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Inside UNLV

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Inside UNLV

Faculty and Staff Publication

January 2002

Rebel Softball Gets New Home Eller Media Stadium to Open This Month

by Kevin Force

After being lost in the middle of campus at the unremarkable Rebel softball diamond for 19 seasons, the UNLV softball team will finally and proudly unveil its new home in an exhibition game against the program's alumni on Jan. 26.

Eller Media Stadium at Jim Rogers Field, completed in November, will not officially open until it hosts the debut of the 2002 Rebels. But the completed work now brightens the edge of campus at the corner of Harmon Avenue and Swenson Street.

"We have waited a long time for this new stadium, and we are very thankful to our friends and supporters who have made it happen," said softball head coach Shan McDonald. "The stadium is something our current players have worked hard for and they are excited that they will have the opportunity to play there. UNLV will now have facilities that are equal to or exceed our competition across the board, which will help us in our recruiting efforts."

"Eller Media is very proud to support women's athletic programs at UNLV," Sally Tracey, president of Eller Media Company, said at the announcement of the gift. "This new softball stadium will give the Rebels an outstanding place to host NCAA softball games."



REBEL softball will move to a new home this month with the opening of Eller Media Stadium at Jim Rogers Field. Athletic department staff say the stadium will give UNLV softball facilities that are equal to or better than those of other universities.

Shortly after the gift was announced, the UNLV Foundation contracted KGA Architects and KBA Construction Company to design and build the stadium. Ground was broken in June.

"This is a great day for our softball team,

our athletics department, and our university," said Athletics Director Charles Cavagnaro at the groundbreaking. "Today marks the beginning of construction on a project that we have been working on for a long time, and to see it

continued on page 7

UNLV Dental School Progresses Toward August Opening

by Betty Blodgett

More than 800 hopeful candidates are vying to be among the 75 students who will be admitted as members of the fall 2002 inaugural class of UNLV's Dental School.

To Interim Dean Steven Smith, this large number of interested candidates is yet another indicator that the timing is definitely right to establish a dental school in Nevada.

According to Smith, the Dental School is beginning at a time when the nation is facing a serious shortage of dentists – a shortage that is having a particularly severe effect on Nevadans. The state has 35 dentists per 100,000 residents, ranking Nevada 50th in the nation in the ratio of dentists per capita.

"When you look at the tremendous population growth we've been experiencing in Nevada and you couple that with the

shortage of dentists, you see that there is a major health concern that needs to be addressed," Smith said. "The mission of the Dental School is to help meet that need by providing high-quality dental education for Nevada residents, while at the same time providing care for those with limited access to dental medicine. Our aim is to develop into one of the nation's premier dental schools."

Smith credits state Sen. Ray Rawson, a dentist who oversees dental-related programs at the Community College of Southern Nevada, as being the important driving force behind the creation of a dental school at UNLV. The Board of Regents approved the establishment of the Dental School in 1998; the state Legislature subsequently approved the school as well.

Since that time, Susan Silverton, the UNLV Dental School's associate dean for academic affairs, said that a tremendous amount of groundwork has been taking place in the

form of planning, development, and curriculum design to prepare the school for the first students who will attend classes next fall. Before the school can officially open its doors, it must receive provisional accreditation by the national Commission on Dental Accreditation.

"We have submitted all of the necessary documents for accreditation eligible status to the commission," Silverton said. "They will begin reviewing the documents in January and will visit UNLV in April. We expect to hear by the end of July that the commission has granted us the provisional accreditation status."

In the meantime, Silverton said that the school has begun searches for a number of key positions, including the chair of integrated biosciences, the chair of clinical sciences, and a director of patient care services. A search also has begun for a permanent dean,

continued on page 2

Contents

Planning Initiative Awards Discussed
Page 2



Grounds Crew Contributes to Campus
Page 3

Points of Policy: Vision Benefits Explained
Page 7

Spoonhour Launches First Season
Page 8



On Raising the GPA Requirement

by
UNLV President
Carol C. Harter

As most of you know by now, we have been successful in reaching a compromise in our discussions on the matter of raising the high school GPA requirement for admission to UNLV. For those who might have missed the outcome of the debate, the Board of Regents approved a measure at its December meeting calling for the GPA requirement to be raised to 2.75 in 2006 and to 3.0 in 2010 at both UNLV and UNR.

As part of that measure, both universities will be taking steps to ensure that the plan is flexible. For instance, we will expand the criteria for alternative admissions immediately, and by fall of 2006 we will increase the percentage of students eligible to be admitted by these criteria to 10 percent from 6 percent. Also in 2006, we will admit students who do not meet admission criteria contingent upon their successful completion of a comprehensive transfer program. In 2008, we will conduct an admissions policy impact study to determine the effects of the changes on various constituencies. Some additional changes, including some modifications to the transfer policy, will support this new plan, as well.

I am pleased with the plans to raise the GPA requirement, which I believe are quite workable and support our goals of enhancing student success, increasing retention, and improving graduation potential. While we had originally hoped to require the higher GPA sooner, I feel we are moving in the right direction at a reasonable pace. I also find it rewarding that the process through which we arrived at this outcome yielded opportunities for vigorous exchange between the university and other interested parties within the larger Southern Nevada community. No controversial measure can be truly resolved until this type of exchange occurs.

It has been our position throughout these discussions that one of the primary goals of raising the GPA requirement was to enhance our students' success, thus improving our retention rates. Studies have shown that higher GPA entrance requirements better ensure that students who are admitted to universities are prepared for university-level study. Also, because many academic majors require GPAs higher than 2.5, raising the university entrance requirements would help assure that students will be prepared to enter their chosen fields of study. Another benefit of increasing the GPA requirement is that the need for remedial course offerings at the university level may be substantially reduced, thus enabling us to use state funds more efficiently.

Throughout our exchanges with the community, however, we have come to understand that we must make more concerted and comprehensive efforts to ensure student success and to continue to recruit with diversity as a central goal. One of the criticisms of raising the GPA requirement was that a more open admissions policy enables the university to serve a greater number of individuals and is more likely to ensure a diverse student population. While I respectfully disagree with the latter portion of that criticism – our studies indicate the impact of such a plan on our current minority student population would be roughly proportionate to the impact on

continued on page 8

Planning Initiative Awards Discussed

by Richard Jensen

The December issue of *Inside UNLV* provided a summary of some of the Planning Initiative Awards for 2001-02 that received less than \$10,000 in funds. This issue provides a description of the rest of the Small Awards (those for less than \$10,000) and begins a summary of Large Awards (those between \$10,000 and \$30,000).

