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Inside UNLV

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Extended Studies Restructured

by Diane Russell

The College of Extended Studies is being dissolved and its primary components – summer term and continuing education – are being placed under the office of the provost as separate units.

Gerontology and radiography certificate programs and physical education activity courses currently in the College of Extended Studies will be transferred to the College of Fine Arts, School of Dentistry, and College of Education, respectively.

Paul Azley, who as dean of the College of Extended Studies has overseen summer term for many years, is slated to become director of summer term in July. He will continue to report to the provost.

The other major component of the college – continuing education – will be known as the Division of Continuing Education and Outreach and will be assigned to the newly created position of vice provost for continuing education and outreach.

A committee chaired by Hotel College Dean Stuart Mann currently is conducting a search to fill that position.

Projections call for the new vice provost to be on board no later than the start of fall semester.

The professional staff members currently assigned to continuing education will be moving with their unit and will be reporting to the new vice provost. Also moving into the Division of Continuing Education and Outreach will be those people from the college assigned to the Professional Development Center and academic outreach programs, including EXCELL and the senior citizen programs; the Downtown Center; and the Nellis Air Force Base program. The campus ROTC program will temporarily be associated with that unit, though it may be reassigned in the future.

Senior Vice Provost Paul Ferguson, who has served as the provost’s liaison in facilitating the change, said that Azley’s interest in changing his role at the university was an important factor in the decision to restructure.

“When Dean Azley let the administration know that he would like to no longer serve as dean and instead would prefer to concentrate his efforts on summer term, it was decided that this would be a good time to review the diverse elements residing within Extended Studies,” Ferguson said.

Commenting on his decision, Azley said, “I’m planning to retire soon after 35 years at UNLV, and I’m trying to downsize a bit. I love working with summer term. Summer term has 12,000 students and satisfies a lot of student needs.” He said summer term also is popular with faculty and produces substantial revenue for the university.

Ferguson said that with Azley stepping down as dean, “One of the questions became whether all these elements were best housed in a college such as Extended Studies or whether some of them would be more appropriately located elsewhere within the university.”

One of the first steps UNLV administrators took was to hire James H. Ryan, vice president for outreach and cooperative extension at Penn State University, to conduct an enhancement review and suggest the best ways to restructure and improve the various components of the college.

Ryan’s proposals, which included fully

continued on page 3

Distance Education Enrollment Increases

by Betty Blodgett

More and more students are discovering the convenience of attending classes and earning a college degree by logging onto their computers from home, thanks to the efforts of UNLV’s office of distance education.

In fact, student enrollment in this spring semester’s distance education classes exceeded all expectations, according to Charlotte Farr, director of distance education and creative services.

“This semester we saw a huge jump in the number of students enrolling in distance education classes,” Farr said. “We had a record 1,780 students enrolled, and of the 62 classes we offered, 40 were at full capacity.”

Farr said she believes two factors contributing to the growing interest in distance education at UNLV are the space crunch on campus and the fact that many students also hold full-time jobs. By using the Internet, television, and/or videos, students have the flexibility to access class materials, discussion groups, and faculty whenever it is convenient for them to do so, Farr explained, adding that classes are still highly structured.

“We encourage asynchronous delivery, so that our students can access the class materials at a time that will be convenient for them, but faculty still set deadlines as to when certain

continued on page 8
Classified Crew Keeps Campus Clean

by Cate Weeks

It's 1 a.m. and the Bigelow Health Sciences Building is quiet except for a muffled swishing sound down the hall. Dawn O'Brien, armed with a dust mop and the cleaning solutions necessary to banish dust and grime from the classrooms, is making her rounds.

Working in the empty building doesn't bother her. She listens to oldies music to fill the silence and concentrates on the job at hand. O'Brien is among the 123 custodial workers charged with keeping the 2.6 million square feet of building space on campus clean. The department oversees every building on campus except the Moyer Student Union, the residence halls, and the Thomas & Mack Center. It's a task that takes three shifts and 2,000 gallons of cleaning chemicals annually.

Staff and students are most likely to encounter the day-shift workers, who focus on servicing UNLV's 400 restrooms twice a day. They make sure that each stall gets its share of the 17 million feet of toilet paper the campus uses each year.

The swing shift brings in more workers to start on the administrative offices, but the bulk of the cleaning team works from 10 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. a day. When the rooms are empty save for the occasional late-night researcher.

The Hollywood image of a graveyard custodian aimlessly pushing a broom while watching reruns on a portable television is completely inaccurate at UNLV, said Phil Shealy, assistant director of building services. "Each worker has about 25,000 square feet to cover on a daily basis," he said. "With so many people coming and going out of these buildings every day, there's a lot to do."

The room Building Complex is especially tough because the rooms are used by so many people day and night. That never-ending cycle just comes with the territory, said David O'Brien, who's charged with servicing the Beam Music Center, Carlson Education Building, and the Stan Fulton Building.

"Some days it seems like you never actually finish because, just hours later, the floor will be covered with footprints again," Jordan said. "But, as long as the traffic is limited to students and staff members in shoes, Jordan doesn't mind.

"My biggest pet peeve? Rollerblades," Jordan said, shaking his head. "If I could just get my hands on the guy who invented those."

You can spend a night polishing the floors and having them look terrific. Then, the next day, there are these black Rollerblade marks everywhere." For O'Brien, the most dreaded activity is cleaning graffiti off the walls. "But, overall I'm really lucky," she said. "I think because the students and faculty in health sciences are especially aware of hygiene, my job is a little easier than it is for people elsewhere on campus."

Shealy's only complaint is when students or staff members prop building doors open after hours. "This is a safety issue," he said. "We don't want people in there at night who shouldn't be."

