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Inside UNLV

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Sandgren Named Engineering Dean

Eric Sandgren of Virginia Commonwealth University has been selected as dean of the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. Sandgren, who was the founding chair of VCU's mechanical engineering program, will assume his responsibilities at UNLV on July 1. He was chosen after a national search.

"Dr. Sandgren has excellent credentials in engineering education, and we are very pleased to have him join our administrative team at UNLV," President Carol C. Harter said in announcing his appointment. "I am looking forward to seeing how our already excellent engineering programs grow under his leadership."

Provost Raymond Alden said, "Dr. Sandgren has proven himself to be a leader in the field of engineering education as evidenced by the well-respected mechanical engineering department that he founded at Virginia Commonwealth. We are excited that he will bring his expertise and guidance to the students and faculty of the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering."

Sandgren has been a mechanical engineering professor at VCU since 1997. From 1990 to 1997, he was director of advanced engineering at TRW Steering and Suspension Systems in Sterling Heights, Mich. He previously taught at Purdue University and the University of Missouri, Columbia. He also has been a consultant for numerous companies, including General Motors, General Electric, IBM, and Xerox.

He earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering at Purdue University. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Madsen Pursues Cutting-Edge Cancer Research

by Cate Weeks

Steen Madsen's work to develop a new treatment for a deadly cancer of the brain is one example of the kind of cross-disciplinary research that UNLV is trying to foster as it strives to become a leading research-intensive university, the health physics professor said.

His research is leading to a novel laser-based treatment for a type of cancer that doesn't respond well to traditional medical treatments.

"One of the pushes at this university is to expand biomedical research, especially in areas with immediate and much-needed applications," said Madsen, a member of the UNLV Cancer Institute. "This research is also very representative of biomedical research today in that it involves people from several different fields. I'm a physicist working with chemists, biologists, neurosurgeons, and engineers. All of these people are required to successfully - and quickly - develop a much-needed alternative treatment."

Madsen and his collaborators - neurosurgeon Henry Hirschberg of the University Hospital Oslo in Norway, and Bruce J. Tromberg of the University of California, Irvine - are focusing on the use of photodynamic therapy (PDT) to kill cancer cells in patients with glioblastoma multiforme brain tumors. The patients are given a photosensitive drug that has a tendency to accumulate in tumor cells. Light from an optical fiber inserted in the brain then destroys the cells in which the drug has accumulated.

"There are always cancer cells left in the resection margins that will start dividing and form another tumor," Madsen said. "That is one reason why patients with this form of cancer don't respond well to traditional treatments."

The survival rates for patients using traditional surgery and radiation therapy are bleak; approximately 50 percent of treated patients die within one year of being diagnosed.

PDT has been used in the past to kill the tumor cells left in resection margins - or areas surrounding the removed tissue - immediately after the neurosurgeon removes the bulk of the tumor. The short-term use of PDT hasn't been successful in killing all of the remaining tumor cells.

"What's novel about what we're proposing to do is to repeat the PDT treatments over time and to do each treatment for longer periods of time," Madsen said.

To do that, however, the research team had to develop a way to insert the optical fiber that didn't require repeated surgery. They have developed what is essentially a clear, water-filled balloon that fills the cavity left by the removed tumor. The balloon is attached to a hollow tube leading to the...
CIOC Offers Valuable Insight, Assistance

by Carol C. Harter
UNLV President

I have long maintained that gathering input from members of the campus community on a variety of issues is vital to the healthy functioning of our institution. Considering the size of our university—and the tremendous growth we have experienced recently—the number of matters that could benefit from the attention and fresh perspective of others on campus continues to rise.

For this reason, I have formed a committee charged with reviewing pressing policy and/or procedural issues that I believe require renewed and concentrated administrative attention. This committee, called the Cabinet Implementation Oversight Committee (CIOC), is analyzing five of these issues at present, developing strategies to address them, and then making recommendations to the President’s Cabinet.