These summaries provide a brief look at some of the exciting research that is being conducted on campus and illustrate the tremendous diversity of that research.

Many of the awards were for research on health-related issues. Several were received by individuals affiliated with UNLV's Cancer Institute to help them in their quest to cure cancer. Others focused on eating disorders or the development of fat cells; some were used to purchase equipment for health-related research.

Several of the grants were used to purchase equipment that will help improve classroom instruction and others were used to create educational programs that reach out to the community.

The following is a brief summary of six of the awards. Lesley Johnson of the department of food and beverage management and Laura Kruskall of the department of nursing received \$6,440 to create and implement a mechanism to identify female athletes with the potential for disordered eating.



RECIPIENTS of a Planning Initiative Award to support a project concerning Nevada prehistory are (left to right) graduate student Sali Underwood, anthropology professor Vicki Cassman, and graduate students Victoria Fisher and Jennifer Riddle.

Paul Schulte of the department of biological sciences received \$4,007 to acquire the equipment necessary to further develop a new course in instrumentation and measurements for graduate students and senior undergraduates in biological sciences.

Deborah Hoshizaki of the department of biological sciences received \$9,000 to do research on understanding how genes control fat-cell development. The study uses the fruit fly as the experimental organism.

Dawn Neuman of the department of biological sciences and Bryan Spangelo of the chemistry department received \$9,500 to examine inhibitor chemicals derived from arid land plants for their anti-tumor activity, using a well-defined human leukemia cell culture system.

Mark Rudin of the health physics department, Cheryl Bowles and Laura Kruskall of the department of nursing, Laura LaPorta of the department of physical therapy, and John Mercer of the kinesiology department received \$30,000 to purchase a state-of-the-art DEXA scanner to support health-related and research initiatives at UNLV.

Vicki Cassman of the department of anthropology and anthropology graduate students Kristen Martine, Jennifer Riddle, and Sali Underwood received \$22,366 to create an educational package on Nevada prehistory that will be accessible to the Clark County public schools and the general public. Graduate student Victoria Fisher has joined the project since the funding was granted.

Dental School

continued from page 1

as well as for a number of faculty positions.

Although students have until March 1 to submit their applications, more than 800 candidates have already applied and interviews with many of the candidates are now taking place. Only 75 students will be accepted into the dental program the first year. The school is expected to have an enrollment of 300 students by 2005.

To be eligible, students must have passed the Dental Admissions Test and have received either a bachelor's degree or have a minimum of 90 credits that meet the prerequisite requirements. The prerequisites include one year each of physics, biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and English. Silverton said that most students applying to the Dental School tend to have majors in the sciences – biology, microbiology, chemistry, biochemistry, or pre-health studies.

The four-year, full-time dental program will educate the students on all aspects of dental and medical health practices and will provide the students with extensive experience in delivering patient care.

"We have been working closely with a number of faculty from the different colleges and schools here on campus, with practicing dentists, and with dental faculty peers to prepare a comprehensive and integrated curriculum for our students," Silverton said.

Courses will be held in eight-week segment blocks and the students will be divided into three groups. The students will rotate among the different segments, which will include instruction in biosciences, dental practices,

and public health and professional studies.

"Research also will be an important component of the program," Silverton said. "We expect to collaborate with other colleges on campus to conduct research on a number of topics, such as how to make the best health-care decisions and how to receive patient compliance."

Most importantly, Silverton said, students will have an opportunity for real-life experiences treating patients and providing educational programs for the local community.

"We will have clinical facilities set up in Las Vegas and in the outlying rural areas where people can come in and receive dental care," she said. "Under direct faculty supervision, the students will render dental treatment in all aspects of general dentistry. Through our services, we hope to be able to provide care for large numbers of currently under-served populations, such as children without health care, the elderly, and those who live in rural areas."

In addition, Silverton said that the students will regularly attend community health fairs and go into the school districts to educate schoolchildren on the importance of good oral health.

"Really, the goal of the UNLV Dental School is to provide an environment that is student-centered and that serves the needs of our community and integrates fully into the UNLV academic community of scholars."

Last month, UNLV purchased three buildings and 18 acres of land at 1700 W. Charleston Blvd. at a cost of \$13.5 million. The School of Dentistry will occupy 110,000 square feet of space there; the remaining 75,000 square feet will house other UNLV programs.

For more information about the UNLV Dental School, visit the school's Web site located at www.unlv.edu/dentalschool.

University Grounds Crew Members Contribute to Campus Beauty and Safety in a Variety of Ways

Editor's Note: This story on the UNLV grounds maintenance crew is the first in a series of articles on the various units of classified employees who contribute to the university's success in fulfilling its mission.

by Diane Russell

Most Southern Nevada homeowners know what a hassle a sprinkler system can be.

You step outside on Sunday morning to pick up the newspaper with plans of going back inside to browse through the paper over a leisurely cup of coffee. But instead, having noticed a geyser in the corner of the front lawn that is flooding the sidewalk and threatening to produce a bumper crop of weeds in your neighbor's prized desert landscaping, you find yourself in the garage trying to locate a replacement sprinkler head or riser. If you're really unlucky, you discover that the problem is in the line itself, which means the coffee is definitely going to be cold by the time you get back to the kitchen.

Imagine missing sprinkler heads, cracked risers, and broken lines multiplied by hundreds, and you have some notion of what Jeannie McKinnon, a grounds maintenance worker IV at UNLV, faces each morning when she arrives at work at 6 a.m.

McKinnon, along with the three other members of the UNLV irrigation crew, is charged with keeping all the sprinklers on the 335-acre campus in good repair. That includes, of course, not only lawn sprinklers, but also drip irrigation systems for many of the plants (don't forget that the university campus doubles as a state arboretum) and all the irrigation systems for the various sports fields on campus.

And, naturally, there's more to the job than keeping the sprinkler systems in good repair. The sprinklers here, just as at home, have to be reset for varying amounts of watering time, depending on the season of the year. And, unlike at home, the sprinklers have to be turned on and off so that they don't provide surprise showers to a group of dignitaries involved in a university ceremony.

It's a lot to take care of, but McKinnon, who has been at UNLV four years, says it's a job to which she's well suited.

"I like working with the crew and especially like working outside," she said. "I decided to give this a shot, and I really like it."

She previously worked as an emergency medical technician for the fire departments in Los Angeles and Dallas, but said she eventually burned out and felt the need to look for a new career. She had friends working at UNLV and had heard it was a good place to work, so decided to apply.

She says that while some aspects of the job remain the same – the irrigation crew is supposed to walk the entire campus each day, looking for problem areas – other aspects change.

