executive director,
office of sponsored programs*

For Aurali Dade, the decision wasn’t particularly difficult. Her husband’s kidneys were failing. Dialysis would help in the short term, but was not a good long-term option.

As someone who had had childhood-onset diabetes for more than two decades, her husband knew his kidneys might fail someday.

Luckily, when they did fail, Dade was found to be a match. So, a year after beginning dialysis, her husband received one of her kidneys during a transplant operation at the University of Minnesota. The date was Dec. 12, 2006, her birthday.

“He immediately was taken off dialysis, the transplant worked so quickly,” she said. “He felt so much better afterwards, it was incredible.”

Within two days of the surgery, she was discharged from the hospital. Two days after that, he was allowed to leave.

“It completely changed his life. It’s a major surgery for both people, but well worth it,” said Dade, who has worked at UNLV since 2003 and currently is executive director of the office of research compliance.

The following summer her husband underwent a pancreas transplant at the University of Minnesota.

“I see how well he is doing now and I’m happy to know that I was able to help him in such a meaningful way.

“If anyone hears of a person who needs a transplant, I would urge that person to seriously consider becoming a donor,” Dade said. “You would be giving somebody a new lease on life.”



“Now I can’t put into words what the gift (my niece) gave means to me.”

*Candy Theriault
associate director,
Thomas & Mack Center*

Candy Theriault went to her doctor’s office to find out why she was constantly experiencing severe headaches. She left in an ambulance headed for the hospital.

Her blood pressure reading was so alarming that her doctor insisted she go straight to the hospital. What they discovered stunned her: Her kidneys were failing.

“I went home in a kind of denial, but I began researching kidney failure using the Internet,” she said. “That’s when I found out how many people had the same problem.”

She changed her diet and got regular checkups, but her condition worsened. After four years, she was told it was time for a transplant. She was put on transplant lists after tests eliminated her husband and two adult children as potential donors.

She prepared herself for years of waiting. Then one day at a baby shower, her niece asked what was involved in being a donor. “I told her to read up on it and think

about it,” said Theriault, a 20-year employee who is associate arena director at the Thomas & Mack. “I knew it was a major decision.

“Both she and her brother decided to be tested as potential donors for me.”

Both were a match. The transplant took place May 14, 2002, at Sunrise Hospital with Theriault’s niece as the donor. “I paid her living expenses for those six weeks (of recuperation) and my insurance company paid her medical bills,” Theriault said.

“My kidneys started to function immediately after the transplant,” she said. “I felt so much better and the color returned to my face.”

Theriault will take anti-rejection drugs daily for the rest of her life. That’s no problem, she said, compared with the alternative.

“I always loved my niece, of course, but I can’t say we were extremely close before the operation. Now I can’t put into words what the gift she gave means to me.”

> DONATE

Continued from Page 1

here at UNLV — we will find donors for Joe and Marti,” Baldizan said.

In April, they distributed information about living organ donation. People only need one kidney to lead a healthy life, so donations from a living person are common. Living organ donations also save people needing bone marrow, liver, and other transplants.

The UNLV group is planning more efforts later this year. “One possibility is that we will link up with the campus blood drives to see if the person who is generous enough to donate blood to help a stranger might also be generous enough to donate a kidney,” Baldizan said.

The Wait

Meanwhile Ash and D’Acunto will continue their nerve-racking wait.

This month marks D’Acunto’s one-year anniversary on the transplant list. Three times a week he visits the dialysis center where he is hooked to a machine that filters his blood. Each session lasts four hours and five minutes. He also is losing weight at his doctor’s request. D’Acunto calculates that he needs to lose another 50 pounds.

D’Acunto was diagnosed with end-stage renal failure in February 2007.

“This all stems from my high blood pressure and the medicine I’ve taken to keep it in check,” D’Acunto said. “When I was diagnosed with high blood pressure in

Organ Donation ... Did You Know?

- More than 100,000 U.S. patients are waiting for an organ transplant; nearly 4,000 new patients are added each month.
 - Americans waiting for kidney transplants currently total nearly 80,000.
 - Every day, 18 people die while waiting for a transplant of a vital organ, such as a heart, liver, kidney, pancreas, lung, or bone marrow.
 - The survival rate for people who receive a kidney from a living donor is 97.9 percent.
 - All costs related to the donation of organs are paid for by the donor program.
- (Information provided by the National Kidney Foundation, kidney.org)

1992, the doctor didn’t tell me there was any risk involving my kidneys. No one mentioned it.”