Jordan, a five-year employee of the university, said that while it's usually quiet at night, every now and then he's surprised by what he finds in the darkened offices. "We walked in on a few sleeping professors," he said. "One night, the professor didn't even wake up. I got his trash and cleaned his office, and he just slept."

"I'm also amazed that students ride their bikes inside buildings. When I first started, I thought my coworkers were playing a joke on me by having a guy ride his bike through the building. They weren't laughing though."

Jordan was named 2001 Custodial Employee of the Year, an honor he did not foresee receiving. "I was sitting at the banquet just before they announced the award, and I said to my friend, 'I wonder who's going to get it this year—it probably somebody who's been here forever.' Then I hear my name. I asked my friend, 'Who is calling me now?'"

Jordan was selected for his outstanding work and attitude. "His areas are always spotless when he leaves for the day," Shealy said. "With the limited staff we have, it can be a challenge to get everything done. David does an excellent job and is very helpful with his coworkers."

Custodial service positions in Las Vegas typically have a high turnover, Shealy said. The university must compete for workers with the Strip hotels and with employers who can offer daytime hours. "The university offers a supportive environment and great benefits, so we're able to attract great workers," she said.

Jordan, a former casino worker, and O'Brien both said they came to UNLV for the stability that the university offers. "I really do like working here," O'Brien said. "I believe when the staff and students go into my building, they feel good about it. They feel at home. It's nice to know I have a part in that."
New Technology, Structure Help Enrollment Management ‘Work Smarter’

by Cate Weeks

The university is making significant changes related to the processes for recruiting, admitting, and retaining students. These developments will help improve service for both prospective and current students, as well as support the academic units’ efforts to attract and retain qualified students.

“UNLV is a dynamic and growing institution,” said Juanita Fain, vice president for administration, “and this growth is expected to continue for the next several years. Changes are necessary to enable the enrollment management division to accommodate this growth while it maintains and enhances its processes.”

To assist in this endeavor, UNLV has engaged the services of Noel-Levitz, a leading consulting firm specializing in recruitment and retention. In addition, an enhanced technology solution, Enrollment Communication Management System (eComs) by Hobsons, PA, has been acquired to provide more efficient and effective communication with prospective students. The eComs system will be expanded with features that allow some labor-intensive application processes in admissions to be automated.

As part of these developments, this past fall, Stuart Tennant, assistant vice president for enrollment management, divided admissions into two units: admissions operations and admissions recruitment. Staff members from the admissions operations section and the registrar’s office are being cross-trained with a goal to launch what is being coined a “blended” front counter. Judy Belanger, interim registrar and director of student financial services, is working with Pam Hicks, interim director of admissions, to blend the previously separate functions.

For students, the blended unit will offer “one-stop shopping” from the initial application through graduation, Hicks said. And staff will be able to better handle the workload spikes that come throughout the year in each area.

“This will allow us to better manage our human resources and have more people available at the busiest times for each function,” she said. “It’s going to help us eliminate the need for long hours and skipped lunches during the peak processing times.”

Along with the more efficient departmental structure, the eComs system will help staff handle the ever-growing number of applications. Last year, UNLV hit an all-time high of 10,500 applications, and Tennant expects that record to be broken again this year. The eComs system is currently used by schools such as Louisiana Tech, and in California at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Automation enhancements will be designed to work with the current Student Information System (SIS). Applications of admitted students will be automatically uploaded into SIS, saving the current data-entry operation, which can take up to a dozen or more computer screens.

The efficiency gained by using eComs will be noticed in other departments, Hicks said. “I think the campus is going to notice a faster turnaround time from initial application to when the colleges receive information about students enrolled in their programs,” she said.

Prospective students will enjoy the system’s VIP page feature. This personalized Web page helps prospective students track deadlines and monitor application status. But perhaps the most important aspect of the eComs system is that it will finally give recruiters a much-needed management and communication tool, Hicks said.

“I think if there’s a single way to describe the changes in admissions and enrollment management, it’s that we are going to be data-driven with our processes and decisions,” she said. “With limited resources, it’s about working smarter by using good data.”

eComs will provide a user-friendly contact management program so UNLV can aggressively recruit and attract high-caliber students. And, just as important, the system will give the department feedback about the success of its recruitment activities. For example, recruiters will be able to determine if visits to particular college fairs are yielding matriculated students. They’ll also be able to target messages to the specific interests stated by prospective students.

“With an effective contact management tool in place,” Tennant said, “UNLV will be able to reach the next step in enrollment management; that is, predictive analysis of the data. This will tell the university about the kinds of students who apply and will result in a better understanding of the admissions factors that lead to students getting their degrees.”

The initial changes — both in structure and technology — were met with some skepticism. “At the beginning, some people felt that we were making these changes because we didn’t think they were doing their job,” Hicks said. “We’re making these changes because we understand that their jobs are overwhelming and their workloads are only going to increase.”

“This is a very rich environment for these kinds of visionary changes,” Tennant said. “It’s really an ideal time to bring this to the university because, all too often, institutions only make changes in times of crisis. UNLV is experiencing robust growth, and this is enabling the university to move from a position of strength.”

Fain said, “Although Stuart will be leaving UNLV at the end of June to become provost at Northwest Christian College in Oregon, these developments he initiated will most definitely be continued and supported. These accomplishments and Dr. Tennant’s vision for a comprehensive enrollment management approach are very much appreciated and will serve the university well.”

Extended Studies Restructured

continued from page 1

integrating lifelong learning into the mission of each of UNLV’s academic colleges and forging new partnerships for continuing education with other university units such as the alumni office and the athletic department proved very useful in the restructuring process, according to Ferguson.