With a 40-year-old campus, it's sometimes surprising what the crew finds when it digs down to look into a sprinkler system problem, she says. Meanwhile, the first workday back after holidays or weekends often can be a challenge – particularly if there's been some special activity on campus.

Dennis Swartzell, UNLV director of landscape, grounds, and arboretum, says that McKinnon's positive attitude is typical of most of the 42 classified workers who are part of the grounds crew. The group primarily is divided into three units: athletic and turf maintenance; irrigation and construction; and horticulture, which involves the care of the trees and shrubs.

"I don't think the people on campus realize the wide variety of tasks this group of employees handles," Swartzell says. "One of the first things our people do each morning is unlock hundreds of doors on this campus so that people can get into the buildings when they show up for work or class."

Another early morning task is running the street sweeper through the parking lots before they begin to fill with cars. Then come some of the more obvious jobs, such as picking up trash, mowing the lawns, trimming the shrubs and trees, and, of course, keeping the sprinklers in good repair. Perhaps fewer people know that members of the grounds maintenance crew also repair cracked and sunken sidewalks and are responsible for posting and maintaining the many signs around campus. A number of the jobs, such as tree trimming and maintenance, require special training.

"Our crews work hard every day to keep our areas in good working order," Swartzell said, noting that since 1982 the numbers of grounds crew workers has increased to 42 from 28.

Gonzalo Saenz, an equipment operator on the construction crew, starts his day at 6 a.m., working on the street sweeper. How long he stays on the sweeper depends, in part, on what other duties await him that day.

The rest of his day may be spent assisting with concrete repair or posting signs. And, with all the construction on campus, there's always the need to keep an eye out for any construction debris that may have accidentally landed on a sidewalk or in a parking lot. Sometimes, he helps with digging up problem utility lines so that other crews can come in and do repairs.

Saenz came to work at UNLV five years ago when the construction company for which he worked experienced a slow-down. A friend employed at UNLV recommended he apply for a campus job.

He says he knows the work he and his crewmates perform is valuable to the university even though it's one of those situations in which people not noticing you tends to be an indication that you're doing a good job.

"If we do the job, nobody will notice and that means we're doing good work," Saenz says. "If we weren't doing a good job, then everyone would notice."

John Bynum, a grounds maintenance worker II with the turf crew, has become an expert lawn mower during his 2 1/2 years at UNLV.

"In a typical day I mow, weed whip, and edge," he says. Bynum and the other three members of the turf crew are responsible for maintaining all the turf on campus except the sports fields. The latter is the responsibility of Bynum's fellow employee, Jim Bozarth.

Bynum's 2 1/2 years at UNLV reflect two periods of employment at the university. He first worked here for about a year before deciding to go to school to learn electronics. Once he got into that field, however, he realized it wasn't for him and decided to return to UNLV, where his mother, Ruby Bynum, has worked at the Marjorie Barrick

continued on page 8



EQUIPMENT operator Gonzalo Saenz begins each workday driving the campus street sweeper. He says he knows that he and his coworkers on the campus construction crew make a valuable contribution to the university.



KEEPING the hundreds of sprinklers on campus in good working order is the responsibility of grounds maintenance worker Jeannie McKinnon and the other three members of the UNLV irrigation crew. Between them, crewmembers walk the entire 335-acre campus each day.

Inside UNLV

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From the Dean's Desk

by **Kenneth Marks**
Dean of Libraries

The movie *Field of Dreams* contains the memorable dictum, "If you build it, they will come." The first year of Lied Library's operation has proved that the statement applies to academic libraries. Visits to Lied Library during its first year surpassed the 1.1 million mark, an increase of 90 percent over the last year spent in Dickinson Library. Unlike the academic library trends reported in the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* Nov. 16, 2001, article, "The Deserted Library," Lied Library defies those trends. Visits are up. Book circulation is up, and patron contacts at service desks are up. Lest you think this is happening just at Lied Library, there are similar trends at the Curriculum Materials Library, the Architecture Studies Library, and the new Music Library. (By the way, library faculty and staff opened Lied Library and the Music Library during the same year – an amazing feat.)

The success of the UNLV Libraries is founded on a long-standing tradition of commitment that has been followed by President Harter, Provost Alden, and former Provost Ferraro. New faculty and staff positions were committed to the libraries, ensuring that adequate service levels could be sustained in the new facilities. Scarce resources were committed through institutional priorities funds, summer school distributions, and other sources to enable the purchase of a wide variety of electronic resources. Comparisons with other academic libraries reveal how unique this sustained commitment has been.

There are a number of features and services in Lied Library that have reinforced its success. The Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval (LASR), the robotic retrieval system, attracts visitors who want to see the system in operation. The Information Commons was an immediate success with the university and the public communities. The Media Distribution System has improved our ability to make video and audio materials available to students and faculty, and ultimately will allow us to distribute materials across campus without the media leaving the library. A little-publicized feature of Lied Library is the Disability Resources Equipment Room, which is being used with increasing frequency. In fact, Lied Library may be one of the most accessible buildings on campus.

In October of last year, the UNLV Libraries began a new service initiative: loaning laptops to UNLV users for in-library use. This service allows students or faculty to work at any of the thousands of data drops placed throughout the building. As use of this service grows and resources become available, the fleet of laptops will grow. An expanded building space has allowed the libraries' instructional services department to increase its efforts geared toward orienting students to the increasing breadth and depth of library resources and services.

Often overlooked by many library visitors, Lied's most unique resources are located in the special collections department on the third floor. For the first time, there are adequate facilities to properly display these historical collections. Anyone who has watched television programs about Las Vegas on the Discovery Channel, the Learning Channel, or A&E has seen some of the treasures held in special collections.

The campus community has made Lied Library an enormous success in its first year. Please watch for the announcement of a first-birthday celebration that will take place later this month.

News FROM THE COLLEGES

Business College

The college was honored last semester to host Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. He was in Las Vegas for the grand opening of RC Willey Home Furnishings in Henderson, a company owned by Berkshire Hathaway. He graciously agreed to speak with faculty and friends of the college, followed by a brief presentation and question-and-answer session with College of Business students. This rare opportunity to interact with the second wealthiest man in the world and one of the world's most famous investors was well received by participants.

The college will continue to sponsor programs such as this to provide opportunities for interaction between faculty and students and leading business professionals. The resulting balance of a strong academic background and exposure to ideas from leading practitioners promotes an informed faculty and stronger graduates.

Dental School

The school has moved to its new quarters in the Facilities Maintenance Building and is awaiting the new sign that will identify its temporary site. Both the college's office of academic affairs and its office of student services are now together in the former FMA. The office of the dean, however, is still in the Bigelow Health Sciences Building.

