Inside UNLV

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Music Center Tailored for UNLV Needs

by Jennifer Vaughan

Scars need a place to shine, and the new Lee & Thomas Beam Music Center provides such a place for UNLV musicians.

Both student and faculty musicians already have discovered the rewards of having a new, 37,000-square-foot building designed specifically to meet the needs of the university’s growing music program.

The Beam Music Center, which opened last semester with fanfare including performances by the marching band and by various ensembles, was made possible by a substantial gift from the estate of Thomas T. Beam and the Beam family.

It opened at a crucial time during the growth of the College of Fine Arts, according to Jeff Koep, dean of the college.

“The existing Alta Ham Fine Arts building was bursting at its seams. We needed adequate areas for students and faculty to rehearse and perform, which that building simply couldn’t provide,” Koep said. “This new building gives us the room and tools we need to properly instruct and train our student musicians.”

“The addition of the Beam Music Center is the latest example of the tremendous growth UNLV has been experiencing over recent years,” said President Carol C. Harter.

“We are deeply grateful for the commitment of the Beam family. This fine facility is a wonderful, lasting testament to Tom Beam’s great love of music, and it is our desire that this building will be a gathering spot for the entire community,” she added.

Included in the $8 million building is Southern Nevada’s only dedicated music library, the Doc Rando Recital Hall, which seats 400 and includes storage, lobby, and greenroom areas; a music technology center and state-of-the-art recording studio; a band and orchestra rehearsal hall, a choir and opera rehearsal hall; two chamber music rooms; a piano technician studio; and five teaching studios. There are also 200 lockers available for student use.

“The Beam Music Center is quite a boon for the department,” said Isabelle Emerson, chair of the music department. “It enhances our performance possibilities and provides students in a real concert setting. In addition, we have an extraordinary music library that is so convenient and includes music and scores that are accessible to the community.”

The building’s architectural aspects also are drawing their share of admirers. Situated near the northeast corner of campus facing Maryland Parkway, the Beam Music Center is a striking building that is particularly lovely in the evening, said Koep.

“The large windows facing Maryland Parkway look into its main entrance, which has interesting and eye-catching lighting features. In the evening, the building glows. I’ve received a lot of positive feedback from the community just based on the look of the building,” Koep said.

DEAN Jeff Koep stands inside the Lee & Thomas Beam Music Center, which opened last semester, bringing greatly improved music facilities to the campus.

“The Beam Music Center is a shining star on the UNLV campus, and we welcome all those who would like to visit,” Koep said.

Forum Lecture Series Celebrates 17 Years

by Betty Blodgett

Political science professor Steve Parker chuckles as he recalls the very first talk that was given in the University Forum lecture series.

It was 1985, and theatre professor Jerry Crawford was the speaker. Parker said he and then-dean Tom Wright were in the back of the room nervously wondering whether, despite Crawford’s audience-pleasing presentation, the first season would ever be followed by a second.

Now, the popular College of Liberal Arts free public lecture series founded by Wright and chaired by Parker is in its 17th year.

“The basic idea of the lecture series was—and still is—to showcase to our community the rich diversity of interesting teaching and research work being performed by faculty members here at UNLV and institutions all around the world,” said Parker, who has served as chair of the lecture committee since the series began. “Because of the community focus, the lectures and other presentations are usually of a general-interest nature.”

continued on page 8
Teaching and Learning Center Offers Services and Resources

by Jonathan Paver

The University Teaching and Learning Center works with UNLV faculty on issues concerning teaching and learning and the integration of technology into teaching. The center was established in the fall of 1999 with the goal of helping faculty develop as facilitators of student learning.

One of its primary goals was to shift the focus of the officers away from law enforcement activities on the perimeter of the campus to a more student-centered service orientation at its interior. This strategy, which was developed to integrate the officers' work and presence more effectively into campus life, has already manifested itself in a number of very positive ways. No doubt, most of you have already seen evidence of it in the form of more officers patrolling the campus on foot, on bikes, and even on horseback.

The change in the officers' modes of transportation, however, represents only a fraction of what this new strategy is producing. The officers are now more accessible to the university community through greater involvement in a variety of campus activities; they serve on committees, make presentations about crime prevention, and attend student and faculty events. They volunteer to join the recently formed Public Safety Police Honor Guard, a group that lends a wonderful sense of dignity to the university and community functions in which it participates while proudly representing the department.