Among Ryan’s recommendations were:

— “Extended programs and continuing education should be encouraged to become a part of every academic unit’s mission and strategic plan.”

— “An organizational structure should be developed that coordinates communication, collaboration, and synergy in program development and delivery across colleges and administrative units.”

Extended programs and continuing education should be seen as a vital component of the teaching, research, and service missions of the university and not just equated with service.”

— “Faculty should be encouraged, supported, and recognized for engaging in extended programs and continuing education.”

“The new vice provost — with the help of the excellent continuing education professionals already employed at UNLV — will be looking at many new ways of expanding, funding, and delivering our continuing education offerings,” Ferguson said. “It should prove to be an exciting time for all of us interested in exploring what the role of continuing education and outreach at UNLV can be in the future.”

Inside UNLV Page 3
From the Dean's Desk

By Richard Morgan
Dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law

In early March, the William S. Boyd School of Law welcomed a site inspection team—the third in three years—from the American Bar Association. Since achieving provisional accreditation in July 2000 (in record time, less than two years after opening our doors), the Boyd Law School has been visited annually by the ABA inspectors; these annual visits are required until we achieve full accreditation, which we hope to receive in February 2003. In connection with the recent visit, the law school updated its self-study and took stock of what we achieved in the few years of our existence. Based on the exit interviews with the inspectors, they were very impressed with those achievements, some of which are mentioned below.

If all goes as planned, we will proceed to a hearing before the ABA Accreditation Committee in June, which should lead to a hearing before the Council of the Section of Legal Education of the ABA in the fall. If favorable decisions result from those hearings, we could have our accreditation finally approved by the ABA at the mid-winter meeting of the House of Delegates in February 2003. Our goal is to achieve full accreditation at that point, which is the earliest time possible for such accreditation. We want to reach every significant benchmark—and full accreditation is certainly significant—at the earliest time.

Of course, receiving provisional accreditation was also a significant benchmark. Not only is such accreditation an indication that we substantially comply with all of the standards of the ABA, it also permits our graduates to sit for the bar exam in Nevada and in all other states. To achieve full accreditation, we must convince the ABA that we comply fully with all of its standards, and we are endeavoring to do that.

Based on earlier accreditation reviews, it appears that the main issues to be resolved prior to full accreditation are close to satisfactory resolution.

Those issues are the relocation of the law school to its permanent facility, which should take place this summer, and the performance of our graduates on the Nevada bar exam, the first administration of which was last summer and resulted in a quite satisfactory performance by our graduates.

I am very proud of those graduates, who have been well received in the legal profession and many of whom are serving in distinguished judicial clerkships at the state and federal levels. I am also pleased that the law school should have first-class facilities—the renovated Nevada UNLV library—in which to operate this fall. We look forward to a dedication event later in the fall, at which we can welcome the community and thank our supporters who have done so much to help us build a great law school for Nevada.

With the support of the UNLV central administration, the Board of Regents, the state of Nevada, the legal profession, and the community in general, we are well on the way to establishing such a law school. If you would like more information about the programs and people of the William S. Boyd School of Law, please visit our Web site at www.law.unlv.edu.

Business

The professional relationships between students and faculty in the college extend beyond the classroom. Recently, The Chronicle of Higher Education reported on the research being conducted by former college alumnus Eric Chang, who received a bachelor’s degree in economics in 1996, and Djetro Assame, associate professor of economics. The study involves undergraduate students at several public and private universities regarding software piracy. The most recent findings show that piracy had dropped noticeably between the 1996-97 and the 2000-01 school years. The results of the study conducted in 1996 appeared in the January issue of Applied Economics.

The department of marketing has also continued to build relationships with former students. In March, the department and its advisory board hosted a marketing forum. Students were invited to a panel discussion to hear from college alumni who now are practicing marketing professionals.

In other research news, Darryl Scale, assistant professor in the department of management, and Amnon Rapoport, visiting assistant professor from the Eller College of Business and Public Administration at the University of Arizona, received a grant from the National Science Foundation. The competitive grant was awarded to the two professors for their project titled “Congestion and Strategic Behavior in Queuing Systems.” Previous research has addressed the random nature of queuing from the perspective of the server, while Scale and Rapoport’s research deals with the issue from the perspective of the customer.

Dental School

The school continues to hire top-quality personnel as it prepares for the enrollment of its first class this fall. Dr. R. Michael Sanders has assumed the position of director of patient-care services. He comes to UNLV from The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. In New Jersey, he served as acting chair of the department of general dentistry and community health. His responsibilities included management of all predoctoral operative dentistry programs, the dental auxiliary utilization program, and postdoctoral advanced education in general dentistry, as well as prevention, nutrition, behavioral sciences, practice dynamics, ethics, and all community-service activities of the dental school.

Additionally, he was responsible for the management of all urgent-care services. Sanders has broad experience in development and implementation of patient-care courses as well as management of faculty and staff. Ellen Herrick has joined the school’s team as business manager. A graduate of UNLV with a bachelor of science degree in business administration and accounting, she has spent 10 years in health care administration. Her areas of expertise are centered in health care management and clinical studies. She holds numerous science fair awards and, in 1983, was designated as the Utah Sterling Scholar in Science Student of the Year.

Education

The mission of the special education department, one of five departments in the college, is to provide each student with an opportunity to pursue interests in scholarship and human service through rigorous and challenging undergraduate and graduate programs.

