9-2009

Inside UNLV

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President Outlines the Year’s Priorities

By Diane Russell | Marketing & PR

At his first State of the University address in September, President Neal Smatresk emphasized that, in spite of the current budget challenges, UNLV will continue to provide high-quality undergraduate and graduate education, will pursue its research mission, and will remain responsive to its community. Despite the current budget challenges, his message emphasized a vision of promise and hope, and committed to eight areas of strength that UNLV will focus upon in the coming year.

1 Skills Gaps and the Academic Success Center

The university is working on providing diagnostic tools to help identify and rectify students’ skills gaps. With about 40 percent of college-going students reading below college level and about 80 percent who have deficiencies in college-level math, such diagnostics are critical to student success, Smatresk explained.

“We need to diagnose their skills gaps, prescribe custom solutions, and fill those gaps early in (the students’) educational experience.” Doing so will improve retention, and students “will be far more successful at pursuing their major endeavors than they are now,” he said.

Ann McDonough, dean of the Academic Success Center (ASC), said the center is partnering with several units on campus to develop such a comprehensive diagnostic tool for incoming students. The goal is to have the tool ready for use by summer so that students entering next fall can benefit from it, she said.

The ASC is already helping students master writing skills through the Writing Links program that was begun by the English department. A reading program now is being developed in concert with the educational psychology department. Throughout the fall and spring semesters, the center will work with a number of departments to develop a learning support program for students who struggle with math, McDonough said.

Once the diagnostic tool is in place, it will be easier to make sure students needing help are channeled to the appropriate resources, she said.

2 A Plan for General Education

Smatresk said completing a revision of the general education core will be the first priority of the person hired to fill the newly created position of vice provost for undergraduate education. Working in collaboration with the deans, the vice provost will develop recommendations for a phased-in implementation of a new curriculum that will embed critical skills into all major curricula.

3 Digital Measures Implementation

The potential of these two organizations and their alignment with the Focus: 50 to 100 strategic plan represent key pieces in expanding UNLV’s impact in the community and moving the university higher in prominence. They also will help UNLV sharpen the focus of research programs while linking them to the needs of the community.

“Our efforts have been substantial,” President Neal Smatresk said, referring to research and community outreach activities, “but to a large extent they have been individual efforts. The Brookings Mountain West initiative, together with The Linsky Institute, brings UNLV a comprehensive platform for addressing education, health care, social systems, and public policy.”

The Linsky Institute — made possible by a $14 million gift from The Linsky Foundation — will serve as a hub to connect community nonprofits with each other and with UNLV researchers to solve issues in health care, social services, and education.

Meanwhile, the BMW initiative — a collaboration with UNLV and the Brookings Institution, a Washington D.C.-based think tank for public policy — will focus on the infrastructure and quality-of-life challenges facing the Intermountain West states (Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah).

Building on the Mountain Megas Report

A 2008 report by Brookings called “Mountain Megas: America’s Newest Metropolitan Places and a Federal Partnership to Help Them Prosper” identified Las Vegas as one of five areas in the West that need sustainable, productive, and inclusive growth in order to prosper. (Albuquerque, Denver, Phoenix/Tucson, and Salt Lake City are the others.)

The report stated that these regions have benefitted from growth in many ways, but need policy changes and investments in infrastructure to end their boom-bust cycles. It noted the need for greater involvement of research universities in addressing the region’s challenges, particularly in the areas of transportation, water, education, immigration, health care, and energy. This aligned well with the Focus: 50 to 100 plan, which called for UNLV’s research efforts to foster the economic and social development of the region.

UNLV already has a number of programs in these areas, Smatresk noted. The Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, for example, recently reorganized to focus on infrastructure issues in renewable energy, transportation, radiochemistry and nuclear engineering, public-land use, and water resources.

And, there are a number of strong research and policy programs in several colleges related to social services. The Linsky Institute will serve as a hub for linking those programs in education, health care, and social services systems.

See PRIORITIES, Page 2
entry of the data itself are expected to be very time intensive, James said. Once the templates are created, the project will go through a pilot phase involving a small number of colleges and departments before the database is made available campuswide.