Composed of eight very capable representatives, one from each of the campus members’ areas, the CIOC is being chaired by Paul Ferguson, senior vice provost and dean of the Graduate College. He is guiding the efforts of the following members: Schyler Richards, deputy to the president; Mike Sauer, associate vice president for administration; Lucy Klinkhammer, associate vice president for development operations; George Scaduto, associate vice president for finances; Kari Coburn, director of institutional analysis and planning; Karen Strong, interim associate vice president for student life; and Tom Flagg, director of UNLV news & public information.

One of the CIOC’s first orders of business was to form its subcommittees, each tasked with addressing one of the five aforementioned policy and/or procedural issues and each composed of members of the campus community who bring to the discussion a particular expertise or vision pertaining to the subcommittee’s charge. (Additional subcommittees may be formed in the future as new issues are forwarded by cabinet members to the CIOC for review.) The current five subcommittees are focusing on developing policies and procedures in the following areas:

- The Master Requests Calendar
- Subcommitteee is charged with reviewing and recommending an efficient system for anticipating and responding to information requests, such as those from the UCCSN system office or the state Legislature, to ensure a more effective and timely response.

- The Space Planning and Allocation
- Subcommitteee is charged with developing criteria and procedures for receiving requests for campus space, analyzing space needs and availability, overseeing external use of campus facilities, and overseeing leased space.

- The Fees, Rates, and Course Fees
- Subcommitteee is charged with developing consistent processes and procedures for receiving requests for such fees; developing a process for the review, justification, and authorization of them; and communicating information about rates and fees to the campus community.

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UnityFest

Sophomore Teresa Chen and junior Aliisa Yamuna, above, make cotton candy for the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality booth at the recent UnityFest celebration. At right, Reyna Esquivel, a member of the Mexican Viva Dance Company, performs for those attending the festivities.

A new commencement Web site designed to provide basic information about UNLV commencement ceremonies now is available at http://commence.unlv.edu.

“We created the Web site so that people both on and off campus can get information about UNLV commencement ceremonies at one convenient location at any time of the day or night,” said education professor Jane McCarthy, who chairs the commencement committee. “We’ve found over the years that family members of graduating students often have basic questions about commencement. This provides them an easily accessible source of information.”

Both the Web site and the commencement hotline (ext. 5-3229) provide basic information such as the dates, times, and locations of the ceremonies, as well as information for students on topics such as arrival time and where to purchase caps and gowns. The Web site provides some additional information.

On the Web site, information concerning access for disabled students and guests is available. A campus map and a list of hotel accommodations near campus also can be found there. And, links to many other UNLV Web sites are provided. Visitors to the site who have commencement-related questions not answered by the information posted on the site can send their questions via e-mail to a member of the commencement committee.

Developing the Web site was a joint project of the office of Web services and of the UNLV news & public information office.

“We are pleased with the new Web site and feel that it provides the basic commencement information that most people need,” said Sue DiBella, assistant director of news & public information. “However, we consider it a ‘work in progress’ and will continue to add information and fine tune the site.”

Questions about the site or suggestions should be directed to DiBella at dibella@ccmail.nevada.edu.

Commencement Ceremonies Scheduled for May 17

Commencement will take place Saturday, May 17, at the Thomas & Mack Center. Approximately 2,100 students are expected to participate. The colleges of Business, Education, Engineering, and Hotel Administration will participate in the 9 a.m. ceremony. At 2 p.m., the ceremony involving the colleges of Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Sciences, and Urban Affairs, and the School of Law will take place.

Faculty members participating in commencement are asked to arrive an hour before the ceremony. They should enter the center via the Thomas & Mack Center tunnel.
Madsen
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scalp. An optical fiber connected to a laser is inserted through the tube and into the center of the balloon. The balloon and tube are left in place after surgery and the patient's skin covers the entrance to the tube. In subsequent PDT treatments, a small cut offers access to the tube.

"This enables us to give multiple treatments without multiple surgeries," he said. "The patient also doesn't have to be anesthetized over the hours that it takes to do the treatment."

Madsen hopes to get Federal Drug Administration approval for the clinical trial stage of the research within the next few years. "The FDA process can be very long, but because the patient's prognosis is very poor, there's a strong argument for allowing alternatives to be tested sooner."

In the meantime, the researchers will further develop the treatment options by studying how cancer tissues removed from patients react to PDT, a step that has involved UNLV graduate students. In fact, two of Madsen's students have done their master's research on PDT.