For more than six years, the department has been responding to the teacher shortage by offering innovative programs leading to teacher licensure. In addition to the traditional department programs, there are seven alternative programs in special education and early childhood education. The alternative programs lead to either a bachelor’s degree or master’s degree as well as a full teaching license in special education or early childhood education. These programs have recently been highlighted by the national publication Education Week and have been part of the national certification effort sponsored by the Council of Great City Schools. The alternative programs have been at the leading edge of meeting teacher shortages across our community and the nation. In addition, these programs meet the needs of a unique group of students who are unable to attend classes offered during the traditional schedule.

One other exciting venture within the department is the construction of the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Center. The faculty in early childhood education has been planning the center for the past year. The state-of-the-art preschool and research center has won awards for its design. Groundbreaking probably will occur sometime this summer.

Engineering

The college welcomes Darrell Pepper as interim dean. He served as chairman of the mechanical engineering department for six years and accepted the interim dean position in March. In addition, the college welcomes his interim executive assistant, Debra Grandbery.

The college also announces the new director of development, Calleen Norrod Johnson. She will have significant responsibility for fund raising for key programs directly benefiting the college as well as for the proposed science and engineering research and technology facility.

The college is working to increase its research profile. In January, it was awarded new research proposals in the amount of nearly $1.7 million.

American Indian students in the college are proud to announce that the UNLV student chapter of the American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) is being reactivated this semester.

The society is a national, nonprofit organization that nurtures the building of community by bridging science and technology with the values of the students’ cultures. Through programming, AISES offers opportunities for American Indians and Native Alaskans to pursue studies in science, engineering, and technology.

Fine Arts

The Performing Arts Center will present Sweet Honey in the Rock as part of the World Stage Concert Series on May 12 at the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall. This is a capella ensemble of six African-American women who transcend the technologically enhanced music of the day. The ability of the group to blend old and new at the same time is part of its enduring essence.

The UNLV Opera Theatre presents two comic one-act operas May 4 and 5 inside the Black Box Theatre. The Telephone by Gian Carlo Menotti tells the story of a love triangle between Ben, Lucy, and her fiancé! Gallantry is an operatic tribute to a peculiarly American art form—the soap opera. It will be performed by UNLV’s graduate and undergraduate voice majors.

Rebecca A. Kreider will direct, while George Stelluto will conduct.

The theatre department presents How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying May 3-12 inside the Judy Bayley Theatre. Recently revived on Broadway to
Tony-Award-winning success, it is Frank Loesser's "Grease and Dolly" Pulitzer-Prize winning musical about Finch, a window washer at the World Wide Wicket Company, and his climb up the ladder of success. Brilliant and witty, it also has a great Loesser score. Robert Burgan will direct.

Graduate

During the spring 2002 semester the college staff, including Dean Paul Ferguson, Associate Dean Alan Simmons, Harriet Barlow, Carol Hoefle, and Janine Barrett, conducted five information sessions for approximately 90 graduate coordinators and administrative assistants from all UNLV graduate programs. Participating colleges were Liberal Arts, Education, Engineering, Sciences, Health Sciences, Business, Hotel Administration, Urban Affairs, and Fine Arts.

Each two-hour session was designed to ensure that those individuals working most closely in graduate education were informed of current policies and procedures and upcoming initiatives planned by the Graduate College. It also provided an opportunity for comments and suggestions to optimize services of the Graduate College to graduate students and faculty. Topics covered in each session included the overall structure and function of the Graduate College, including the various publications, programs, and Graduate Council activities, admissions and student progression, graduate assistantships, graduate faculty/student issues, and electronic student services.

Honors

The college will be offering HON 395H (honors mentorship), HON 493H (self-directed study), HON 498 (honors thesis project I), and HON 499 (honors thesis project II) during the 2002 summer semester.

The college is beginning the process of using its alumni database to create mentorship opportunities for current honors students. A workshop for interested honors students, "Tips for Applying to Medical School," is being planned. It will be conducted by local Honors College alumni who have recently finished medical school.

Katie Hooper, an outstanding freshman, has been selected by the college as the recipient of the UNLV Alumni Association Scholarship for the 2002-03 academic year. Recruitment and development for many of the national scholarships that are open to all qualified UNLV students is beginning. Students and faculty who are interested in the Rhodes Scholarship, British Marshall Scholarship, Truman Scholarship, Goldwater Scholarship, or the Harry Truman Scholarship should contact the college.

Hotel Administration

Each year, the faculty of the college honor three of its members who have distinguished themselves in teaching, research, or service. All full-time faculty of the college are eligible to be nominated and receive an award. These awards, named the Boyd Distinguished Awards, are a result of a generous gift from the Boyd family. Each award comes with a check for $2,500 in the faculty member's name, plus a very nice plaque to honor the recipient. The formal announcement of the awards is made each year at the Honors Convocation. At this year's Honors Convocation, the Harrah Hotel College was proud to honor Audrey McCool for her outstanding efforts in teaching; Skip Swerdlow for his continuing contributions to research; and Jean Hertzman for her superior service to the department of food and beverage management, the college, the university, and the profession.

Liberal Arts

The college is home to several interdisciplinary degree programs. These programs are designed to allow students to craft a unique course of study in a well-defined interdisciplinary subject while at the same time fulfilling the requirements of a traditional departmental major.

Interdisciplinary majors are becoming more popular as they allow motivated students to more or less customize their education. Each program is coordinated by a faculty member in the college. For example, Latin American studies is chaired by Bernardo Arriaza of anthropology. Asian studies is coordinated by Felicia Campbell of English. Andrew Bell of history oversees the social sciences studies program. Multidisciplinary studies is under the guidance of Tim Erwin of English. Simon Gotshalk of sociology coordinates cultural studies. Linguistic studies is coordinated by George Urioste of anthropology. Approximately 70 students are majoring in interdisciplinary studies, and each is individually advised by the faculty coordinator and the staff of the Wilson Advising Center. The major requires 33 to 36 credits in courses taken from several departments. The social science studies degree is now available via distance education.