4 New Student E-Mail System

Anyone using the current RebelMail system will be migrated transparently to a Gmail system, the president said. One benefit of the new system is that it will make it easier for UNLV to continue communication with its alumni as students graduate.

5 Continue iNtegrate Implementation

The admissions portion of the new iNtegrate system, which is a systemwide computerized infrastructure for handling all things related to student records and information, went live this semester. The next phases to be implemented will be financial aid, enrollment, billing, transcripts, and advising.

6 Launching The Lincy Institute and Brookings Mountain West Initiative

These major initiatives will offer something for every single unit at UNLV, Smatresk said. “Whether it is a human capital issue, a hard infrastructure issue, or an economic development issue, I know everyone can play,” a part in the development of these initiatives. (For more detail, see “Lincy, Brookings Propels UNLV,” page 1.)

Completing the Invent the Future Fundraising Campaign

The Invent the Future campaign is in its final months. Already at more than 90 percent of its $500 million goal, the campaign has provided support to myriad areas across campus and is supporting the university’s goals of providing outstanding educational and research opportunities for students, the campus, and community. “Private giving has become even more important in these challenging economic times, providing critical support — scholarships, programmatic and research funds, buildings, etc. — that simply would not be possible without the generosity of our donors,” said Smatresk.

8 Accreditation Visit April 19-21

UNLV is in the process of being reviewed for its full 10-year accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). In a separate interview, Smatresk noted that the team under Michael Bowers, now interim executive vice president and provost, has been preparing UNLV for the grueling 10-year accreditation site visit. “There’s a tremendous, almost back-breaking number of criteria to be met and reviewed,” Smatresk said. “Michael has assembled an excellent team, and I’m proud to say that we are ready for the visit.”

The NWCCU team will visit campus and conduct interviews with faculty, staff, and students in April. “They need to know that we are working hard,” the president said. “They need to know that our university is pushing ahead and that despite tough times, we are still making progress.”

The Lincy Institute at UNLV

The big goal: Work with local nonprofits to address needs of the region in social services, education, and health care.

How: The Lincy Institute will be a resource hub for regional nonprofits, bringing expertise in research and data analysis and fostering collaboration with other organizations on overlapping issues. Nevada ranks last in federal grants per capita, partly because nonprofits lack such crucial resources as grant writers.


Brookings Mountain West Initiative

The big goal: Help the five major cities in the Intermountain West — Las Vegas, Phoenix/Tucson, Albuquerque, Denver, and Salt Lake City — end their boom-bust cycles and achieve sustainable, economically productive growth.

How: BMW will conduct public policy research and build an agenda for federal reforms in key infrastructure areas of transportation, water, education, immigration, health care, and energy.

Backstory: The Brookings Institution traces its beginnings to 1916 and the founding of the first private organization for public policy analysis. Its achievements include contributing to the formation of the United Nations, creation of the Congressional Budget Office, deregulation, broad-based tax reform, welfare reform, and the design of foreign aid programs.

More Federal Funding

One area in which Nevada definitely can use help is in securing more federal funding. An October 2008 report published by the U.S. Census Bureau ranked Nevada last among states in the amount of grants per capita received from the federal government. The Lincy Institute will help Nevada nonprofits identify federal, state, and local funding opportunities. Working with UNLV researchers, it will assist in providing baseline data and follow-up assessments of agency activities.

The institute eventually will fund up to 10 positions at UNLV, including an executive director, outreach and program directors, grant writer, and statistician. In addition to a dozen faculty fellows, the institute will fund graduate assistantships and undergraduate scholarships when it is fully operational.

The BMW initiative, likewise, will bring new resources to UNLV. A full-time research director will be housed at UNLV. Nine Brookings Scholars are visiting UNLV for one-to-three-week residencies this academic year. Their interactions with faculty and students will include seminars, lectures, and research activities. (Visit brookingsmntwest.unlv.edu for the full schedule.)
Get Ready for Homecoming 2009

By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR

Be a hero and help UNLV celebrate homecoming 2009.

While the football game isn’t until Oct. 17, a number of homecoming-related events are scheduled throughout the week.

The theme of this year’s homecoming is “UNLV Superheroes.”