Additionally, the officers are stationed in locations that encourage interaction with others on campus, making them available to answer questions and to offer assistance. And, naturally, they continue to perform their law enforcement duties, solving crimes and keeping the peace.

It is not surprising that the department staff is moving in the right direction. Chief Elgie has worked diligently to hire and promote very competent and conscientious officers to meet the needs of the campus. He has made a concerted effort to diversify his staff to better reflect the diversity of the campus.

Where Praise Is Due

by Carol C. Harter

UNLV President

For some time, I have intended to acknowledge the recent successes of the department of public safety here on campus. While I have personally congratulated several of the individuals involved in forging these successes, I believe public acknowledgment is in order in this case, and I can think of no better way to offer it than to share some of the department's accomplishments with the rest of the campus community.

As many of you will recall, it has been more than a year and a half since the department of public safety was asked to make some rather dramatic changes in the way it conducted its business. Though I see no point in rehashing in detail the problems that occurred, I will say for the benefit of those new to campus that in some quarters, a serious rift had begun to develop between the campus police and the university community. The problems stemmed from a number of incidents that culminated in the university asking for a team of independent consultants to assess the department's strengths and weaknesses. The report produced by that team has become a wonderful resource for Public Safety Director Jose Elique, who was hired a short time after the team made its recommendations.

Chief Elique has effected some remarkable changes since his arrival on campus in June 2000. Perhaps the most significant was the department's adoption of a community-oriented policing strategy. One of its primary goals was to shift the focus of the officers away from law enforcement activities on the perimeter of the campus to a more student-centered service orientation at its interior. This strategy, which was developed to integrate the officers' work and presence more effectively into campus life, has already manifested itself in a number of very positive ways. No doubt, most of you have already seen evidence of it in the form of more officers patrolling the campus on foot, on bikes, and even on horseback.

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Secret of Library Operations? It’s Classified
by Diane Russell

They work days; they work nights; they work weekends.
They research troublesome questions, maintain the
computer security systems, keep the paperwork flowing,
and, yes, check out the books.

"They" are the 63 classified staff members who work
for University Libraries, and without them, according to
Dean Ken Marks, the libraries not only wouldn’t function
well, they wouldn’t function at all.

"Classified staff are indispensable for the library to
operate successfully and efficiently," Marks said, pointing
out that classified staff members can be found in all four
university libraries that fall under his jurisdiction — the

"Without classified staff, none of our libraries could
open their doors and many of the services could not be
delivered at all," he said. "Classified staff manage some
of our most critical departments and bring an important
perspective to the delivery of services to students, faculty,
and staff."

Working at the reference desk on the library’s second
floor gives LaTisha Tuggle the opportunity to deliver
directly to anyone from campus or from the
Southern Nevada community who has a puzzling
question that requires research to answer.
Tuggle, a library technician I, spends several hours a
week working the reference desk. The questions posed
range widely. One recent morning she found herself
helping a student find information on a German
magazine published more than a hundred years ago. Some-
times, depending on the nature of the question and on
how much time she has available, she gives the patron
tips on where to search; other times she actually helps
them research the answers.

She said she likes the assignment. "Working on the
reference desk, you get asked challenging, thought-pro-
voking questions."

Staffing the reference desk is only a portion of Tug-
gle’s job. She also is assigned to the research and infor-
mation II section of the library, which encompasses
periodicals, government publications, and micro-
forms.

Tuggle, who worked in the library at Connecticut’s
Hartford Courant, before moving to Southern Nevada,
has worked in UNLV’s libraries since 1995, includ-
ing stints in periodicals and circulation. Now she spe-
cializes in government publications, supervising 13 stu-
dent assistants and overseeing the processing of state
and federal documents.

"The government is the biggest publisher in the
world. It’s amazing what government agencies pub-
lish," Tuggle said. People might be surprised, for
instance, to discover that the U.S. Department of
Defense publishes many recipes.

"Some are interesting, but not necessarily something
you’re going to use every day — like how to cook chili
for 1,000 people," she said.

A library staff member who is doing quite a different
type of work is information systems specialist John Fox.

A 14-year employee of University Libraries, Fox
wasn’t necessarily looking for a library job when he

landed the position with UNLV. He wanted to con-
tinue his work with computers and found that
the university had an interesting opening for a computer
technician II.