Ellen Rose, chair of the women's studies department, has been providing overall coordination for these programs, but will be retiring at the end of this semester. To give these programs more administrative attention and to build on the existing foundation, Janet Ward has been hired as director of interdisciplinary programs and associate professor of history in the college. She has the perfect background for this position as she has research and teaching experience in a variety of fields, including comparative urban studies, comparative literature, visual culture, film studies, languages, and history of architecture and cities. She will develop new interdisciplinary programs in addition to strengthening those that already exist. Interdisciplinary studies is expected to be a very popular program in the future.

Libraries

The University Libraries has signed an agreement with the Utah Academic Library Consortium (UALC) that now allows on-site borrowing privileges at all consortium libraries. As a result of the agreement, it is now possible for UNLV student, staff, emeriti, and faculty who present valid campus identification or legal photo identification and proof of current registration to check out library materials at other UALC member libraries. All borrowing is subject to the loan rules established by the lending library, and these rules may vary among UALC libraries. The borrowed material may be returned directly to the lending library or to any UNLV library. It will then be returned to the lending library.

This reciprocal borrowing agreement supports the consortial mission of fostering research and is intended to maximize library resources on behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of the member libraries. Like the expanded access to electronic resources such as netLibrary (through UALC) and Wiley InterScience (through the Greater Western Library Alliance), which were highlighted in earlier columns, the borrowing agreement serves as an excellent example of the benefits accrued from our continuing efforts to collaborate with other libraries to get the most "bang for our buck."

BYU, Utah State, Southern Utah University, Dixie College, Utah State Library, and Weber State University are among the participating Utah libraries. The complete list of UALC member libraries and the full text of the agreement may be found through links on the circulation department Web site at www.library.unlv.edu/circ/index.html.

Sciences

UNLV hosted the 2002 Southern Nevada Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SNREF) in the North Gym and in the Robert L. Bigelow Physics Building in March. The fair was open to qualifying participants from kindergarten through 12th grades from schools in Clark, Lincoln, Nye, and Esmeralda counties. To qualify for the SNREF, all participants must have previously entered and won a science fair held at their school.

Categories in the K-5 division included scientific collections, science observation history, science experiment, and technological design and inventions.

Students from middle schools entered projects in biological and behavioral science, physical and mechanical science, environmental science, earth and space science, and mathematics. This year the College of Sciences processed approximately 350 total projects.

The college is proud to support the overall individual and team sweepstakes winners of the high school science fair as they travel to the INTELL International Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held in Louisville, Ky., later this month.

The college sends a big "thank you" to the faculty and staff who volunteered their time and energy to make the fair a great success.

Urban Affairs

The department of environmental studies held its second annual Community Volunteer Day at the Clark County Wetlands Park Nature Preserve in February. About 200 community volunteers worked to remove tamarisk, an invasive plant also known as salt ced.

The "weed warriors" were featured on television newscasts on KLAS, Channel 8, and KTNV, Channel 13. Headed by assistant professor Kristyna Stave and eight students, the UNLV Environmental Studies Wetlands Park Outreach Project involves research and outreach concerning the valley's wetlands. Last year, about 150 volunteers planted 8,000 wetlands plants at the Nature Preserve. These plants play an important role in cleaning water as it passes through the preserve on its way to Lake Mead.

The School of Social Work's distance education program is expanding again. In the fall, the school will offer three sections of "Introduction to Social Welfare" online, including one section in the eight-week format. In addition, the Human Behavior and the Social Environment course will continue to be offered every semester. New technology now allows students the option of watching video lectures on their computers rather than on television. This allows students around-the-clock access to course lectures, thus facilitating the delivery of course content and, ultimately, learning. A future online course on the issues of the elderly is being developed.
ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Timothy Erwin (English) will see a lengthy article, "Scribblers, Servants, and Johnson’s Life of Savage," appear in The Age of Johnson next year. Samuel Johnson published the first of "Lives of the Poets in the wake of Alexander Pope’s Dunciad," and Erwin’s article for the first time draws several connections between the two works. Erwin lectured recently on “The Ecliptic of the Beautiful” and “A Short History of Visual Culture” at the University of Iowa and Chapman University. In April he chaired one panel and participated in another at the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies meeting in Colorado Springs, Colo., which was hosted by the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Patti L. Chance (Educational Leadership) has written a text titled Introduction to Educational Leadership and Organizational Behavior: Theory Into Practice, published this year by Eye On Education. She also recently presented two research papers at the American Association of School Administrators Annual Conference in San Diego. “The Role of Instructional Leadership in Standards-Based Reform” was presented with Robert Anderson; and “Perceptions of Charter School Principals on the Provisions of Charter School Legislation” was presented with Brenda Larsen-Mitchell.

Gerald R. Weeks (Counseling) was a keynote speaker at the meeting of the Society for Sex Research and Therapy, which took place in Las Vegas in March. He gave a three-hour workshop on hypnotherapy sexual desire at this international conference. He was also cited several times in the April issue of Prevention magazine on the subject of erectile dysfunction.

Chris Reynolds (Publications) received a Bronze Quill award from the Las Vegas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators for his design of the cover of the McNair Scholars Institute Journal.

Patricia Cruz and Mark Buttrum (Harry Reid Center) have filed two patent applications with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and with the European Patent Office for the rapid detection of opportunistic pathogens. The applications are titled: “Method for Detection of Staphylococcus epidermidis in Pure Culture and Field Samples Using Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction” and “Method for Detection of Aspergillus fumigatus in Pure Culture and Field Samples Using Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction.”