D’Acunto said he misses his campus colleagues, but keeps up with UNLV news via his wife, Sharon, who works in the registrar’s office. “I had to stop work in March after 13 years at UNLV. With the fatigue factor, I just couldn’t do my job.

“I am optimistic that things will work out well,” he said. “I have my days like everybody else, of course — my ‘Why did it happen to me?’ days. But I believe everything happens for a reason.

“This article, for instance, will make people more aware of the need for organ donations. That’s a positive thing.”

Ash’s Turn

In Ash’s case, the early heads-up about the kidney problem gave her time to take steps, such as modifying her diet, to slow the progression

of the disease and to prepare for the transplant process.

The people closest to Ash, her husband and two adult daughters, were tested immediately. Unfortunately, none of them has Ash’s blood type, one of the requirements for donation.

Like most people, Ash knew little about kidney disease before her diagnosis. What she knows now is something she wants to share with others.

Kidney disease is a “silent” disease that generally yields no symptoms until it has progressed to a serious point. Yet a simple blood test can find the problem at an earlier stage. Ash encourages everyone to ask their doctors to check for kidney disease when they have a physical.

She also knows that while kidney failure often is linked with an underlying disease such as diabetes, it can happen for unknown reasons to people like her who are otherwise healthy.



Joe D’Acunto, pictured at the Book-N-Bean in 2004, is awaiting a kidney transplant. He stopped working in March, after 13 years at the university, because of exhaustion.

Ash has been on transplant waiting lists for eight months. Some people are on lists for years before a kidney becomes available. Sadly, for some a match is not found in time to save their lives. Patients sometimes can stay on dialysis for many years.

Ash said she is grateful for her friends’ efforts on her behalf. “My hope is that people will learn more about kidney disease and about the possibility of becoming a living donor. Maybe these efforts will help me, but even if they don’t, hopefully they will help someone else.”

Academic Success Center
Tutoring Program Grows

By midsemester, more than 100 students had taken advantage of the newly established campuswide tutoring program. The center offered tutoring across the disciplines at UNLV. While most students requested tutoring for math and science, it also was available for many more subjects, including accounting, philosophy, music theory, and political science. A team of 15 tutors provided more than 100 hours of tutoring a week. Services will continue this summer. Please let students know that if they need a tutor or would like to be a tutor, they should call ext. 4-4623.

UNLV Advisors Organize
National Conference in Las Vegas

Cheryl Tillotson, the center’s associate director of advising, chaired the region 9 National Academic Advising Association conference at the Tropicana Hotel in March. More than 170 people attended. Several center staff members made presentations, including Rimi Marwah, Oak Vichaikul, and Anne Hein. The keynote speaker was Punam Mather, who then was senior vice president of corporate diversity and community affairs for MGM Mirage.

Other employees serving on the host committee included Adam Sikula (Urban Affairs), Kimberly Underwood (Student Athlete Academic Services), Tiffany Schmier (Honors College), Derek Furukawa (Liberal Arts), Ebony Igeleke (Urban Affairs), and Ruth Radke (Hotel College).



It’s Not Superman


It is a plane — and another and another. The skies above UNLV often play host to airliners headed toward or away from nearby McCarran International Airport. Look skyward at most any time of day and before long a plane will soar by. At the request of *Inside UNLV*, the campus photo staff headed out to capture images of some of the jets as they pass our way.



Education
Educational Leadership
Becomes Home to Top Journal

The tier-one journal *Career and Technical Education Research* (CTER) will be headquartered at UNLV beginning July 1. Its refereed articles examine career and technical education, career development, human resource development, career issues in grades K-12, postsecondary education, and workforce education.

- CTER presents:
- Empirically based manuscripts reporting results of original research, either quantitative or qualitative
 - Reviews or synthesis of empirical or theoretical research
 - Essays derived from original historical or philosophical research
 - Reviews of recent books

 **More info:** Contact Howard Gordon at howard.gordon@unlv.edu.

Engineering
Students’ Energy-Saving
Power Meter Takes Grand Prize

A power meter to give homeowners more control over electric consumption won the grand prize at the college’s senior design competition. Mechanical engineering student and 2009 outstanding graduate Kenneth Hynes collaborated with electrical engineering student Devin Taylor on the project. The duo worked under the direction of faculty members Brian Landsberger and Paolo Ginobbi and research engineer Rick Hurt of the Center for Energy Research. Hynes and Taylor credit their “expensive power bills and the challenge of moving toward a cleaner and more sustainable lifestyle” as

the motivation for their design — factors that are also motivating homeowners to seek energy-efficient technologies. Currently, homeowners have no real-time information on energy usage and therefore are limited in their ability to control consumption. The product provides the homeowner with the instantaneous power demand of the home and tracks energy consumption over a specified period of time. So the homeowner receives information on the usage of the electric devices at any given moment as well as a running total of the power bill. This information is provided in a small, user-friendly, indoor unit with a graphical touch screen interface.