Fox’s duties today include administering the
libraries’ UNIX servers and assisting in network admin-
istration. The common element of both jobs is assuring
reliability so that library patrons can do their research.
A major component of keeping the UNIX servers reli-
able is securing them from possible computer attack.
He also assists the library in developing new com-
puter projects that require new UNIX and network
equipment. Library staff members describe their needs
to him, and he then researches what equipment
and software they will need. Once a project is
funded, he installs the new equipment and works with
staff members and patrons to make sure it meets
expectations.

Fox said that given his area of specialization, he
was greatly impacted by the move from the old
Dickinson Library to the Lied Library in January of
last year.

When he first came to work at UNLV, the library
could practically boast “a computer on every floor,”
he quipped.

Though that changed significantly over the years and
major improvements
in computing resources were made, the old library just
wasn’t able to accommodate necessary computing tech-
nology improvements.

“We now are able to do so many things that just
were impossible in the old building,” Fox says. “There
now are thousands of computer drops — something
that just couldn’t be done at the Dickinson. We even
can provide drops for students and others who want to
bring their own laptops into the library. They sit down,
plug in, logon, and go to work.”

Having started with University Libraries in 1985,
library supervisor I Sidney Watson has seen her share
of changes, too.

She began as a circulation assistant, spent seven
years working in government publications, and then
helped open the Architecture Library before moving to
the Curriculum Materials Library (CML), where she
oversees daily operations and supervises two other clas-
sified staff members.

Watson wasn’t seeking a career in library work
when she took the job. She was working in a low-pay-
ing job despite her bachelor’s degree and needed bet-
ter pay, more hours, and good benefits. Spotting an
announcement for a library job at UNLV, Watson,
who loves to read, applied.

Today, library work isn’t just a job for Watson; it’s
a career. Having earned a master of public administra-
tion degree from UNLV in 2000, she now is consider-
ning pursuing a master’s degree in library and informa-
tion sciences.

She said she particularly enjoys working in the
CML because she likes assisting the students majoring
in education who use the library for its wide variety of
resources useful to both teachers and teachers in train-
ing. While the CML chiefly is used by UNLV educa-
tion students, it also is popular with Clark County
School District teachers and is open to all members of
the public.

The facility has an extensive collection of juvenile
literature, ranging from picture books and the “big
books” so popular with preschool and kindergarten
teachers to young adult novels. The library also offers
teacher resources, including books about formulating
lesson plans, education databases, learning kits, and a
teacher preparation room featuring laminators, a poster
maker, and die cuts.

Giving orientation tours of the library, which is
located on the ground floor of the Carlson Education
Building, is one of Watson’s favorite duties. “I like giv-
ing instruction. I like helping people. I like ‘turning on
light bulbs.'”

Watson said the library is a fun place to work — in
part because “the staff here is the best team I’ve ever
worked with, and everyone goes away happy. We see
it that people get what they need here.”
From the Dean's Desk

By Gene Hall
Dean, College of Education

The first program that comes to mind when one thinks about the College of Education is doctoral degrees, the first consideration of the college here in Clark County, as well as for school districts in nearly all other states.

UNLV is doing a tremendous job in teacher education. We offer a diverse portfolio of programs in addition to the Bachelor of Science in Education. This interest in teacher education is intensified because of the great need for teachers in Clark County, as well as for school districts across Nevada and in nearly all other states. UNLV is doing a tremendous job in teacher education. We offer a diverse portfolio of programs for students who already have their bachelor's degrees and are seeking the necessary courses to become licensed teachers.

Another sign of the commitment to teacher education at UNLV is that the quantity of teachers being produced annually has nearly tripled in recent years. In 1986, UNLV graduated 186 teachers; in the last two years, well over 600 new teachers have graduated each year.

Quantity of teachers produced is one important indicator, however, quality is more important. The number of UNLV graduates who take teaching positions is a clear indication that teacher education at UNLV is the third quantity of teachers being produced annually has nearly tripled in recent years. In 1986, UNLV graduated 186 teachers; in the last two years, well over 600 new teachers have graduated each year.

The applicant pool for the inaugural class of the School of Dentistry continues to grow and currently approaches 1,100 individuals. Applicants for the first-year position are currently being interviewed, and as qualified candidates. Acceptances, on a competitive basis, will continue to be offered as the interview process advances, and more than 150 applicants have accepted invitations to interview. Although Nevada residents receive preference in the interview and acceptance process, qualified applicants from other states also will be interviewed and accepted.