Among the activities are:

• Oct. 12 — Homecoming Kickoff: Help the campus jump start homecoming 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Student Union’s Pida Plaza.

• Oct. 12 — Window Decorating Competition: Come to the Student Union 11 a.m.-1 p.m. to see the artwork and pride of UNLV students, faculty, and staff.

• Oct. 15 — Rally: Join the football team, marching band, and Rebel Girls on the North Field at 7:30 p.m. for the annual rally.

• Oct. 16 — Rebel Red Day: Show your pride and join this citywide celebration by wearing your Rebel red.

• Oct. 16 — Alumni Cocktail Reception and Dinner: Activities include a silent auction benefitting scholarships and alumni programming and recognition of George J. Malool Jr. as Outstanding Alumnus of the Year and Thalia Dondero as the Silver State honoree. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7:30 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom.

• Oct. 16 — Runnin’ Rebels First Look ’09: Get a sneak peak at the men’s basketball team during its opening practice at the Thomas & Mack Center beginning at 9 p.m.

• Oct. 17 — Football Tailgate and Game: UNLV hosts Utah at Sam Boyd Stadium in the 7 p.m. matchup. The Alumni Association tailgate begins at 4 p.m. For game tickets, call 739-3267 or visit unlvtickets.com.

• Oct. 17 — Parade: The parade will wind its way around Sam Boyd Stadium at 5 p.m.

More info: Go to homecoming.unlv.edu.

Timely Topic

From left: Former Vice President Al Gore, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, and energy executive and financier T. Boone Pickens participated in the National Clean Energy Summit 2.0: Jobs and the New Economy at UNLV in August. Approximately 900 people attended the event, which focused on developing a clean energy economy.
UNLV Organization

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Fred Tredup
Chief of Staff
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Contact: Angela Howard 5-5492, Ericka McDonald 5-5139

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Contact: Sherry Marks 5-3897

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College of Liberal Arts
Contact: Pat Loosbroock 5-3401

Peter Starkweather
Honors College
Contact: Bev Sabedra 5-2266

Ann McDonough
Academic Success Center
Contact: Paula Castillo 5-0667

Eric Sandgren
Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering
Contact: Carmen Willis 5-3699

William Speer
College of Education (Interim)
Contact: Candace Warkentin 5-3375

Athletics
- Athletic and Entertainment Business Operations
- Athletic Equipment
- Athletic Marketing
- Athletic Ticketing
- Athletic Training
- Game Operations, Grounds, and Facilities
- Head Coaches for the 17 intercollegiate athletic programs
- ISP — corporate sales
- Media Relations
- Rebel Athletic Fund
- Senior Administrative Staff/Sport Administrators
- Strength and Conditioning

Finance and Business
- Budget Office
- Campus Audit Department
- Communication Services
- Controller (accounts payable, general accounting, cashiering and student accounts, payroll, loan administration and nonresident alien compliance services, financial reporting, and liaison with grants and contracts/OSP for financial issues)
- Delivery Services
- Facilities Management (administrative services, facilities management, custodial, grounds, recycling, and work control)
- Human Resources (staff development and employee relations; employment and compensation services; human resource administration)
- Mail Services
- Parking Services
- Planning & Construction
- Property Control
- Purchasing (purchasing services, contract management, purchasing card administration)
- Real Estate Department
- Receiving Department
- Risk Management & Safety (fire, life, and occupational safety; environmental management)
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UNLV Organization

Presidents

Juanita Fain
Vice President for Student Affairs
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Jerry Koloskie
Director of Intercollegiate Athletics (Interim)
Contact: Susie Smith 5-4729

Richard Linstrom
Vice President and General Counsel
Contact: Erika Noltie 5-5185

Ron Smith
Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate College
Contact: Carole Hoefle 5-0946

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University Libraries
Contact: Fran Smith 5-2184

Paul Jarley
College of Business
Contact: Christine Meszaros 5-1291; Donna Weiss 5-4653

Jeffrey Koep
College of Fine Arts
Contact: Karen Spica 5-5187

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College of Sciences (Interim)
Contact: Linda Robison 5-1155