KC Davis (Theatre) received a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for the development and production of his new play, The Motley. The play, based on a true story, will take place in the West Virginia town of Lewisburg, where David Creigh was hanged by federal authorities after killing a Union soldier who broke into his home. The play will have a reading at UNLV later this spring. The Motley was commissioned by Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg, which will produce it later this summer. The project also received a $2,000 grant from the Paul Green Foundation.

Jonathan Strand (Political Science) has been invited to give a presentation at the U.N. Conference on “The Multilateral Environmental Governance Regime.” The meeting, which will take place at the United Nations, is jointly sponsored by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies and the University of Kitakyushu. He also has been chosen president-elect of the International Studies Association – West.

Sue Fawn Chung (History) has been appointed to the Nevada Board of Museums and History by Gov. Kenny Guinn. She also has been appointed to the Diversity Council of the National Trust for Historic Preservation by its president, Richard Moe. Her article on the “Anti-Chinese Riot in Tonopah, Nevada” will appear in the 2003 volume of Chinese America: History and Perspective with a translation of two newspaper articles from the Chung Shu Yee Bo (San Francisco) by Him Mark Lai. Her article, “Between Two Worlds: The Zhuangtang and Chinese American Funerary Rituals,” appears in the book, The Chinese in America, edited by Susie Lan Cassel, published by Altamira Press this year.

John Hobbes (Publications) received an Award of Excellence from the Las Vegas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators for his design of the spring 2001 issue of UNLV Magazine, which featured UNLV President Carol C. Harter on the cover. He and editor-in-chief Susan DiBella (News & Public Information) also received an Award of Merit in the publication category for the same issue.

John Bowers (English) has been awarded a two-month summer fellowship at the Huntington Library in California. The $4,000 grant is funded by the Fletcher Jones Foundation. He has also been designated an alternate at Princeton’s prestigious Institute for Advanced Study, which was originally founded to provide a research base for Albert Einstein.

Flora J. Jones (Admissions) was selected UNLV Classified Employee of the Month for February. She has been employed at UNLV since 1980, working her way up within the admissions office from administrative aid to program officer II. She serves on the Student Conduct Hearing Panel and on the Frazier Hall Safety Committee. Her son is a finance major at UNLV.

Josh Rankin (Publications) received an Award of Merit from the Las Vegas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators for his design of the cover for the 2001 commencement program.

Kim Hobbs (Theatre) was awarded The Order of the Rose of Beta Sigma Phi, an international sorority that encourages women’s creativity and productivity in their life, learning, and friendship. The honor is given to members who have shown notable fidelity to the ideals of Beta Sigma Phi as well as devotion to the organization throughout their membership.

James Crawford (Educational Leadership) currently is in Brazil as part of a Rotary Group Study Exchange. Crawford, who left for Brazil in mid-April, is part of a team visiting the northeastern area of the country. The other team members are from Southern California. He is the first member of the College of Education faculty, and the first person sponsored by the Rotary Club of Las Vegas West, to be selected for a Group Study Exchange sponsored by Rotary.

Ted G. Jelen (Political Science) has been named to the editorial board of the Journal of Media and Religion.

Craig Walton (Ethics and Policy Studies) wrote an article titled “Character and Integrity in Organizations. The Civilizing of the Workplace,” which was published in the fall/winter 2001 issue of the Business and Professional Ethics Journal. In March, he presented a seminar on “Ethics in Government” to a group of Clark County administrators.

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@unlv.nevada.edu. Submissions to mail code 102 are also accepted.

President’s Column

continued from page 2

credentials. He is a well-respected engineer who has authored nearly 400 technical publications and has served as editor, co-editor, or author of 10 books. He is considered one of the world’s experts in the fields of design of thermal systems and direct contact heat transfer, and he has served as the principal investigator on funded research projects, many of which are designed to bring the world cleaner and more cost-effective energy.

Also, as the director of UNLV’s Center for Energy Research, he has been instrumental in establishing numerous university, government, and private industry partnerships dedicated to advancing research on and applications for renewable energy. Evidence of one such partnership can be readily seen along Flamingo Road on the north side of campus: the Dish Stirling Project, a solar dish power generation system that serves as the focal point of a two-year federally funded project through which engineering faculty and students are demonstrating and refining the functioning of the solar power system. This is just one example of the many fascinating and innovative applied research projects that Dr. Boehm has spearheaded.

It is personally gratifying to me that we are able to offer the Harry Reid Silver State Research Award, especially to such a dedicated, creative faculty member as Professor Bowers. Given the critical importance of research to the future of our university, it is imperative for us to continually seek ways properly and meaningfully to reward those who perform it well. Dr. Boehm certainly deserves this prestigious new award for his commitment to research that seeks to achieve such a noble goal – the use of science to produce cleaner air, more affordable energy, and, quite possibly in the long run, an improvement in the quality of our lives. Additional information about him and his work will be presented in our Inside UNLV, and you will no doubt hear more of his accomplishments over time. We are proud of him and will take great pleasure in extolling his achievements.

And while we are about it, we will continue to sing the praises of Sen. Harry Reid, who is honored as well with the bestowal of this award, for sharing with those of us in academic life an abiding respect for the value of research.
Sue Bozarth Retires from UNLV

Sue Bozarth, director of admissions, is retiring this summer after 22 years with UNLV. She started here in a classified position handling room and class scheduling. She was promoted to assistant and then associate registrar before being named director of admissions five years ago.

Inside UNLV talked to Bozarth about her experience here and her plans for the future.

Q: After 22 years, you’ve seen a lot of changes at UNLV. What has been the best change?

A: The most significant change has been in terms of our image as an institution. It used to be that we were known solely for athletics. Now students are choosing UNLV for its strong academics and its focus on serving their needs.