As the school prepares to accept the inaugural class, searches for fills administrative and faculty positions continue to move forward. Searches currently in progress are those for the dean and for the director of patient care services. Searches nearing completion are those for the chair of integrated biosciences and the chair of clinical sciences. Additionally, significant progress has been made in design development for renovation of the new regional campus at 1700 W. Charleston Blvd.

The board of directors of the American Dental Education Association has, by a unanimous decision, voted to recommend provisional ADEA membership for the School of Dentistry. Membership will be confirmed by the ADEA House of Delegates at its annual meeting this month. The ADEA is the leading national organization for dental education.

Engineering

For the sixth year in a row, mechanical engineering students attended the annual conference of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in Reno in January. This year, five graduate students—four master's students and one doctoral candidate—escorted Darrell W. Pepper, now interim dean, participated in the event. The students attended workshops and poster presentations in exchange for assisting with the setup and the dismantling of daily exhibits. As in previous years, the students gained invaluable experience and developed networking contacts that will prove helpful in their post-academic endeavors.

Two of the five students who attended this year's event were previous recipients of the Graduate NASA Space Grant Fellowship. An award of more than $18,000 was given to a student studying aerospace engineering. Two others had previously each received a $1,000 NASA Space Grant Undergraduate Scholarship, and the fifth student participated in the National Science Foundation/REU Summer Research Program conducted by UNLV's mechanical engineering department. The NASA Space Grant Program is one of the many programs in the college whereby students have an opportunity to participate in research activities that will enrich their educational experience.

Extended Studies

Accreditation of the radiography program by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology recently was extended for three years. Because the extension is being added to the five-year accreditation originally awarded by the committee, it equates to an accreditation period of eight years—a lengthy accreditation that UNLV radiography instructor George Pales is said to be awarded to the top quarter of radiography programs nationwide.

"This says a lot about the quality of our program and the hard work of Patrick Apfel," Pales said. "Patrick worked for over a year to coordinate the process and prepare for the on-site evaluation." Apfel, who just completed a term as radiography director, has taught at UNLV since 1981 and was a radiographer since 1968.

The program is playing a critical role in addressing a severe technologist shortage nationwide. Demand for X-rays, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRIs) and Computerized Trans-axial Tomography (CAT scans) is far outpacing available qualified technologists, and 40 percent of hospitals report understaffing of radiographers, according to a survey by a Dallas-based radiology management firm. Locally, there are about 50 openings for radiographers each month.

Pales says the radiography program recently raised its enrollment cap to 45 from 35, began accepting transfers from other states, and expanded the number of positioning and physics labs to accommodate more students.

"We're also updating the skills of technologists returning to the field from careers impacted by the economy," Pales said. "We train them to become American Registry of Radiologic Technologists board-eligible again."

Pales, Apfel, and current director Ray Goldsworthy also conducted fall workshops at nine clinical sites around the valley, resulting in 39 new certified clinical instructors.

Fine Arts

The Vienna Chamber Orchestra, featuring Philippe Entremont as conductor and soloist, will perform on the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall stage as part of the Charles Vanda Master Series on March 9. Recognized as one of the premier interpreters of the chamber ensemble repertoire, the orchestra is a tremendous favorite of American audiences. The orchestra will perform the music of Strauss, Brahms, and Mozart.

Linda Eder takes the Ham Concert Hall stage March 22 as part of the Best of the New York Stage series. After winning an unparalleled 12 weeks in a row on "Star Search," her career was launched into orbit. She received rave reviews in the starring role of Jekyll & Hyde. As a recording artist today, she evokes the spirit of the legendary interpreters of popular music while achieving a style that is uniquely contemporary and distinctly her own. See tomorrow's mega-star today.
Graduate

In the continuing effort to encourage and explore contemporary and innovative strategies that enhance graduate education, the college is beginning an initiative on electronic theses and dissertations (ETD). This innovative use of technology in the preparation of theses and dissertations seeks to improve graduate education by allowing students to produce electronic documents, use digital libraries, and understand issues in publishing, by increasing the availability of student research for scholars and preserving it electronically; by lowering the cost of submitting and handling theses and dissertations; by empowering students to convey a richer message through the use of multimedia and hypermedia technologies; by empowering universities to unlock their information resources; and by advancing digital library technology. This initiative will be coordinated with the office of information technology and the Lied Library.