The school recently completed its second strategic planning session, and has formulated a Tactical Implementation Plan for the startup of the school in August 2002. The Plan is called FAST: Faculty, Accreditation, Students and Transitional facility. We are continuing on course for our first class matriculation following approval of our program by the Commission on Dental Accreditation in July.

We currently are interviewing our first groups of Nevadans applying to the new school. Qualified applicants are visiting us at our new location. UNLV faculty and visiting faculty are interviewing potential dental students. Within the next few weeks, letters of acceptance will be sent for our inaugural class.

College of Education

Literacy faculty in the college have received exciting "million dollar" news – \$26.1 million, to be exact. The state was awarded a Reading Excellence Act (REA) grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support two statewide goals: 1) improving early literacy (pre-K through 3) instruction with the goal of helping all children read by third grade; and 2) professional development of teachers with the goal of "growing a generation of literacy leaders in the state."

This funding provides an opportunity for UNLV to partner with the Nevada Department of Education and UNR to support schools that will apply for two types of competitive subgrants – Local Reading Improvement (LRI) and Tutorial Assistance. The subgrants will be awarded to high-poverty urban and rural schools to provide support for hiring additional literacy specialists, family literacy services, early literacy interventions, tutoring, materials, and professional development focused on scientifically based reading research. Many of the literacy specialists and teachers will be able to work on graduate degrees offered through the college, and also will be able to take coursework for state endorsements in TESL or literacy. Another component is the use of technology to provide virtual technical assistance support for grant-writing teams, and to support the work of the NREA Management Team and Task Force committees and administrator cohorts.

UNLV literacy faculty on the Management Team and Task Force (Marilyn McKinney, Maria Meyerson, Ralph Reynolds) together with grant managers Chelli Smith and Darrin Hardman are looking forward to working with

schools in ways that will make a difference for the literacy development of Nevada's children. Check <http://www.nevadarea.org> for more information.

Engineering College

The UNLV Minority Engineering Program (MEP) is a comprehensive recruitment and retention program conducted by the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. The MEP arose out of the recognition that American Indians, African-Americans, and Hispanics are under-represented in the engineering and computer science professions, and that an effective recruitment and retention program could be developed to support minority engineering students at the university level. Currently in its 12th year of operation, there are more 150 students registered with the program.

Eighteen students who received MEP scholarships for the 2001-02 academic year were honored at a reception held at the Moyer Student Union in October. Also recognized were individuals and organizations that provided scholarship funding.

The Cooperative Developmental Energy Program (CDEP) is a dual-degree program between Fort Valley State University (FVSU), located in Georgia, and UNLV. Students initially attend FVSU for three years, majoring in mathematics, and then transfer to UNLV to complete requirements for degrees in civil, mechanical, electrical, or computer engineering. For the past six years, more than 30 students have successfully completed this program as UNLV graduates. Currently, five CDEP students are enrolled in the College of Engineering and three are expected to graduate this academic year.

College of Fine Arts

UNLV's Marjorie Barrick Museum, in conjunction with the College of Fine Arts, will host "The Prince: A Retrospective Exhibition of Work by Tony Curtis Featuring Paintings, Prints, Drawings and Sculptural Assemblage" through the end of January. Curtis has had many major one-man exhibitions in the United States, and his London debut exhibition sold out before it opened to the public. His bright acrylic canvases, which have been compared to those of Matisse, assemblages, collages, and boxes are in the private collections of Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver, Frank and Kathy Lee Gifford, Arsenio Hall, Kirk Douglas, and the late Frank Sinatra and Walter Matthau.

The Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery is hosting a retrospective of the work of Joe Brainard from Jan. 22 through Feb. 28. Brainard produced thousands of paintings, assemblages, collages, book covers and illustrations, and one-of-a-kind books. He had several one-person exhibitions in galleries in New York and elsewhere, and appeared in 45 group shows between 1965 and 1979. He died in 1994.

The Brainard Retrospective kicks off at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 22 with a gallery talk hosted by UNLV art professor and MacArthur Fellowship recipient Dave Hickey. It continues that evening with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. that is free and open to the public.

Ailey II, formerly the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble, will perform Jan. 26 in the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall as part of the Best of the New York Stage series. Critics have hailed Ailey II's performers as "some of the best young dancers of the next generations." Ailey II has become synonymous with powerful dance, singular style, and award-winning educational outreach programs.

Graduate College

The college is committed to improving its services to faculty, students, and administration consistent with

national trends in graduate education. A recent primary focus of the Graduate College has been review and assessment of its information management systems, including the nature of admissions applications, processing and storage of records and forms, and assessment activities through exit surveys.

A significant component of this initiative is the recent revision of a current classified staff position to that of a professional systems analyst. Janine Barrett, a summa cum laude graduate of the UNLV management information systems program, joined the college in December and will be coordinating new initiatives in online admissions applications; improved electronic services, including submission of student and faculty forms; and improved management of the graduate student database for better entry, retrieval, and reporting.

Several long-term and valued members of the college staff retired during fall semester 2001. The college has greatly appreciated the service of Theresa Hauslein and Edee Moseley, each serving at UNLV for 17 years, and extends them best wishes in their retirement. Barbara Fisher, formerly with the office of the registrar, has joined the Graduate College staff as an admissions evaluator.

College of Health Sciences

The department of physical therapy was the recipient of scholarship funds following a successful golf tournament. In association with the Roy and Roxy Campanella Foundation, a golf tournament and dinner were held at Spanish Trail Country Club. A portion of the proceeds from the event will be used to provide scholarships to students in the graduate physical therapy program. The honored guest of at the dinner was Cynthia Jay-Brennan, who also received the Campanella Spirit Award acknowledging her hard work during physical therapy treatments over the past year. This is the first time that the Campanella Foundation has partnered with a university for the annual fund-raising event, and we are very proud that the foundation chose to work with UNLV and the College of Health Sciences.

The college has also received a new DEXA scanner for faculty and student research. The scanner was obtained, in part, through funds from a Planning Initiative Award and will be utilized for research by faculty from all departments in the college. The equipment can be used to determine bone density, total body fat, and other measurements. The line outside the door to the equipment is already forming in anticipation of its use in research projects.

As a result of another Planning Initiative Award, the college, in conjunction with the colleges of Sciences and Engineering, initiated their Distinguished Speaker Series by bringing John Jonides (University of Michigan) and Robert A. Bjork (UCLA) to speak on memory and learning. With these two internationally recognized experts to begin the speakers series, we are indeed fortunate. Look for future presentations in the series.

Honors College

The college had 17 graduates this fall and hosted its December Medallion Ceremony on Nov. 30.