Karen P. West
School of Dental Medicine
Contact: Deborah Hare 4-2500

John Valery White
William S. Boyd School of Law
Contact: Dianne Fouret 5-1875

Stuart Mann
William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration
Contact: Annette Kannenberg 5-3308

Carolyn Yucha
School of Allied Health Sciences and School of Nursing
Contact: Sybil Strano-Perry 5-3906

and laboratory services; worker’s compensation administration; institutional insurance, property, and general liability claims administration)

Research and Graduate Studies

• Research (sponsored programs, research services, federal agency initiatives, technology transfer, research compliance, protection of research subjects, and animal care & use)
• Sustainability & Multi-Disciplinary Research (Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, Brookings Mountain West, The Lincy Institute, Public Lands Institute, National Supercomputing Center for Energy & the Environment, Office of Urban Sustainability Initiatives, and Center for Health Information Analysis)
• Graduate College (admissions, student programs, and policies)
• Science and Engineering Building

Student Affairs

• Campus Life
• Enrollment & Student Services
• Student Wellness and SA Technology
• Center for Academic Enrichment & Outreach
• Police Services
• Student Affairs Development
• Student Affairs Administration

University Advancement

• Alumni and External Relations
• Community Relations
• Government Relations
• Marketing and Public Relations
• Public Affairs
• Reprographics/Design Services
• UNLV Foundation

Want a Printable Version?
To print a smaller version of the organizational chart, go to facultystaff.unlv.edu.
New Faces

Markie Blumer
Professor, Marriage and Family Therapy Department
Hometown: Houston, Alaska.
Graduated from nearby Wasilla High School.
Family: Husband Tim; son Leif; and cat Dax.

Describe your job to a 12-year-old:
I am someone you can talk to about relationships, problems, or anything that might be going on in your life.

How did you become interested in your field?
As a child and through most of my undergraduate schooling, I wanted to be a psychological profiler for some government agency. But, in my last semester of college, I was a teaching assistant for a Sociology of Sexuality course. After that experience, I knew I wanted to conduct research and instruct in the area of human sexuality.

Biggest misconception about your field:
That we only clinically work with, are interested in, or are knowledgeable about married couples and their families. I see the name of the field itself, ‘marriage and family therapy,’ as truly a misnomer. It would be more apt to refer to the field as ‘relationship therapy.’

Cocktail party anecdote:
Marriage and family therapists tend to have one of the higher divorce rates.

Drive from Alaska to Las Vegas:
This was my seventh trip to or from Alaska to the lower 48 via the Alaska-Canadian (Al-Can) Highway system. There is a shared ideology among Alaskans — if you can survive the Al-Can as a couple then you can survive anything together. This was our second trip together and we are still happily married.

Trekkie trivia:
I love Star Trek, particularly Star Trek the original series. My favorite character of all time is Spock. Hence, we visited Vulcan, Alberta, on our drive here. It would not be at all inaccurate to refer to me as a ‘Trekkie’ or ‘Trekker.’

Your worst habit:
I am obsessed with brushing my teeth. I probably brush five times per day. One of my secret dreams is for my son to become a dentist.

Your first job:
I was an unofficial pyrotechnician for a fireworks stand. I got to safely play with fire and look at pretty colored lights. It was a blast (pun intended).

If you were on the show Jeopardy!, what anecdote about yourself would you tell?
I cheered in both junior and senior high school, in college, and professionally. In fact, I led a college cheerleading squad to a national title as a collegiate coach through a graduate assistantship position. Cheerleading paid for a good portion of my graduate schooling. My mother and others joke that I have a “doctorate in cheerleading.”

Being from near Wasilla:
People used to say, “Was—a—what?” Now they say, “Oh, really? What do you think of Sarah Palin?”

William Bauer
Professor, History
Hometown: Covelo, Calif. I am an enrolled member of the Covelo Indian Community of northern California’s Round Valley Reservation.
Family: Wife Kendra, daughters Temerity and Scout.

Describe your field to a 12-year-old:
I research, write, and teach about American Indian history. In particular, I am interested in the stories of native people who live and work on their home reservations.