As part of this new initiative, the college sponsored an ETD presentation for the campus in February by John Eaton, former associate provost for graduate studies at Virginia Tech University, considered the American flag icon is titled, "What's Cooking? In the Minds and Contemporary and Innovative Strategies That Enhance Graduation Medallion Ceremony. The event is scheduled for May 17.

Hotel Administration

Once a year, graduate students and faculty members from hospitality management graduate programs around the world gather to present and discuss their research. As one of the conference's organizers, the college has twice hosted the event in Las Vegas. This year, UNLV students and faculty traveled to the campus of the University of Houston for the Annual Graduate Education and Graduate Student Research Conference.

At the conference, more than 100 papers were given, representing student research from around the world. The conference's "Best Paper Award" recognizes the paper best demonstrating quality scholarship and the appropriate application of research methodology. The college is exceedingly proud of three UNLV hotel administration graduate students who won the award. Kathy Chong, Carola Raab, and Dina Zemke were honored for their work, "Means-End Chain Model for Restaurant Attribute."

This award-winning paper demonstrated how the means-ends chain model could be used by restaurant perceptions and judge products as the means to achieve a desired result when they use them. In this particular study, the values that Las Vegas restaurant customers fulfilled when choosing a restaurant were examined.

Law School

A substantial number of the law school's faculty attended this year's meeting of legal academia's learned society, the Association of American Law Schools (AALS). The annual AALS meeting, held in New Orleans in January, provides an opportunity to spend time with legal academics from schools throughout the United States, to catch up on the latest print publications and online teaching and research tools, and to participate in scholarly workshops on a wide variety of subjects.

Two Boyd Law School faculty members made presentations at the conference. Professor Joan Howarth served as planning committee chair and moderator for a program addressing the challenges faced by legal educators in trying to teach students with the largest number of students. Aptly titled, "Do You Know Where Your Students Are?" Langdell's Log on the 21st Century," this all-day program consisted of 20 separate workshops addressing a wide array of topics, including technology, learning theory, clinical education, public service and social justice programs, law school rankings, the phenomenon of third-year student ennui, and the impact of family, work, and financial pressures on students.

On the same day, professor Keith Rowley participated in a program on "Socio-Economics and Law Teaching," sponsored by the AALS Section on Socio-Economics. This program explored how socio-economic analysis can be incorporated into different areas of the law school curriculum. Rowley was a speaker and panelist for the breakout section on contract law.

Health Sciences

The department of physical therapy began a joint fund-raising venture with the Roy and Roxie Campanella Foundation in spring 2001. As a result of this partnership, the Campanella Golf Classic 2001 was held in November at the Spanish Trail Country Club. Golfers from the community, golfing friends of the Campanella Foundation, and UNLV supporters spent a day golfing, attending a silent auction and dinner, and helped to raise money to support scholarships for graduate students in the physical therapy program.

A total of $13,500 was donated to the physical therapy program from the Roy and Roxie Campanella Foundation, providing nine students with scholarships in the amount of $1,500 each. The college is very excited about expanding into this type of partnership to benefit deserving students.

Honors

The college has nine students who will be completing and presenting senior thesis projects this semester as part of department honors. These presentations are open to all faculty, staff, and students. Please contact the Honors College for a schedule of the student presentations.

One of the students, Sylvia Harber, has received an undergraduate research award from the University Research Grants and Fellowships Committee. Her project is titled, "What's Cooking? In the Minds and Kitchens of Nevada Politicians Past and Present." She is asking Nevada politicians and other movers and shakers to submit their favorite recipes, words of wisdom, and biographies. She will compile this information and then design a Web site to allow others to access this information.

The Honors College is already planning its spring graduation medallion ceremony. The event is scheduled for May 17.

University Libraries

As the University Libraries plan for the future, it is important to understand users' perceptions and respond to their expectations. To help accomplish this, the Libraries are participating in a service quality assessment project called LibQual+. The heart of LibQual+ is a Web-based survey instrument that will be delivered to a random sample of UNLV faculty, staff, and students in April. The survey asks questions about the level of library service the users desire and the level of the service they perceive is actually being delivered by the University Libraries. The survey takes only 15 minutes to complete. Individual responses are sent directly to a LibQual+ server at Texas A&M University, and then transmitted to a database. The respondent's personal identity is not collected and the Libraries will only receive summarized response reports.

People who receive a solicitation are asked to help the Libraries improve service by going to the designated URL and completing the survey. The LibQual+ Project is sponsored by the Association of Research Libraries. More than 200 North American academic and research libraries will participate in the 2002 assessment project. Warmest thanks in advance for participating.