In December, the college hosted an alumni and staff holiday party. This was an excellent opportunity for college personnel to thank the faculty who taught for the college during the fall semester and for alumni to see the college's new offices and facilities in the Lied Library.

Marco Benvenuti, a department honors student, was recently awarded the UNLV annual Ford Motor Company/Golden Key International Honour Society Undergraduate Scholarship. Benvenuti is currently

majoring in hotel administration and carries a 3.97 grade point average.

As the college begins putting together its class schedule for fall 2002, it is looking for faculty who would be interested in teaching the special topic seminars (HON 400H). These seminars are limited to 10 to 15 honors students and provide excellent opportunities to teach focused areas of interest to top students. Anyone interested in teaching a special topic seminar should contact either Acting Dean Jeff Koep or Susanne Pierce at ext. 2263.

College of Hotel Administration

The International Gaming Institute's IGT Gaming Resource Center, located on the third floor of the Stan Fulton Building, serves gaming students, gaming faculty, and the gaming industry. Starting as a collection of print materials in 1995, the center now turns to digital data as the hook that snags both scholars and entrepreneurs. Even questions are posed electronically, as many requests come by e-mail from around the world. Questions have poured in from The World Bank; Hotel Sheraton in Lima, Peru; *Forbes Magazine*; *Denver Post*; Casino Clermont in Nairobi; the Ministry of Gaming in Oslo, Norway; and elsewhere. Questions run the gamut from the history of roulette, to feasibility studies for proposed casinos, to commissions paid to junket operators, the habits of senior citizen gamblers, and more.

Digital data also serves locals who drop by to gather reports. The center's public access computers have about 50 shortcuts to gaming information pre-selected and with icons on the desktop, giving searchers instant access to such topics as Nevada Gaming Regulations, daily casino news, Indian gaming, and gaming revenue reports for land-based casinos and riverboats.

Digital has wings like no other information medium. Plans call for expanded electronics with a special Web site from which the Resource Center can broadcast gaming breakthroughs, sell gaming publications, and publish a newsletter for e-mail subscribers.

Betty McNeal is the director of information services in this unique, one-person operation. E-mail questions may be sent to mcnealb@unlv.edu, or call ext. 4119.

Law School

One of the fastest-growing corners of our curriculum is our externship program in which students are assigned to work in the judiciary, the Legislature, or the offices of prosecutors, public defenders, or other public officials throughout Nevada. In the future, we hope to extend the program to include out-of-state placements and possibly overseas placements.

We began the program in 1999, with judicial and prosecutorial placements established by Associate Dean Christine Smith and professor Robert Correales. In the fall 2001 semester, professor Martin Geer joined us as our permanent externship director. Thanks to professor Geer's efforts in recent months, we now offer seven new externship placements, including the offices of the U.S. attorney, Nevada Legal Services, the Henderson city attorney, the Clark County district attorney, the federal public defender, the special public defender, and Clark County Legal Services.

In November, the law school held an "Externship Gathering" to introduce the new externships and to thank the federal and state judges who have already hosted our externs. A featured speaker at that event was Judge Johnnie Rawlinson of the 9th U.S. District Court, who has supported the externship program with great enthusiasm.

College of Liberal Arts

The college is home to several research centers – each of which has a unique mission and is active in securing external funding for various projects.

The Cannon Center for Survey Research, directed by Tom Lamatsch and now located in the Campus Services Building, conducts all types of surveys for public and private clients, including university departments and faculty. The CCSR hires and trains several graduate and undergraduate students in research methodology; its staff will assist UNLV faculty with questionnaire construction and research design.

The Women's Research Institute of Nevada (WRIN), directed by Joanne Goodwin of the department of history, is part of a national network of research centers designed to promote and support research on women's issues. This center has a continuous program in oral history and recently staged a workshop, cosponsored with the U.S. Department of Labor, on bringing women into occupations that have a technological emphasis.

The School Refusal and Anxiety Disorders Clinic is directed by Chris Kearney of the department of psychology. This center provides clinical services to children who have difficulty attending school or have an anxiety disorder associated with attendance. Students and faculty in psychology acquire clinical experience as well as research opportunities under the auspices of this facility.

The Aging Center is housed in the Campus Services Building and will have a director in place this coming fall. The center will organize research and conduct educational/outreach projects directed at Southern Nevada's ever-increasing population reaching the "senior" category.

College of Sciences

The Four Seasons Hotel, Las Vegas, recently sponsored the second annual Terry Fox "Marathon of Hope" and a cocktail reception/silent auction at the Four Seasons to benefit the UNLV Cancer Institute.

Five of the nine Cancer Institute members hold faculty appointments in the UNLV chemistry department, including founding director Stephen Carper. His research focuses on breast cancer, specifically a heat-shock protein that protects breast cancer cells from chemotherapeutic agents. Other chemistry faculty include J. Abiodun Elegbede, who studies nonnutritive plant agents with anti-carcinogenic potentials; Ron Gary, who studies neutral processes that repair DNA and help prevent genetic changes that contribute to cancer development; Lydia McKinstry, who synthesizes fluorinated enzyme blockers and DNA cleaving agents; and Bryan Spangelo, who characterizes novel peptides from the thymus gland that kill human leukemia cells.

Cancer Institute members from other areas of campus include Bingmei Fu of mechanical engineering, Steen Madsen of health physics, Susan Meacham of nutrition sciences, and Marta Meana of psychology.

Since the institute's inception in 1999, the members have published more than 29 research articles and have received more than \$3.8 million in grants, donations, and federal appropriations.

For more information on the institute, call Carper at ext. 4297.

College of Urban Affairs

Counseling professor Larry Scheier has been awarded a \$375,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to

continued on page 7

Spotlight ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kara Toma (Office of the Vice President for Finance) was selected as UNLV Classified Employee of the Month for October. An administrative assistant II, she has worked at UNLV for more than four years. She serves as general office manager for the offices of the vice president for finance and the associate vice president for finance, handling a variety of duties, including processing documents, serving as receptionist, and arranging travel. Before moving to her current position, she worked in the president's office.



Toma

Ted G. Jelen (Political Science) has been appointed by Georgetown University Press as coeditor for a series of books on religion and politics. He shares this position with John C. Green of the University of Akron and Mark Rozell of the Catholic University of America.

Terry Culp (Manufacturing Assistance Partnership Program) was featured in an article in the lifestyles section of the *Wall Street Journal's* Oct. 22 issue. The story, "Jumping the Gun," was about people who retire, but then rejoin the workforce. Culp appeared in the section, "Go West, Retiree." He owned and operated several manufacturing businesses in Buffalo, N.Y., before retiring. Having moved west and rejoined the workforce, he serves as business manager of the MAP program, which is the industrial extension program of the UCCSN. MAP provides technical assistance to small manufacturing, mining, and construction businesses through the universities and community colleges in Nevada.