Q: What has been your biggest challenge over the years?

A: Staffing. It’s a challenge to keep up with such amazing growth. We’re woefully understaffed for our size — but then, that’s the situation for everyone on campus.

Q: What is your proudest accomplishment?

A: Being chosen for the President’s Professional Employee of the Year Award in 1995 was the highlight of my career. It’s the highest award a staff member can receive. The registrar (Jeff Halverson) nominated me because of the number of years of service and for my reputation on campus. I was extremely proud to be singled out like that.

Q: What did you like best about working at UNLV?

A: The most enjoyable aspect of my job has always been working with the students. They are so excited to be going to college. It’s such a joy to be here to take care of the students — that’s really why we’re all here in the first place.

Q: What’s next for you?

A: I’m going to try substitute teaching in the area.

Swartzell Retires After 20 Years

Dennis Swartzell, director of Landscape, Grounds, and Arboretum, retired in March after 20 years at UNLV.

Inside UNLV talked to Swartzell just before he left UNLV about his experiences on campus and about his plans for the future.

Q: What has been the biggest change you’ve seen at UNLV during your years here?

A: The growth. Every time we build a new building, it has some impact on the landscaping. There was never a dull day at UNLV.

Q: What has been your proudest accomplishment at UNLV?

A: Building the Xeric Garden. It was the most challenging and probably the most rewarding. I think its value goes beyond being a demonstration garden. It’s a place of respite, a place of solitude, a place of many joys. We’ve even had weddings in the garden. While the students, faculty, and staff enjoy it for the reasons I just mentioned, the grounds staff also enjoys it as a “living laboratory” that we use as a kind of “artist’s palette.”

Q: What was your favorite part of the job?

A: Teaching people. I particularly enjoy conducting tours of the Xeric Garden and the campus arboretum. I just gave a tour to 20 mentally challenged youngsters, and we all had a good time. They got to touch the trees, see the baby foliage up close, and look at seed pods. They were just so interested in everything I had to show them.

Q: What will you be doing after leaving UNLV?

A: I will be going to work for Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, an Arizona-based nursery that specializes in desert-adapted plants and serves several Western states. I’ll be serving as marketing director, which will involve working with landscape architects and developers — the people who design large gardens and streetscapes. I’m being allowed to use my computer to “telecommute,” so I won’t have to move down to Phoenix. I’ll be keeping in touch with my friends here at UNLV.

Q: What was your favorite part of the job?

A: The most enjoyable aspect of my job has always been working with the students. They are so excited to be going to college. It’s such a joy to be here to take care of the students — that’s really why we’re all here in the first place.

Q: What’s next for you?

A: I’m going to try substitute teaching in the area.

Commencement Ceremonies Set for May 18

Spring commencement ceremonies are set for May 18 at the Thomas & Mack Center. The 9 a.m. ceremony will be for the colleges of Business, Education, Engineering, and Hotel Administration. The 2 p.m. ceremony will involve the colleges of Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Sciences, Urban Affairs, and Extended Studies, as well as the Law School. Faculty members participating in the ceremonies are asked to arrive one hour before the start of their ceremony. They should enter the Thomas & Mack through the old tunnel; signs will direct them to the robing areas. All bags brought into the center will be subject to a search.

Points of Policy

By Carla Herron
Director of Human Resources

Our office has recently introduced a new service I would like to tell you about this month’s column: the new Employee Query and Update System, also known as EQUUS. This Web-based system will provide you with a fast and simple way to obtain information and make certain types of changes to your personnel data on file with the university.

Through the system, you can make immediate changes, via the Web, to such information as your home address, office location, campus extension, e-mail address, emergency contact, and other personal information. Additionally, the EQUUS system will allow you to view information regarding your dates of employment, W-4 tax status, tenure, academic degrees, and W-2 and pay advice copies, along with other data.

Now that EQUUS is available, you will no longer be required to fill out a personnel data sheet; the changes you make electronically will now be entered into the system automatically. Once the changes are accepted by EQUUS, our Human Resources Management System database will update your record. Related databases, such as the Employee Locator System, will reflect the change after an overnight cycle is complete.

In order to access this system, go to the Human Resources Web site at hr.unlv.edu, and click on the EQUUS log-on icon. Then enter your PIN number, which was distributed to all faculty and staff in mid-February, as well as your Social Security number. (If you cannot find your PIN number, please call ext. 0777.) Instructions will be provided as you proceed.

I should offer one tip before you begin: The “forward” and “backward” navigation buttons found at the top of your Web browser may not allow you to navigate between pages properly. If you do use those buttons by mistake, you may see a screen that says, “An error was detected.” Conversation token was not supplied. Please enter this system from the front page.” If this occurs, return to the logon page, and proceed anew from there. You will not experience this problem if you use the menu navigation buttons found at the bottom of the EQUUS system pages to navigate between the menus and screens. Use the “end session” button located at the bottom of the pages to log out of the application.

We are very pleased to offer this service to the campus community. The system not only allows you more convenient access to your biographical data, but it also streamlines the process of updating information, thus saving our department a great deal of time and ensuring greater accuracy. Please take advantage of this new option; I think you will find it quite useful.

If you have any difficulty using the system, don’t hesitate to call Human Resources at ext. 3504.
Let's Get Physical, Physical

McDermott Offers Variety of Free Exercise Activities
by Betty Blodgett

Exercising the brain is not the only form of activity available to faculty, staff, and students on the UNLV campus. The Paul McDermott Physical Education Complex provides an opportunity for members of the campus community to also exercise other parts of the body.

With an indoor swimming pool, cardio and weight rooms, basketball gyms, and racquetball courts, the McDermott Complex offers many options for those who want to work up a sweat and keep physically fit.