Sciences

The college is proud to be involved in ongoing community outreach. This spring two major outreach activities are the Southern Nevada Regional Science & Engineering Fair and the Jason Project Aquatic Field Studies. Clark County students in kindergarten through 12th grade participate in the fair after conducting an experiment in science or engineering. In addition to learning a scientific technique and how to conduct experiments, report data, and present results, students can win prizes, including calculators and trophies. Judging takes place March 15, and the awards ceremony will be on April 10. High school winners move on to the national competition in Tennessee in May.

The Jason Project Aquatic Field Studies take place each May near a body of water in Southern Nevada. In past years, locations have included Lake Mead and

continued on page 6
Tom Lamatsch (Cannon Center / Political Science) and Jacqueline Peltier (Cannon Center / Political Science) presented a paper titled “Pride in Institutions” at the annual conference of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research held in Chicago. The paper addressed how different groups of the population express different levels of pride in both U.S. and Nevada institutions. Data for this study was collected by UNLV’s Cannon Center for Survey Research.

Patrice Hollrah (Writing Center) presented a paper titled “Natives Educating Non-Natives in Sherman Alexie’s Saint Junior” at the Modern Language Association Convention in New Orleans in December. Also that month, her article, “Sherman Alexie’s Challenge to the Academy’s Spectroscopy in Scottsdale, Ariz. Additionally, his paper titled “Pride in Institutions” at the Modern Language Association annual conference of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research held in Chicago. The paper addressed how different groups of the population express different levels of pride in both U.S. and Nevada institutions. Data for this study was collected by UNLV’s Cannon Center for Survey Research.

Philip Rusche (English) gave an invited paper on “Problems in Dating Anglo-Saxon and Early Anglo-Norman Glossaries” at a conference called The Dating Service or the Dating Game: Problems and Potential in Dating Materials from the Early Medieval Period, which was sponsored by the Research Group on Manuscript Writers, and Critics, appeared in the summer/fall issue of The Modern Language Association annual conference of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research held in Chicago. The paper addressed how different groups of the population express different levels of pride in both U.S. and Nevada institutions. Data for this study was collected by UNLV’s Cannon Center for Survey Research.

James Cizdziel (Harry Reid Center) has presented work at two recent conferences. One presentation, titled “An Introduction to Multiple Collector Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry,” took place at the Bioassay, Analytical, and Environmental Radiochemistry Conference in Las Vegas; the other, titled “Plutonium Isotope Ratios in Attic Dust and Soils Near the Nevada Test Site, U.S.A. Using Quadrupole and Magnetic Sector ICP-MS” took place at the Winter Conference on Plasma Spectroscopy in Scottsdale, Ariz. Additionally, his paper “‘Pride in Institutions’ at the Modern Language Association annual conference of the Midwest Association for Public Opinion Research held in Chicago. The paper addressed how different groups of the population express different levels of pride in both U.S. and Nevada institutions. Data for this study was collected by UNLV’s Cannon Center for Survey Research.

John Bowers (English) had his article, “Thomas Hoccleve and the Politics of Tradition,” accepted for publication by the prestigious Chaucer Review. This study forms part of his book in progress, Chaucer and Langland: The Antagonistic Tradition, 1300-1550, which was supported earlier this year by a Guggenheim Fellowship and is currently under consideration by Cambridge University Press. During the autumn semester, he served as secretary of the Nevada Rhodes Scholar Committee, whose members also included UNLV President Carol C. Harter, former UNR President Joseph Bolewsky, UNLV physics professor Donna Weistrop, and Elaine Wynn.

Maggie Hierro (Special Education) was selected UNLV Classified Employee of the Month for December. An administrative assistant I, she has worked at UNLV since 2000. Her job involves general administrative duties and working with the graduate coordinator in arranging for the master’s written exams three times each year. Last semester she coordinated the department’s administrative efforts related to the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, as well as the administrative efforts related to the accreditation processes for the Council for Exceptional Children, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the National Association of School Psychologists.

Thomas W. Bean (Curriculum and Instruction) published “An Update on Reading in the Content Areas: Social Constructionist Dimensions” in the January edition of Reading Online, the electronic journal of the International Reading Association, which can be found at www.readingonline.org.