Fine Arts
“Angels and Insects” Opens June 15

The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery hosts an exhibition of new work by art professor Mary Warner titled “Angels and Insects” June 15-July 31. The gallery is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is free.


NCT Announces 2009-10 Season

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre at UNLV announces its 2009-10 Main Season:

- *Company*. Oct. 2-11 in the Judy Bayley Theatre. Book by George Furth, music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.
- *A Christmas Carol: Scrooge & Marley*. Nov. 26-Dec. 13 in Judy Bayley Theatre. By Israel Horovitz, adapted from Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. Directed by Glenn Casale.
- *The Little Dog Laughed*. Jan. 29-Feb. 14 in the Black Box Theatre.

By Douglas Carter Beane.

- *The Women*. Feb. 19-28 in the Judy Bayley Theatre. By Clare Booth Luce.
- *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. April 23-May 2 in Judy Bayley Theatre. By William Shakespeare. Directed by Robert Benedetti.

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

Graduate
Remind Your Grad Students
About Upcoming Deadlines

A number of important Graduate College dates and deadlines are just ahead, so please share this information with graduate students.

- Graduate and research assistant request forms are past due. If you have not submitted your GA or RA request forms, please submit them to the office of graduate financial services immediately.
- Childcare scholarship applications are due June 1.
- Graduate and research assistant contract signing will run July 13-Aug. 13. Contract signing will take place 8:30-11:30 a.m., Mondays through Thursdays in FDH, Room 312.
- For students who are planning to graduate in the summer: The last day to defend a thesis or dissertation is July 17. The last day to submit a thesis or dissertation is July 24.
- New graduate student/professional student orientation is Aug. 18.

Hotel
College Honors Industry Execs

Five individuals and one corporation recently were honored at the annual Vallen Dinner of Distinction. For their ongoing commitment to the fields, the Industry Executives of the Year are:

- Don Ross, vice president of catering, conventions, and events, Las Vegas Meetings by Harrah’s Entertainment
 - Sam Semola, associate for Warner Gaming
 - Kevin Rabbitt, president and chief executive officer for GES Exposition Services
 - Stan Fulton, entrepreneur and philanthropist
- Bob Boughner, president of Echelon Resorts, was named Alumnus of the Year for his ongoing service to UNLV and the community. Tapcode, an entertainment and hospitality software company, was awarded the Harrah’s Excellence in Innovation Award for pursuing innovative approaches to solving hospitality-related problems. The annual event honors Jerome Vallen, founding dean of the Harrah College of Hotel Administration. It also helps raise funds to bring distinguished industry and educational leaders to teach at the college.

Law
School Moves Up in Rankings

The law school moved up 13 spots to 75 — its highest rank ever — in the annual national rankings of the best law schools and specialty programs by *U.S. News & World Report*. The move constitutes a 25-place improvement in the past two years for the school, which was established just 11 years ago. “The law school — with new, innovative programs and top faculty to lead them — is continuing the momentum that began with a solid foundation,” said Dean John V. White. “The *U.S. News* rankings of



law schools are but one indication of our continued success at building a world-class faculty and cutting-edge program of legal education.

“The law school’s achievements in recent years are many, and, irrespective of recognition of outside rankings, we are proud of our work to provide students with an excellent legal education that emphasizes academic rigor, professionalism, skilled representation, and community service,” he said.

The school also achieved the following specialty rankings:

- Boyd’s Lawyering Process Program — which emphasizes professionalism and the relationship between legal analysis and lawyering skills, including legal writing, research, oral advocacy, client interviewing, counseling, and negotiation — was the third best program of its kind.
- UNLV’s Saltman Center for Conflict Resolution ranked the nation’s ninth best dispute resolution program.
- The Thomas and Mack Legal Clinic ranked 20th in clinical training.
- In a new category ranking part-time law programs, UNLV’s law school was ranked 34th.
- The law school also ranked 34th nationally in the diversity of its student body.