Henry

David Henry (Hank Greenspun School of Communication) has been selected to serve a three-year appointment on the Finance Board of the National Communication Association. The appointment includes serving as a member of the association's administrative council.

Anne Hein (Student Development Center), **Pat Zozaya** (Transfer Center), and **Roberta Williams** (Biological Sciences), made a conference presentation, "University Advising Councils – Bridging the Gap Between Faculty and Staff," at the National Academic Advising Association Conference in Ottawa in October.

Tom Sharpe (Educational Leadership) wrote an article titled "Providing Greater Descriptive Capability in School-Based Behavior Assessment through Computer Technology," which was published in *Proven Practice: Prevention and Remediation Solutions for Schools*.

Susan Meacham (Nutrition Sciences) coauthored an article, "Aluminum, Boron, Calcium, Copper, Iron, Magnesium, Manganese, Molybdenum, Phosphorus, Potassium, Sodium, and Zinc: Concentrations in Common Western Foods and Estimated Daily Intakes by Infants, Toddlers, and Male and Female Adolescents, Adults and Seniors in the United States," which appeared in the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. She also presented an abstract at the Boron 2001 International Workshop held in Bonn, Germany, titled "Databases Available to Health Professionals for Boron Intake Determinations."



Meacham

Sue Fawn Chung (History) will appear in the PBS *American Experience* series on an episode about the Central Pacific Railroad that will air in 2003. She also currently is acting as a consultant on a two-hour PBS, KCET-channel 28 (Los Angeles) special based on Lisa See's book, *On Gold Mountain*. Chung presented a paper on "Chinese American Historic Buildings in the American West" at the National Trust for Historic Preservation conference in Rhode Island in October. She is working with **Andrew Kirk** (History), former U.S. Sen. Richard Bryan, and Bob Stodal in establishing Preserve Nevada, a statewide preservation organization.

Jerry Landwer (Educational Leadership), coach of the 1962-63 Northwest Missouri University wrestling team, was recently inducted – along with the team – into the "M" Club Hall of Fame. The wrestling team finished the year with a 13-1 dual meet record and ranked ninth in the nation.

Laura J. Kruskall (Nursing) presented an abstract at the American Dietetic Association 2001 Food & Nutrition Conference & Exhibition held in St. Louis in October. The abstract was titled "Perceived Benefits, Sources of Information, and Patterns of Current and Past Supplement Usage Reported by Male and Female Collegiate Athletes."



Macha

Aleta Macha (Purchasing) was selected as UNLV Classified Employee of the Month for November. A purchasing technician II at the time the award was made, she since has been promoted to purchasing technician III and will serve as office supervisor. She has worked at UNLV since 1995. Her duties in purchasing have involved working with vendors, including handling insurance for vendors on campus and assisting with the processing of vendors' bids; handling contract routing; and processing limited purchase orders for the campus. She also trains new and student employees. She previously worked in the dean's office in the College of Liberal Arts.

Adele Huls (Nutrition Sciences) has been elected treasurer of the American Dietetic Association Gerontological Nutritionists Practice Group.

David Fott (Political Science) has had two works accepted for publication in the journal *Political Theory*. One is a translation of Montesquieu's "Discourse on Cicero"; the other is an article, "Preface to Translation of Montesquieu's 'Discourse on Cicero.'"

Peter Shiue (Mathematical Sciences) has recently been invited to serve on the advisory board of the American Math Competitions (AMC), a program of the Mathematical Association of America. The AMC manages two high school and a junior high school national mathematics competition.

Pat Markos (Counseling) was awarded the UNLV Alumni Association Student-Focused Faculty Award for November 2001. Markos received the award for her outstanding performance in the area of student support, which includes teaching, counseling, and serving as a role model for students.

Thomas W. Bean (Curriculum & Instruction) was a featured speaker at the 35th annual California Reading Association meeting in Ontario, Calif. He presented a research paper on "Adolescent Literacy in Cross-Curricular Contexts" at the Research Institute and conducted a workshop on "Comprehension, Activity Theory, and Content Learning."

Harry Schiffman (Facilities Maintenance) is the new chair-elect of the UNLV Classified Staff Council. An electrician I, Schiffman has worked at UNLV since 1996. He also is a member and representative of the Southern Nevada Employees Association.



Schiffman

Martha Watson (College of Urban Affairs) has been nominated for second vice president of the National Communication Association.

Krystyna Stave (Environmental Studies) has received the UNLV Alumni Association Student-Focused Faculty Award for April 2002. Stave received the award for outstanding performance in the area of student support, including teaching, counseling students, and serving as a role model.

Giuseppe Natale (Foreign Languages) organized a film series for the American Italian Historical Association Conference that was held in Las Vegas in October. The series, which was sponsored by the department of foreign languages, included rare shorts and feature films, and focused on the themes of Italian ethnic identity and gender. Within the same conference, he also presented a paper titled "Images of Italian Americans in Television."

Barbara Cloud (Provost's Office) has edited *Minister to the Cherokees: A Civil War Autobiography, James Anderson Slover*, which was published in December by the University of Nebraska Press.



Cloud

James A. Busser (Tourism and Convention Administration) recently received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Illinois State University during homecoming weekend. He completed a B.S. degree with a major in park and recreation administration there in 1976.

Patti Shock (Tourism and Convention Administration) has been selected as the Author of the Year by the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA). The award will be presented at the PCMA National Conference in Nashville this month.

All UNLV faculty, classified staff, and professional staff members are encouraged to submit items to the "Spotlight on Accomplishments" section of Inside UNLV. Items should be no more than 75 words in length. Submissions via e-mail are preferred. The e-mail address is inside.unlv@ccmail.nvada.edu. Submissions to mail code 1012 also will be accepted.

DETAILS ON CLASSIFIED PROCEDURES AVAILABLE

Changes and enhancements to UNLV's classified recruitment procedures recently were announced by the human resources department.

Details on the new procedures and the new forms associated with the procedures can be found on the Web page, hr.unlv.edu/Employment_Svcs/c_procedures.html. This page will be continually updated as the new procedures and future enhancements are implemented.



Points of Policy

by Carla Henson
Director of
Human Resources

Editor's Note: The following column is designed to provide information about issues, policies, and procedures of interest to campus employees. Throughout the year, it will be written by various UNLV administrators who have pertinent information to share on these matters. In this month's column Carla Henson, director of human resources at UNLV, offers an explanation of vision benefits available to employees.