"This type of therapy is at the cutting edge of cancer treatment research," Madsen said. "Health science students generally study radiation and chemical agents, but having this type of research here will open them up to the kinds of treatments they may encounter in the future."

Madsen is also hoping to develop PDT research partnerships with the local medical community. "One reason we’d like local involvement is to get biopsy tissues from local patients," he said. "We’re also hoping to build local interest in the clinical trials."
Business

Larry Abel, vice president of retail with Ethel M., was the guest speaker for the college’s recent marketing forum. About 200 students attended the event and sampled chocolates while learning about Ethel M’s marketing strategy.

United Way of Southern Nevada named marketing professor Jack Schibrowsky its Outstanding Board Member of the Month and appointed him as the chair of agency relations.

The Nevada Small Business Development Center’s NxLevel for Entrepreneurs graduated 18 students on April 10. NxLevel provides business management and strategic planning training for small-business owners. More than 80 percent of the participants complete a comprehensive business plan as part of the 12-week course. This is the center’s third class. The center has also started the NxLevel Alumni Group for graduates who wish to remain involved with the program; currently, the group has 25 active members. The center started a new class on April 17 and will offer the course again in September.

The Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies received a $5,000 grant from the Conservation Fund to support the institute’s upcoming roundtable discussion focusing on balancing economic development with conservation. The event is scheduled for Aug. 12 and 13.

Dentistry

The dental school held its first Student Research Day at the end of April in the Barrick Museum. Students gave oral presentations based on the best literature reviews from School-wide Case Reports, a year-round course. Dr. David Wong, the 2003 Distinguished Scientist Award recipient of the American Association of Dental Research (AADR), was the keynote speaker. He spoke on “Oncology: Pathogenesis, Diagnosis, and Prevention.” Erik Kern, the president of the National Student Research Group of the AADR, spoke about student research. Several students participated in the table clinic sessions. The student presentations were in preparation for competitive national student table clinics, sponsored yearly by the American Dental Association.

Students will have their first semester of clinical dentistry in transition quarters. The principles and methods of dental practice will be the subjects taught and demonstrated by dental school faculty, and performed by students in lecture, small group, and laboratory sessions. Some of the subject areas are radiology, infection control, clinical preparations in the laboratory, and biomaterials for dentistry. New faculty have arrived to teach the new classes. In particular, Dr. Thomas Nowlin, formerly of San Antonio, is the new chair of clinical sciences. His innovative plans for integrated clinical teams of students are expected to build on the integrated curriculum in biosciences and professional studies.

Education

National standards-based mandates that ensure highly qualified teachers are entering the teaching profession may prompt the college to require teacher licensure examinations (PRAXIS II) as a graduation requirement. The implications of this action will have direct bearing on the college’s interactions with the content colleges. As we continue to serve our student population, the successful interactions of the past will help us meet the challenges of the future.

Engineering

The U.S. Department of Energy recently allocated $4 million to UNLV and the National Energy Management Institute. The funds will be used in the college’s new National Center for Energy Management to improve the efficiency, productivity, and security of buildings in America. A partnership of UNLV, UNR, and the Desert Research Institute has also received a $3.6 million allocation from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to continue statewide projects in solar, wind, and other forms of renewable energy.

The department of civil and environmental engineering’s Transportation Research Center recently received nearly $1 million for the second phase of its metropolitan safety project. The Federal Highway Administration was responsible for $785,000 of the funding, and the remaining $220,000 was provided by the Nevada Department of Transportation, the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety, the Clark County Department of Public Works, the city of Las Vegas, and the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada. UNLV is being joined in the project by friends in the community, including Orth-Rodgers Associates, Inc., Community Partners LLC, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Trauma Center, Smith’s Food & Drug, and the Clark County School District. The project is scheduled to continue through September 2006.

Intel Corporation recently donated a $250,000 scanning electron microscope to the college’s new nanotechnology lab. The AMRAY scanning electron microscope (SEM) will be used for semiconductor characterization by professor Biswajit Das of the department of electrical and computer engineering. The SEM is a key instrument for research and education in nanotechnology.