Liberal Arts
Anthropology Profs
Heading Around the Globe

Anthropology professors are heading out across the nation and the globe this summer to pursue their research.

This is in keeping with a change in the department’s mission, which now emphasizes national and international field research.

Here’s some of what the professors

will be doing this summer:

- Levent Atici will be taking students to Turkey to work on a large archaeological site called Kanesh. This site is redefining what is known about the origins of complex societies.
- Heidi Swank will be continuing her linguistic anthropology research with Tibetan youth in India. Accompanying her will be an undergraduate honors student working on codeswitching among Tibetan youth.
- Pierre Lienard returns to Africa to work with the Turkana, a pastoral tribal people. He is studying the life history of violence and ritual behavior.
- Lisa Frink, winner of the Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award this year, works as an ethnoarchaeologist in Alaska and will be returning there with graduate students to do research on subsistence and Native health.
- Daniel Benyshek will be working on a National Institutes of Health-funded diabetes prevention research project with urban Native Americans in Las Vegas.
- Alan Simmons is taking graduate students to Cyprus to work on epipaleolithic and Neolithic archaeological sites.
- William Jankowiak is conducting fieldwork in the People’s Republic of China on love, intimacy, and globalization.
- Barbara Roth is heading to New Mexico with a large team of students to continue excavating a large precontact archaeological site.

Libraries
Researchers Strike
Gold in Boomtown Archives

University Libraries has launched its latest digital collection, “Southern Nevada: The Boomtown Years

1900-1925,” which tells the story of Southern Nevada’s mining boom and bust and the coming of the railroad.

Drawing on a broad range of collections including those of UNLV Libraries, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, and the Clark County Museum, this digital project presents a wealth of rarely seen letters, newspapers, maps, photographs, family albums, mining company records, and local clubs’ meeting minutes. The information is available for the first time in a fully accessible online format.

“‘Southern Nevada: the Boomtown Years 1900-1925’ provides online the largest collection ever brought together of primary historical material for students, historians, and anyone interested in the history of Nevada,” said Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of University Libraries.

The project was funded by a \$95,000 state Library Services and Technology Act grant. The grant included funding for consultant Christy Keeler, a visiting assistant professor with experience working on education and technology projects.

A teachers’ section on the site will include information about using the primary sources in the classroom as well as various standards-based activities using artifacts from the “Boomtown” collection. This section should enhance the overall usefulness of the site for students as well as K-12 teachers and university-level history and social studies professors.

This project was led by Peter Michel, director of special collections, and Cory Lampert, digitization projects librarian, who supervised four grant-funded staff members and coordinated a project team of nine

library staff members.

More info: To access “Boomtown,” go to digital.library.unlv.edu/boomtown. Contact Michel at peter.michel@unlv.edu.

Sciences
Health Care Advisor
Recognized by Local Publication

Joseph “Nick” Nika was selected as a 2009 Health Care Headliner by *In Business Las Vegas* for his educational efforts on behalf of students at UNLV and area high schools.

He teaches premed courses and administers the pre-professional advising program for students interested in health careers. His work with students yields results; UNLV students now are entering medical and dental schools in unprecedented numbers.

He also works with the Clark County School District, speaking regularly to students and parents about UNLV and medical school admission requirements. He hosts recruiters from medical, dental, pharmacy, veterinary, optometry, and physical therapy programs, giving students the chance to meet admissions officers and make a favorable impression before beginning the application process.

He coordinates the local chapter of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-health honor society, which arranges medical and dental shadowing experiences for students, thus affording them the chance to acquire clinical experience and secure a letter of recommendation from a health care provider.

Students participate in a number of volunteer functions, including service with Opportunity Village, Shade Tree Shelter, the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation, and the Candlelighters Foundation. They also work with Habitat for Humanity.

Urban Affairs
College Hosts National Risk
Communication Workshop

A nationwide workshop focused on risk communication and emerging technologies took place in Greenspun Hall during spring semester.

Approximately 30 researchers attended the “Communicating Risks and Uncertainties: Nanotechnology, Climate Change, and Synthetic Biology” workshop funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Paul Thompson, W.K. Kellogg Chair in Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics at Michigan State, delivered the keynote address, “Reasonable Expectations and the Ethics of Communicating Risk: Settled Norms, Open Questions and Enduring Dilemmas.” He is principal investigator on an NSF project that examines ethical issues associated with nanotechnologies in agriculture and food.