Our office has received quite a few inquiries about vision benefits over the last several months, so I thought it would be a good time to discuss how you can take full advantage of these benefits and access them most efficiently. Below are instructions that should assist you in doing so. I hope you find this information helpful.

But before I begin discussing the particulars, I should first note one small point that will help simplify the matter of which plan you should use: Outlook Vision is to be used only by those enrolled in the State of Nevada Self-Funded Plan. If you are enrolled in either Health Plan of Nevada (HPN) or PacifiCare of Nevada, your vision coverage is provided through your respective HMO, not by Outlook Vision. So, to give a quick overview, there are three different types of vision coverage; you must use whichever is associated with the health insurance plan you have selected. In this column, I will review how to use each of the three vision care plans.

Vision Benefits for Participants in the State of Nevada Self-Funded Plan

Members may contact Outlook Vision at (800) 342-7188 to obtain the names of providers – both optometrists and eyewear stores – that have contracted with Outlook Vision to give plan participants a discount. If for some reason Outlook Vision does not show you as a participant in the self-funded insurance plan, please contact the Public Employees Benefits Program at (800) 326-5496 for assistance.

If you use an Outlook Vision-approved provider, you will pay a discounted fee for the eye exam and materials. Discounts vary according to location, so it is a good idea to shop around.

You should make note of one very important point: Whether you use an Outlook Vision-approved provider or not, you can obtain an 80 percent reimbursement – up to \$40 for an exam and up to \$125 for materials – every two years by filing a medical claim form with UICI Administrators. Many people are not aware of this reimbursement benefit and are therefore not taking advantage of it.

Members with additional questions about their vision benefits under this plan should contact UICI Administrators at (888) 236-8138, ext. 4102, 4103, or 4106.

Vision Benefits for Health Plan of Nevada Participants

Members of Health Plan of Nevada may contact a Vision Service Plan (VSP) provider directly to make an appointment. A list of VSP providers can be found by going online to the Web site address

continued on page 8



ATTENDING the UNLV 25-Year Club fall luncheon were (front row, left to right): Barbie Holmes, Barbara Stevenson, Eugene Moehring, Carole Rae, JoAnn Jacobs, Stephen Duffy, Andy Fontana, Tony Miranda, and James Deacon; (middle row, l to r) Provost Raymond Alden, UNLV President Carol C. Harter, David Holmes, Patti Shock, Beth Mehocic, Lawrence Golding, Leon Coburn, John Swetnam, Stanley Hillyard, William Corney, Lawrence Dandurand, and UNLV Alumni Association Vice President James Kirkwood; (back row, l to r) Andy Fry, John Irsfeld, Christopher Hudgins, John Massengale, David Emerson, Richard Hoyt, and Boyd Earl.

UNLV Alumni Association Hosts Annual 25-Year Club Luncheon

The UNLV Alumni Association hosted its annual UNLV 25-Year Club luncheon during the fall semester. At the luncheon, 16 new members were inducted into the club.

Those new members are William Corney, professor of management; Stephen Duffy, associate professor, English Language Center; Boyd Earl, professor of chemistry; Andy Fontana, professor of sociology; Lawrence Golding, distinguished professor of kinesiology; Robert Harbach, associate professor of educational psychology; Stanley Hillyard, professor of biology; David Holmes, professor of tourism and convention administration; Christopher Hudgins, associate professor of English; Al Izzolo, assistant professor of food and beverage management; JoAnn Jacobs, director of campus programs, UNLV Foundation; Terry Knapp, professor of psychology; Tony Miranda, professor and chair of anthropology; Eugene Moehring, professor of history; Carole Rae, professor of dance; and Barbara Stevenson, external relations specialist, Lied Library.

Membership in the club, which was organized in 1997, is automatically granted to all faculty and professional staff who have served the university for a quarter century or longer. An entertaining tradition for the induction of the new members has evolved through the years. Each inductee has a colleague speak on his or her behalf and this guest speaker provides a good-humored roast as well as accolades for the new member.

Eller Media Stadium

continued from page 1

finally come to fruition is exciting. This stadium will give our softball program a great place to play its games and will help us attract the finest student-athletes to UNLV as well."

The stadium, which exceeds NCAA requirements, seats 770 people and cost \$2.7 million to build. The outfield fence rests 200 feet down the foul lines and 220 feet in centerfield. Dugouts, bullpens, and batting cages for both home and visiting teams provide a self-contained area for either practice or play.

Off the field, a 1,700-square-foot press/concession building towers over the venue behind the home plate grandstands. The bottom floor houses a full concession area while the second-floor press level can adequately seat up to six writers and two separate radio broadcast teams. A storage area completes the 550-square-foot press level.

"UNLV is very grateful that Eller Media Company, Jim Rogers, and Jerry and Sue Lykins so generously contributed

to this important women's athletics project," said President Carol C. Harter. "Their support, along with that of the UNLV Foundation, will help UNLV meet national gender equity requirements and provide an excellent softball stadium of which we can all be very proud."

The team is eager to move into its new digs. With construction just recently completed, the grass should grow in over the next several weeks, and the field will be ready for practice when the Rebels return from winter break.

"I think the stadium will have a positive impact on every facet of our game," McDonald said. "We have a \$2 million mansion, and we tell the players, 'This is your house. You'll be very fortunate if you ever have another home that cost \$2 million. Respect it, have pride in it, and play to its potential.'"

McDonald said the new stadium will have a positive impact on recruiting, which is an essential component of improving the softball program.

After the exhibition tangle against the alumni at the stadium's grand opening on Jan. 26, the Rebels will embark upon their 2002 schedule, which includes 13 dates at the new Eller Media Stadium.

News from the Colleges

continued from page 5

study the effectiveness of a school-based drug abuse prevention program. Called "Life Skills Training," the program targets middle-school children, and aims to improve their self-management and social skills, teach them how to refuse drugs, and correct their misperceptions about the prevalence of drug use and its social acceptability.

The grant is part of a collection of ongoing studies being conducted at Cornell University. Scheier, an associate professor, comes to UNLV from Cornell's department of public health, where he served as investigator for several projects at the Institute for Prevention Research.

Faculty and graduate students in the department of environmental studies recently completed a project commissioned and funded by the Regional Transportation Commission. Assistant professor Krystyna Stave and several of her master's and doctoral students created a model that simulated options for rectifying traffic problems in Las Vegas.

Stave described it as "an applied research project studying the use of system dynamics as a framework for facilitating stakeholder involvement addressing transportation and air quality challenges in Las Vegas." The project's purpose was to assist the RTC Community Coalition, a group of local elected officials, business people, environmentalists, and residents, in making policy recommendations to the RTC Board of Directors.