News from the Colleges

Tuitt Springs. The program teaches students in fifth through eighth grades about the science of bodies of water. The children rotate through different science stations at the site in groups of 10 and then have the opportunity to carry out a mini-experiment. This year’s events will take place May 4 and 11.

The outreach division invites UNLV faculty, classified staff, and professional staff members 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.nevada.edu. Submissions to mail code 1012 also will be accepted.

Urban Affairs

The department of public administration has a new internship program with Clark County for its graduate students. The paid internships are designed to give UNLV’s public administration students practical experience in a variety of policy and management issues.

Students, who are required to work a minimum of 400 hours, receive mentoring by working professionals in county government. The county benefits from students providing relief for various short-term analytical staffing needs. Students are currently working in the Clark County departments of business license and comprehensive planning.

The department also is developing a graduate certificate program in public management. Coursework from the 15-hour program can be used toward the master in public administration degree. Two courses are now offered in the city of North Las Vegas’ Public Works Building.

Last semester, the department hosted a forum featuring Nevada governors. Gov. Kenny Guinn joined his predecessors, Bob Miller, Richard Bryan, Robert List, and Mike O’Callaghan. They discussed current events as well as their opinions about the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site controversy. The event was broadcast on television station KLVN, Channel 10.
Business Professor Orton Teaches Strategy at Pentagon

by Cate Weeks

Business strategy and national security strategy aren’t often thought of as comparable fields of research. But Distinguished Teaching Award recipient Doug Orton brings the divergent topics together in his courses at UNLV.

In the fall, Orton had a unique opportunity. He spent Monday mornings in Arlington, Va., teaching strategy to military officers assigned to the Pentagon, and then returned to Las Vegas to teach strategy to UNLV students the following night.

A hectic travel schedule notwithstanding, Orton thought simultaneously teaching graduate students across time zones would be fairly straightforward. Then, just two weeks into the semester, terrorist attacks hit the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.

On the first day of the attacks, Orton was scheduled to teach the Caterpillar Tractor case to his MBA students at UNLV. After much consideration, he covered the scheduled topics in his MBA strategy course. “Throughout the semester, I think my experiences in Washington made the discussions of strategy much more concrete for our MBA students here at UNLV,” said Orton, who continued his research on strategy formation processes in the U.S. national security community.

Two days after the terrorist attack, Orton flew to Cincinnati, drove to Ann Arbor to deliver a paper at the University of Michigan, and then drove to Washington to resume classes with Air Force and Navy officers on assignment at the Pentagon. The class was the last in a master’s program for high-potential, mid-career officers. He taught the program with Ford Rowan, a well-known crisis management consultant.

“When I walked into the room that day, I hadn’t expected to see many of our students, and they hadn’t expected to see me,” said Orton, who was given the nickname “Hard Core” Orton for making the trip.

Orton was surprised when the officers turned in their writing assignments on Sept. 17. Most of them had been working 20-hour days to design military response options and help with the recovery effort. One student continued working in the Pentagon to design future air strikes on Afghanistan. An Air Force surgeon in the class was in charge of the medical team that identified the remains of the victims.

“If there’s ever a student that has an excuse for not turning in a paper, it can’t be more convincing than, ‘A hijacked plane crashed into my building and killed my co-workers,’” Orton said.

The attacks brought new relevance to his strategy classes both in Arlington and Las Vegas. President George Bush’s decisions after Sept. 11 and the management of the Office of Homeland Security offered new points of discussion. “For many years, most professors have been trained as lawyers,” he said. “This is the first president who has an MBA. His strategy decisions are going to be studied for a hundred years.”

Orton said his experience was only possible within the supportive environment found at UNLV.

“It’s fortunate for me that UNLV is focusing on becoming a premier research university and is letting its professors work outside the box,” he said. “We have an exceptionally strong group of young strategy professors. It’s truly an exciting place for us to be right now.

“I hope it’s exciting for students to see professors across campus involved in advanced research and interacting with top leaders in business and government.”

Orton was awarded the 2001 Distinguished Teaching Award for his work with the MBA program. “I don’t really feel like I’ve earned it yet because there’s so much more I want to do,” he said. “Awards like this certainly change the way professors think. They seem to cement the relationship between faculty and students, and they certainly make me want to work much, much harder at preparing our MBAs to work in executive positions and strategy consulting firms.”

President’s Column

continued from page 2

makeup of the student body; three new minority officers were recently hired to meet this goal. Also, more rigorous standards for hiring have been instituted, and officers receive regular updates on changes in law and policy. They are also presented with more opportunities for training. Elique himself recently succeeded in obtaining the Peace Officers Standards of Training certification, which designates him as a full-fledged state peace officer.