Discussions concerning the challenges of communicating risks in highly complex areas. Participants shared research findings on public engagement in technology policy, media coverage of emerging technology, and public opinion studies.

“The workshop served as a springboard for future research on public perceptions of issues that have a significant impact on our environment and health,” said Pam Priest, UNLV professor and workshop organizer. “We need to find ways of accurately communicating the risks of emerging technologies to the public.”

More info: Contact Priest at susanna.priest@unlv.edu.

President's Classified Employee of the Year

Susan Summers

Budget Technician, English Department

Rebel since: 2004

What you do:

As the department manager, I handle 21 different budget accounts and manage six work-study students, and three classified personnel.

Why UNLV?

Because of my love of academia and my love of students. One of my daughters earned both her bachelor's and master's degree from UNLV's English department so I became familiar with the instructors long before I worked here.

What do you like about working here?

I love to go out on the campus and walk. You can leave your office, take a walk, and all your worries dissipate. You come back ready to solve problems.

What can people do to make your job easier?

Communicate. Communication is the key to everything we do at this university. The English department is well-known for picking up the phone. If you have a question, just call.

Detail-oriented and organized:

I am already thinking a year in advance.

Tips for a new employee:

Call another employee who is at the same rank and say, "I'm new. Can you help me?" When I came to the university, I knew nothing about running a university department, so I called complete strangers and asked for help. From that, the information-sharing sessions, a forum where employees gather to communicate about work issues, were born.

People would be surprised to know:

I have an astrology website — [astrotalker.com](#)

Predictions?

UNLV will weather the budget crises by tightening belts and communicating with one another.

Afternoon pick-me-up:

A venti iced green tea from Starbucks.

First job?

I worked as a waitress in a steakhouse for 50 cents an hour. Waiting tables taught me how to handle people.

Pet peeve:

People who don't listen.

Runs in the family:

My daughter, Rebecca Colbert, used to work in the law library and was named classified employee of the year in 2004.

Classified Employee of the Year, Second Place

Melvin Russell

Maintenance Repair Specialist I,
Facilities Maintenance

Rebel Since: 2003

What you do:

I'm like a watchful eye. I work swing shift checking generators, fire pumps, and securing any problem that may occur to any of the facilities.

Oddest repair:

Climbing into a tiny area in the Lilly Fong Geoscience Building to make a repair. I could barely fit and had a hard time getting out.

Why you do what you do:

I enjoy taking care of facilities and making sure everything is running properly.

What do you like about working here?

Meeting different people and establishing meaningful relationships.

Worst day at work:

When I am running from place to place but at the end of the day it seems like I haven't completed anything.

What can people do to make your job easier?

If you think there is a problem, call it in so it doesn't become a bigger problem.

Tips for a new employee:

Work hard, have a friendly attitude, and trust your co-workers.

First job?

I had a paper route and learned that if you work hard, good things will come.

Pet peeve:

Not paying attention to detail.

Stress reliever:

Having a barbecue.

If I weren't at my job...

I'd be on a fishing boat off the coast of Northern California. Fishing is just so relaxing for me.

Classified Employee of the Year, Third Place

Tony Duron

Maintenance Repair Specialist II, Landscape and Grounds

Rebel since: 1993

What you do:

Maintain the grounds — from concrete and asphalt to landscaping and plants.

Why you do what you do:

I like being the person who can fix anything. I enjoy the challenges and diversity of my work.

Biggest challenge:

Ensuring that projects go smoothly and that everyone goes home safely at the end of the day.

Can't work without:

A skid loader, a backhoe, and my construction crew.

People would be surprised to know:

That I have a softer side. At work, people mostly see my serious side, but that is because I have to ensure that everyone stays on task and the job gets done.

Proudest accomplishment:

The turf reduction. I can see how it is saving the university money. I enjoy the green grass in the interior of campus, but don't think it is necessary on the perimeters. To date, approximately 800,00 square feet of turf has been replaced with water-efficient landscaping.

Worst day at work:

Having to shut down a building because we couldn't make a repair.

Stress reliever:

Crawl into a backhoe and start tearing things up.

Tips for a new employee:

Stay busy, look sharp, volunteer for projects, and be happy.

First job?