Fine Arts

The Nevada Conservatory Theatre is pleased to present Six Degrees of Separation. No subject is left
untouched in John Guare's award-winning hit comedy about the homeless, the liberal chic, ghettot opportunity, and rich people. The play is a searing panorama of urban America. Robert Brewer will direct this production, which runs May 2-11.

The UNLV Choral Ensembles present their spring concert May 1 in Artemus Ham Concert Hall. The Donna Stearn Fine Art Gallery welcomes the 2003 Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition through May 31. The Performing Arts Center has announced its 2002-03 season, "A Season of Color." Performances will include Martin Hamlich accompanied by the UNLV Jazz Orchestra; The American Spiritual Ensemble, which includes UNLV assistant professor of voice Alfonso Asner, the Parasol Dining Company; and Opera Verdi Europa with the full-length version of Rigoletto.

Graduate

Continuing last month's theme of increasing the level of collaboration between the college and the University Teaching and Learning Center, this entry will discuss a major new initiative and the expansion of an existing program. Both programs are geared toward enhancing the professional development and future career options of UNLV graduate students.

A two-day Intensive Introduction to Teaching Workshop will be held 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 18 and 19. Its timing, content, and intensity are intended to ensure that no graduate teaching assistant will go into a classroom without preparation. It is hoped that topics of general pedagogy and course/classroom management covered in this workshop will eventually be augmented by departmental programs focused on the teaching of each specific discipline.

The TA Excellence in Teaching Awards program was launched this spring to encourage and recognize conspicuously effective teaching by graduate students. Faculty and administrators nominated 23 students. A faculty selection committee is reviewing teaching portfolios submitted by the nominees. Four students will receive $500 stipends, while another four will receive $100 awards.

Honors

The college continues to develop systematic plans to help UNLV students planning postgraduate work learn about and apply for prestigious postgraduate fellowships and scholarships. Numerous UNLV undergraduates, Honors College students or not, are highly talented and can compete strongly for top postgraduate awards such as Rhodes, Truman, Udall, Fulbright, Marshall, and Mitchell scholarships. However, they need support and guidance, which the Honors College is prepared to provide.

It is especially important now for departments and faculty members who know excellent students who might benefit from postgraduate scholarship opportunities to inform such students that they should contact the Honors College for further information. Forthcoming deadlines for some scholarships (such as Rhodes) will occur early in September, and interested students will need to work over the summer to prepare effective applications. Therefore, faculty who know appropriately talented students planning postgraduate study should urge those students to contact the college for advice and information.

The college is scheduling special seminars (HON 4003H) for future semesters. These seminars are offered in multiple sections and allow faculty to teach topics of special interest that they are not able to fit into traditional UNLV courses. Many honors students have cited these seminars as being among their most significant learning experiences at UNLV. Faculty from all disciplines enjoy teaching these seminars, and students very much like taking them. Any faculty members with ideas for special topics seminars should contact the college for further information.

Hotel

The college is proud to announce that there is now a formal long-term recruiting partnership with MGM MIRAGE to help support our respective diversity initiative. This partnership, which was announced during the company's diversity report meeting in February, includes a financial commitment of $500,000 to UNLV during a five-year period.

This new partnership will help us establish a framework to achieve our strategic business goals related to our diversity initiative to cultivate and recruit the next generation of talent for supervisory-positions within our company," said Terry Lanni, chairman and CEO of MGM MIRAGE. This partnership will focus on activities in the areas of recruitment, scholarships, student internships, mentoring, and professor externships.

[This gift] will significantly enhance our ability to attract highly qualified students from ethnic minority groups," said Dean Stuart Mann. "This partnership is yet another example of how MGM MIRAGE and UNLV are collaborating to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes to our diversity goals.

MGM MIRAGE currently employs several Harrah Hotel College alumni, including executives Bill McBeath, '87 BS, president of The Mirage, Cindy Kiser Murphy, '80 BS, '95 MS, senior vice president of human resources for MGM MIRAGE; Scott Sibella, '88 BS, president of Treasure Island; and Bill Hornbuckle, '84 BS, president of MGM MIRAGE On-Line.