While much of the department’s success can be attributed to the fine leadership of Chief Elique — as well as to Vice President for Student Life Rebecca Mills, whose guiding philosophy has helped to engender much of the transformation that has occurred — a great deal of credit must be directed to the officers themselves. It has been through their commitment to meeting the new challenges placed before them that so much could be accomplished in a relatively short time; their willingness to adapt to a new vision for their department is admirable. I know that their greater involvement in campus life is valued by the university community, and it is my sincere hope that this involvement is inherent to their training in public service.

Recent developments in the department of public safety serve to illustrate that its staff members deserve acknowledgment — and to feel that sense of belonging. Frankly, I believe they have earned it.
Swinging into the Golf Season

by Kevin Force

Guaranteed that as spring rolls into Las Vegas, talk of UNLV golf will be twice what it was last year. That is because UNLV now fields two teams with the addition of women's golf this season. Alongside a men's program that is entrenched in the national spotlight, the Lady Rebels and head coach Kelley Hester have plans to quickly achieve similar success.

The Macon, Ga., native left her home state last summer and trekked three time zones away to begin a new tradition in a place that has long been synonymous with both golf and championships.

"I was very pleased that I was able to round up and save a good recruiting class last year that was capable of providing the nucleus of a national championship-caliber team," Hester said. "We can play successfully, and we'll do what we can to bring in a lot of respect to scholars from other institutions and to show to them what a great university we are." Parker said. "A lot of these scholars who come here are quite impressed when they see what a beautiful campus we have. Even more importantly, they get to see what a growing and exciting place UNLV really is. Their presence also is indicative of how well UNLV faculty members are networked with colleagues from other institutions all over the country."

The series offers about 18 presentations per semester. Each February and October, Parker sends out a request for proposals to the campus community seeking nominations for the next semester. Nomination applications for fall semester 2002 are due April 12.

"We look for nominations that provide us with a summary of what the talk will be about, why the topic is significant, and why it might be of interest to a community audience," Parker said. Some of the lectures include slide/video presentations, recitals, and recitals.

Typically, about 30 proposals are received per semester and reviewed by the committee. Members are appointed by Jim Frey, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, who also oversees funding efforts and many details relating to programming and community relations.

Parker described Frey as one of the most supportive and effective deans that he's worked with on the series. The series is underwritten by the UNLV Foundation. Over the years, the series has received additional grant support from several sources. Most recently, it received a two-year commitment from the Jerry Kalafatis-Lodge Charitable Foundation, a trust set up in memory of the co-founder of Jerry's Nuggets Casino.

The grant covers programming through May 2003. Funding for humanities, transportation, and lodging for outside presenters is provided by this trust. UNLV faculty members who make presentations receive a $200 stipend. In addition, a University Forum Scholarship Fund is in its 17th year. Every year that fund provides two UNLV undergraduates with $500 each. The fund works like a challenge grant. When a UNLV faculty member makes a presentation, the University Forum committee contributes an additional $100 to the scholarship fund in that person's name.

"I think that charting the lecture series has been a personally rewarding experience," Parker said. "Although this isn't part of my regular academic duty, it has become for me one of the most important and interesting things that I do," Parker said. "First, it feels good to be in a position to be able to use this money to help find and sponsor the presentation of interesting ideas here on campus. And, secondly, it lifts me out of the tunnel vision that sometimes goes along with academia, where you just know and work with the people in your own department. I'm working and interacting with people from many different colleges and departments all over the campus who are submitting lecture proposals, and I'm always learning something new, which feels good because it stretches me emotionally and intellectually."

For additional information about the University Forum lecture series, call Parker at ext. 3710 or send an e-mail to parker@unlv.edu.

Points of Policy

rates are listed on our Web site; the rate for university departments is 66 percent lower than the rate charged to non-university groups. (Since the MSU does not receive any state funding - student fees cover the majority of the operating and program budget for the union - non-university groups that book rooms must pay the commercial rental fee to supplement the fees paid by students.) If you have any questions about any of our services or policies, please don't hesitate to call us at ext. 3221. The Moyer Student Union is a key hub of UNLV; we take pride in providing numerous programs and services to meet the needs of the campus community. So take a break with us, have a cup of coffee, and enjoy some interactions with students and colleagues.