"There is no charge for faculty and staff to use the facility, other than a small fee if they want to rent a locker," said James "Mac" Hayes, executive director for student life facilities. He has served as director of McDermott since his arrival at UNLV in 1994.

Faculty and staff who show a current UNLV ID card may use the equipment, pool, courts, showers, and dressing rooms during open recreation periods. A facility schedule detailing the availability of those facilities is prepared each month. To obtain a current schedule, stop by the main office of the McDermott Complex, Room 306, call ext. 3687, or visit www.unlv.edu/studentserv/Campus_Recreational_Services/mcdermott.html.

Generally, the cardio and weight rooms are open Monday through Friday from 6-7:30 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. On the weekend, the rooms are open from noon to 5 p.m. The weight room includes both free weights and machines, and the cardio room has heart-monitoring equipment such as treadmills and exercise bicycles.

There are eight racquetball courts, which are available Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. A racquetball court may be reserved by calling ext. 3150. Racquet rental is $2.

Open gym times vary for the basketball courts. Generally, the courts are available Monday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. Open gym times on the weekend are usually from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., but this is subject to change if the gym is being rented for an event. Basketball is available in Room 312, the faculty equipment room.

Open times for Buchanan Natatorium, the indoor swimming pool, generally are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until noon and 7-9 p.m. Saturday from noon until 5 p.m., and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Times may vary if the swimming or diving teams are hosting a meet or if the pool is being rented for an event. The pool is set up for lap swimming only.

Hayes also noted that the UNLV Outdoor Adventure and Outdoor Equipment Rental Shop, located in Room 318, is under the direction of campus recreational services. It offers low-cost, outdoor rental equipment for students, faculty, and staff. The office also organizes a variety of outdoor adventure trips throughout the year. For more information about equipment rentals and activities, call ext. 3575.

"Things have changed quite a bit just in the time that I've been here," Hayes said, explaining how a few years ago it would have been very difficult for faculty, staff, and students to find many open times available to use the facility's exercise resources.

The McDermott Complex was built in 1974 to meet the needs of 7,500 students. For many years it was a multi-use facility supporting both the academic and athletic programs.

The opening of the Lied Athletic Complex in the late '90s, followed by the opening of the Cox Pavilion last year, made the McDermott Complex available more often for student, faculty, and staff use.

"Those changes during the last few years were the best thing that ever happened to the McDermott Complex because it allowed us to shift our focus, upgrade the cardio and weight equipment, and hire additional staff," Hayes said. "We used to be able to offer only two hours a day for open swimming or racquetball. Now we can offer up to eight hours a day for these activities."

However, Hayes said that a recent analysis showed that the McDermott Complex is still deficient in terms of meeting the needs of recreational space and amenities for the campus population and that plans are now under way to begin addressing these issues.

For more information, call Hayes at ext. 3687.

Distance Education Enrollment continued from page 1

 assignments or projects need to be completed, and they may require students to come on campus to take a test," Farr said. "We must find a way to work with online classes is that students who rarely take part in regular classroom discussions often feel more comfortable participating in discussions in the online classroom environment."

Faculty members can receive extra compensation for developing and teaching a distance education course. Different factors, such as if faculty members have been specifically requested by distance education to teach a class, determine if and how much they are paid.

Generally, the extra compensation for teaching a distance education class is $1,000 per credit hour, or $3,000 for a typical 3-credit class. The stipend for adapting the course to be delivered via distance education is $500 per credit hour. The latter is usually a one-time payment.

Farr said that an advantage for faculty is the opportunity to enhance instruction by integrating technology into the curriculum.

"We have an excellent instructional design media team whose job it is to support the faculty through every stage of course development," she said.

Once a faculty member agrees to teach a course, that person meets with Judith Osterman, the team's instructional design coordinator.

Osterman explained that the services offered by the instructional design team vary according to the faculty member's objectives for the course.

"I meet with the faculty member at least a semester before the course will be taught. I ask them how they teach their course on campus, what type of teaching methods they use, and what their main objectives are for the class," she said. "This is a fun meeting as I get to know that faculty member's preferences and brainstorm ideas with them, describe delivery options such as videos that are cablecast on Cox Channel 70 or streamed over the Internet."

All distance education classes use WebCT as the "space" where the class gathers, but Osterman said the faculty members do not need prior knowledge of how to use that particular type of technology.

"The team supports the faculty through every stage of course development. We give one-on-one support in WebCT development, video presentation skills, and organization of the course content," Osterman explained.

"Original graphics or charts are created for PowerPoint presentation by our graphic artist, and the team members are available by phone for quick help as needed," she said. "When making videos, we also try to find creative approaches to sets designs that help to illustrate the concepts being taught."

Osterman said that another advantage is that faculty will often adapt the new distance education teaching techniques they learn and then use them in teaching in their regular classrooms.

Started as a small, limited service in 1996, UNLV's distance education has become an increasingly important tool in delivering educational programs to Southern Nevada's rapidly growing communities, according to Farr.

She estimates that this fall distance education will offer more than 80 classes with an enrollment of more than 2,000 students.

"It is an exciting time of growth for UNLV's distance education," Farr said. "Our focus is student-centered as we strive to achieve our mission of helping students work toward obtaining a college degree, enhance their professional standing, or just enrich their understanding of the world."

For more information about distance education, call Farr at ext. 0707 or go online to www.unlv.edu/infotech/Distance_Education.

SWIMMING is only one of several exercise options available free of charge to UNLV faculty and staff at the McDermott Physical Education Complex. Other choices include use of cardio and weight rooms, basketball gyms, and racquetball courts.