I worked with my uncle in a diesel shop. He always stayed busy and paid attention to detail — something I have always tried to do. I want everything to be perfect, even the little things.



President’s Professional Staff Member of the Year

Vaune Kadlubek

Director of Advising Center, Division of Health Sciences

Rebel since: 1984 (at least as a full-time employee)

What you do: I oversee an advising center that assists approximately 2,000 students enrolled in 18 majors, six minors, and seven certificate programs. Sometimes I also teach for the kinesiology department.

Work isn’t her only UNLV connection: I received my BS in physical education in 1980. Then in 1983 I earned an MS in exercise physiology. I added a gerontology certificate in 2006. During my undergraduate years I was a member of the first UNLV women’s swim team.

Can’t work without: My awesome staff. They are qualified, knowledgeable, and totally student-focused. Deans in my division are incredibly supportive of academic advising.

Yes, she still swims: I’m part of the Team Vegas/Henderson Master’s Water Polo Team. I will compete in the Master’s Championships in Irvine, Calif., this month and the 2009 Summer National Senior Games at Stanford University in August. This is the first time water polo will be included. Last year I participated in the FINA — Federation International de Natation — World Master Games in Perth, Australia. My team won the gold for our age group. Next year I’ll be traveling to Sweden for the competition.

People would be surprised to know: During my freshman year I was half of a “team” that set a record for the *Guinness Book of World Records* for longest underwater kiss — 1 minute, 34 seconds. David Frost emceed the competition, which took place in a tank at Circus Circus.

Why she was nominated, according to her supervisor, Tish Smyer, associate dean of the School of Nursing: “(She) is known for her energy and optimistic attitude. She is a pleasure to work with. She has a ‘can-do’ spirit that is contagious. Her interpersonal skills with conflict and personnel management are always based on assisting the other person to be the very best they can be.”

Classified Rookie of the Year

Summer Mudd

Account Technician I, Accounts Payable

Rebel since: 2005

What you do: I educate employees about what they need to do to get a check.

Perfect day: Being able to cross something off my own to-do list.

What can people do to make your job easier? Ask questions before preparing any paperwork. An error in paperwork causes delays. A simple phone call can speed up the process.

Can’t work without: Music — I like Christian rock, classic rock, and folk music.

First job? Working in a daycare center taught me compassion. A lot of people who call our office are frustrated and looking for answers. I help by showing compassion and solving their problems.

What character from *The Office* would you be? I would like to say Jim because he is funny and witty, but he does things I would never do. He breaks the rules, and I would never do that.

People would be surprised to know: I went on an adventure trip to New Zealand over winter break. I mountain biked, skydived, ice climbed, kayaked, bungee jumped, and hiked. In July, I am participating in an adventure race — a 42-mile mountain biking, trail running, kayaking, and swimming event.

Worst injury: Tearing the cartilage that connects the ribs to the breastplate after crashing into a rock on my bike. It hurt to breathe for about six months.

Your name: People constantly comment about my name. Try making a doctor’s appointment with my name. I say my name is Summer Mudd — Summer like the season and Mudd like earth and water mixed. I kept my maiden name as an additional middle name, so I have double consonants throughout: Summer Lynn Mills Mudd.

Employee perk: I graduated from high school in 1996. Stuff happened and I wasn’t able to go to school full time, but have been slowly taking classes for the past several years. I hope to graduate in the fall of 2012 with a degree in business management.





(Left) Robert Dorgan, director of the School of Architecture's Downtown Design Center, looks at both the historic grammar school and the Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse from his office in the recently renovated Fifth Street School.

A Room With a View

Lucky are the UNLV employees who have offices with views worth bragging about. Some can see planes depart from McCarran, view the Strip's skyline, or watch as the last of the snow melts at Mt. Charleston. Others see students hustling to class, studying, or soaking up the beautiful weather. Enjoy the view from some of your colleagues' offices.



(Above left) Media studies professor Paul Traudt has floor-to-ceiling windows looking south down Maryland Parkway in his Greenspun Hall office. **(Above)** Judith Osterman, distance education director, loves the peaceful view of birds in the palm trees outside her office, located on the second floor of the Carol C. Harter Classroom Building Complex. **(Left)** Carolyn Yucha, dean of the School of Nursing and the School of Allied Health Sciences, looks out over the Thomas & Mack Center and can see airplanes taking off and landing at McCarran International Airport or can look down at the mall from her office on the fifth floor of the Bigelow Health Sciences building.