How did you become interested in your field?
Growing up on my home reservation, I always had an interest in my community’s history. However, I intended to be a journalist when I went to college. Then, one of my friends at college suggested that I pursue a Ph.D. after he spent spring break at my home.

Your first job:
I grew up on my father’s cattle ranch, which qualifies as my first job. I think my dad knows, though, that I am a better historian than a cattle rancher.

Why UNLV?
I look forward to working with Ph.D. students (my previous department only had an M.A. program) and being close to the area of my research (California). I cherish the proximity to my home, as it is only a day’s drive from Las Vegas. And after spending several years enduring Wyoming winters, I long for warmer and more hospitable weather.

What do you hope to accomplish here?
I hope to develop a course on California Indian history and write a book that focuses on the California Indians in the 19th century as well as one that examines questions of aging in California Indian nations.

Biggest misconception about your field:
When people think of American Indian history, they have images of Plains Indian people from the 19th century. However, I find the everyday stories of native people far more interesting — what kind of jobs did native people have and how did they get through the winter? I think these stories and histories are universal to American Indian life in the United States.

An experience where you learned from a student:
At the University of Wyoming, I worked with an Arapaho woman who is working with Arapaho elders to record oral histories and traditions. From the moment I met her, she played a strong commitment to her community and nation as well as a scholarly interest in Arapaho history. As a professor, I find it extremely enjoyable and rewarding to cultivate those interests and skills with native students.

Favorite movie:
Although it does not necessarily portray native people very well, I enjoy John Ford’s movie The Searchers. Produced in the 1950s, the movie speaks to a nation that was entering the Civil Rights movement and struggling with the consequences.

Something you like to do for fun:
I am a bit of a sports fanatic, especially football. So I enjoy following college and professional football.

After work:
I should say that I go to the gym and workout. However, I usually go home and watch ESPN.
Garage Opens, Parking Policies Changed

More Than 1,000 Parking Spots Added
By Shane Bevell | Marketing & PR
Employees on the south end of campus now have another option for parking.

The Tropicana Parking Garage, which was completed in mid-August, adds a little more than 1,000 parking spots west of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The four-story garage will have pay-and-display machines at both entrances so visitors can buy an hourly or one-day parking pass. If the garage is full, the pay-and-display passes can be used for surface lots around the Thomas & Mack Center as well.

“This is probably the fastest parking garage I have ever seen constructed,” said Ted McDowell, parking and transportation services director. “The actual construction of the facility, not including the design and earth work, took approximately four and a half months.”

Faculty and staff can park on all four levels of the new garage. The first floor includes spaces for patients of the Student Health Center. Student parking will be on levels two through four. The best entrance for those floors is on the south, while the west entrance is the most convenient for first-floor parking, McDowell said.

Permit Fees Pay for Garage

Permit fees are used for maintenance and development of parking on campus, including the Tropicana Parking Garage.

Structured fees are to maintain small, steady increases, McDowell said. “The alternative is to increase fees dramatically at the time a parking garage, lot development, or major maintenance is required.” This fall, the cost for a faculty/staff annual permit is $250, up $2 per month. This represents an 8.7 percent increase over last year’s rate. Other permits, including semester only, monthly, and reserved, are also available.

employees Must Buy Employee Pass

All faculty and staff must purchase a faculty/staff permit. Previously, employees could purchase a student permit, at half the cost, and park in student parking. McDowell noted that the new policy is fairer and more equitable to everyone on campus.

Faculty and staff can still park in student spots, but they will have to purchase a faculty/staff permit. There are now plenty of open handicap spaces throughout campus.

Previously, anyone with a state-issued handicap placard could park free of charge.

Now, faculty, staff, and student drivers are required to purchase and display a UNLV-issued handicap parking permit along with their state-issued handicap placard. These permits can be purchased at the parking and transportation services office; they are not available online. The driver must present their state-issued placard along with the letter issued by the DMV saying they have specific needs allowing them to purchase the UNLV permit.

More Info: Go to parking.unlv.edu.

Tech Savvy

Tech Support Increases Despite Budget Cuts

More Self-Help Resources Available
By Mamie Peers | OIT
A single help desk for both students and employees as well as more self-help options are among the changes OIT has made to continue providing high levels of service despite budget cuts. These measures mean you may be able to help yourself more quickly when technicians are unavailable.