Basketball Coach Spoonhour Launches First Season at UNLV

by Andy Grossman

After a two-year hiatus during which he served as a television analyst for college basketball games, veteran basketball coach Charlie Spoonhour is back at courtside as the 12th head coach in UNLV men's basketball history.

This marks his 17th year as a head coach at an NCAA Division I program; going into this season he had accumulated 319 victories and a winning percentage of .65.1.

Spoonhour, who spent seven seasons at Saint Louis University before announcing his retirement in 1999, is enjoying the fact that he is now "Runnin'" the Rebels. He says there were multiple factors involved in the decision to head up the UNLV program, but one in particular stood out.

"The main thing is because the job is in Las Vegas," Spoonhour said. "This is a place that I had planned to live when my coaching was done. I can say without much reservation that this is the only job I considered coming out of retirement for because it is a combination of where I wanted to live and working with, and for, people that I really enjoy. There is great opportunity here."

Spoonhour has a track record of turning opportunity into success. At Saint Louis, he qualified for the postseason four times with three trips to the NCAA Tournament and one NIT bid. Prior to that he led Southwest Missouri State to five NCAA Tournament appearances and two NIT bids in his nine years at the school shortly after SMSU went Division I.

"As a coach, you always look for chances to be successful," Spoonhour said. "That chance is here. All you have to do is look at what people have done here in the past."

The past is something that Spoonhour has embraced in his short time on Maryland Parkway. "I remember the

teams that have been here before – not just the national championship team – but the overall perception of UNLV and how hard they always played," he said.

Spoonhour has not made any promises on how his first year at the Thomas & Mack Center will go, but he does know the attitude he wants his team to have. "I

want the team to play as close as they can up to their capabilities. I also want them to understand the concept of working to get better all the way through the year and usually if you do those things – play together and understand roles – you are going to have some success."

One of the constants that Spoonhour has had in each of his teams during his 32 years as a head coach has been a solid defense. "Defense is where we will start and if our players are going to be on the floor they are obviously going to have to work on the defensive end of the court. We hope our defense will be exciting for the fans, and I know people in Las Vegas appreciate a great defensive effort."

"We will also have some players who have the ability to score some points, but it remains to be seen who will step up and how they will do. But that is the fun of all of this."

Spoonhour, who earned a master's degree in education

from the University of Arkansas, has accumulated numerous coaching accolades during his career. He was named the 1994 national men's coach of the year by two different organizations after leading Saint Louis to its first trip to the NCAA Tournament since 1957. He also directed the Billikens into the national rankings for the first time in 29 years.

The native of Rogers, Ark., is a member of the Moberly (Mo.) Junior College Basketball Hall of Fame, the National Junior College Basketball Hall of Fame, the Springfield (Mo.) Hall of Fame, and the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.



STARTING his first season as UNLV's head basketball coach, Charlie Spoonhour says he will emphasize a solid defensive effort.

Points of Policy

continued from page 7

www.vsp.com. Click on the following options in the order provided: "Members & Future Members," "Find a Dr. Just For You," and "Click Here to Find a VSP Dr." Members may also obtain a list of providers by calling (800) 877-7195.

Please note that if for some reason VSP records do not show you as eligible for coverage, you should contact Health Plan of Nevada Member Services at 242-7300 for assistance.

After you have called to make an appointment with a doctor, the doctor's office will contact VSP for authorization. You will need to make sure that the doctor's office has your Health Plan of Nevada member number, which is located on your health insurance plan card.

Your vision benefits under this program include the following:

- \$10 co-pay for an eye exam, once every 12 months;
- \$10 co-pay for materials (lenses and frames), once every 24 months;
- \$10 co-pay for contact lenses (in lieu of lenses and frames), with a maximum benefit of \$105, once every 24 months.

Members with additional questions about their vision benefits under this program should contact Health Plan of Nevada at 242-7300.

Vision Benefits for PacifiCare of Nevada Plan Participants

Members should contact a PacifiCare Vision Provider directly to set up an appointment. To obtain a list of providers, contact Nevada eyePA at 732-7900 (in Las Vegas) or contact PacifiCare at (800) 347-8600. (UNLV employees are covered under a "PacifiCare commercial plan," so choose this option if you call the 800 number.)

Be advised that when you arrive at the doctor's office for your appointment, you will be required to show your PacifiCare health insurance card for verification.

Your vision benefits under this program include the following:

- \$15 co-pay for an exam, once every 12 months;
- \$10 co-pay for eyeglasses, once every 24 months (The allowance for frames is \$60; you will be required to pay extra if you choose certain types of lenses.);
- \$10 co-pay for contact lenses, once every 24 months (maximum retail value \$100).

Members with additional questions about their vision benefits under this plan should contact PacifiCare of Nevada at (800) 347-8600.

If you have any questions about your vision benefits or any other matter relating to your health insurance, please don't hesitate to call the benefits office in Human Resources at ext. 3504. We will do our best to help you understand your coverage and assist you in any way we can.

Grounds

continued from page 3

Museum of Natural History for many years.

"I like being outside better than being inside; inside I just feel enclosed," he says.



Bynum

Bynum says it pleases him when he sees people enjoying the lush lawns on campus.

"I see students out on the grass studying and I know if I didn't cut it, they wouldn't be able to do that," he says. "I know I contribute to the campus, plus I make it look good for TV."

Does being an expert mower come in handy at home for Bynum?

"I have no grass to cut at home," he says. "My mom asked me to cut her grass once, but she didn't like the way I cut it. She said it I was too careful about how it looked."

President's Column

continued from page 2

our current total student population – I acknowledge that we must do as much as possible to recruit and retain a diverse student body. Hence, I am committed to instituting programs that will help us achieve that goal.

Although many partnerships between UNLV and the Clark County School District already exist, I believe we should expand our efforts to collaborate with the district in ways that can have additional practical and sustainable positive effects on minority recruitment and on retention of all students. In the coming year we will explore programs that will seek to better prepare high school students for university-level study; we hope to find ways to

involve more of our faculty, students, and alumni in these programs. We also plan to pursue building more "bridge" programs that will help ease the transition for students moving from high school to the university. And we will continue to seek ways to enhance support services that will also help students succeed.

Further discussion of this subject will occur this month at the Board of Regents meeting, at which time more specific proposals for improving minority recruitment and retention of all students will be made. We look forward to continuing to explore this matter and ask your help in thinking creatively about it. It is, after all, an issue of critical importance to the university community, and one that will be revisited over time.