A Single Help Desk

Merging the employee and student help desk technicians provides the campus support on the weekends and at two locations instead of one. The help desks now share staff, training resources, and contact information.

“We wanted faculty and staff to have a number to call after 5 p.m. and we wanted coverage for both groups at more locations,” said DeAnna Schoendienst, manager of client services. “We also created an enhanced knowledgebase so that our technicians can quickly answer routine questions while they have you on the phone, rather than escalating the call to a specialist.”

Because of decreased staffing, escalated work requests might take longer than they have before.

The help desk continues to employ both students and full-time technicians. “We enjoy having students work at our help desks. It’s an excellent job training for them. Each one is paired with a full-time employee who models customer service behaviors and shares troubleshooting tips,” said Schoendienst.

Online Resources

OIT continues to expand online resources. For those who would rather not spend time on a phone call, you can quickly make help requests through a short online form. You can also find many self-help guides on OIT’s website, such as:

• Windows computer maintenance instructions
• Instruction to configure your handheld device to read Lotus Notes
• New computer specification recommendations
• Technology-enhanced classroom instructional videos and quick-start guides

Employees interested in software can begin at the OIT website. The software database describes purchasing procedures, the location of software in computer labs, and the type of support offered by the help desk.

Classes Available

OIT offers free two-hour courses on Lotus Notes and Microsoft Office. Learning about and using the advanced features in the applications can save you time.

More Info: Go to oit.unlv.edu for the online help request form, help desk hours and locations, self-help guides, and training course registration.

Did You Know?

• UNLV began processing student applications through the new student information system, iNtegrate, last month.
• The license cost for BlackBerries was reduced from $150 per year to $100 per year, because of an increase in the number of customers using the service. The more customers we have, the more we can share costs, and the cheaper it is for everyone.
• OIT’s website now provides information on setting Lotus Notes mail on iPhones.
• WebCampus hardware was replaced and redesigned in August to improve stability and availability.
• OIT will soon offer “guest” wireless accounts for campus visitors who need Internet access. OIT will pilot the program this fall in the Student Union and plans to offer it throughout campus after the pilot.
• Technicians are testing a bicycle to use for computer hard-ware delivery and repair. The bikes are cheaper, cleaner, and require less maintenance than electronic golf carts.
• If you are interested in getting more immediate notice when a university system is unavailable, OIT posts incident notification and news to its homepage. You can also follow OIT at Twitter.com/unlv_oit.

• Technology-enhanced classroom instructions
• Notes mail on iPhones.
• OIT continues to expand online resources.
• Technology-enhanced classroom instructional videos and quick-start guides

More than 1,000 parking spots added to west side of campus.

The Tropicana Parking Garage provides employees on the south side of campus another option for parking. Employee and student parking fees helped pay for its construction. Hourly and one-day parking passes can be purchased at the pay-and-display machines.
Great Start to Fall Semester

Students arriving at UNLV for the start of fall semester were met with a variety of activities, including the annual Premier UNLV complete with bands and fireworks.

And, for the first time this year, new students benefited from the SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration) program. Designed by the office of orientation and parent programs in conjunction with the campus’ academic advisors, SOAR is designed to increase student success. More than 3,000 new students and 2,000 parents participated in the one-day program that was held 16 times during the summer. The program focuses on academic success, social integration, and campus resources. Students met with academic advisors in their colleges and then went to computer labs to register for classes, leaving campus with their fall class schedules and Rebel Cards in hand.

(Above) Honors College student Michelle Nam, right, talks with a friend during the college’s ice cream social in August. (Below) Orientation leaders Donovan Kaneshiro, left, and Krista Mullen try to convince incoming freshmen to participate in Premier UNLV as part of the New Student Welcome program. (Left) Approximately 4,000 people attended Premier UNLV, an event that officially welcomes new and returning students to campus. Premier included a welcome cookout and live music. The event ended when everyone gathered on the field to form the letters UNLV, complete with flashlights and pyrotechnics choreographed to the university fight song.