Liberal Arts

The department of foreign languages offers myriad programs, including Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian, and Spanish. It expects to offer Persian and Portuguese in the near future. The B.A. degree is available with majors in French, German, Spanish, and Romance Languages (French, Spanish, or Italian).

The Spanish-for-the-professions concentration offers specialized courses focusing on business, social services, tourism, law, medicine, interpretation, and translation.

Students may minor in Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish, and French for the professions.

The department offers the Spanish-for-bilinguals track to native speakers of Spanish.

The recently redesigned master's degree in Spanish offers its emphasis on language, culture, and technology. A graduate certificate in Spanish translation also is offered. The department collaborates with Asian, cultural, interdisciplinary, Latin American, and women's studies, and works closely with programs in international affairs. All students are encouraged to seek double majors and minor concentrations by combining language study with another discipline.

The department sponsors immersion weekends and language and movie clubs. Students benefit from the faculty's contagious enthusiasm and from relatively small classes.

The faculty are a dynamic group of native or near-native speakers who trained at major universities around the world. They teach the languages, cultures, and literatures that are most crucial for survival in today's changing world. They have published research on the classics, contemporary literature, and modernisms. Some faculty translate American fiction to Italian, Latin American fiction to English, and German fiction to English.

Libraries

It is now easier than ever to access periodicals subscribed to by the University Libraries. Users who select the "Title of Print and Electronic Journal" option in the library catalog can now browse the list or enter a title or keywords in a search box. For example, a search for the American Journal of Human Biology will retrieve links to both an online subscription via Wiley InterScience Journals and a record of the Libraries' paper holdings. The new search tool, hosted by Serials Solutions, offers quick access and an easy-to-read summary of which volumes of a journal are included in any of the dozens of electronic journal repositories and archives to which the Libraries subscribe.

For patrons who begin their research in the office or at home, this tool provides fast access to newsworthy journal collections from providers like JSTOR, ScienceDirect, Project Muse, EBSCO Academic Search Elite, Blackwell Synergy, and other publishers and aggregators. The search tool lets users quickly identify those journals to which University Libraries has purchased online, full-text access, and lists users directly to the entry page for that periodical or database.

Browsing current issues of journals online is now more convenient, and the process of tracking down articles from citations is less arduous. Researchers may search by exact title, by keywords in the title, or by ISSN. The new feature can be found by choosing the Library Catalog button from the UNLV Libraries homepage at www.library.unlv.edu and selecting "Title of Print and Electronic Journals."

Sciences

The science of materials is multi-disciplinary. It involves discoveries of new materials as diverse as advanced cellular telephones; biopolymers to treat advanced chemicals, or biotoxins; as well as materials research is done through informal efforts, materials research is done through informal efforts.

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ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Patricia Cruz, Joanne L. Henry, Amy K. Klima-Comba, and Linda D. Stetzenbach (Harry Reid Center) co-authored an article, "Air and Surface Sampling Measurements of Fungal Contaminants in Indoor Environments," which was published in the Indoor Air 2002 Proceedings. Cruz presented this paper at the 9th International Conference on Indoor Air Quality and Climate in Monterey, Calif.

R.R. Apache (Educational Leadership) presented two papers, titled "Motor Development for the Practitioner" and "Developmentally Appropriate Practice Supports an Inclusive Physical Education Setting," at the annual meeting of the Southwest District of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education and Recreation in Reno in February. He also had an article titled "Motor Development for the Practitioner" published in the January issue of Teaching Elementary Physical Education.

Josh Rankin (Publications) won several awards in the competition sponsored by the Las Vegas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators. He won two Bronze Quill awards—the highest honor given by the local organization—one for the design of "Extending the Agenda 2002-2007" and another for the design of the cover of the "Diversity Initiatives Statistical Report." He also won an Award of Excellence for special purpose communications for the poster titled "Enlightenment." Additionally, he won an Award of Excellence in the promotional items category for the Enlightenment series.

Erika Engstrom (Communication) wrote an article titled "Hegemony in Reality-Based TV Programming: The World According to A Wedding Story," which was published in Media Report to Women.

Timothy Erwin (English) recently lectured on visual culture at the annual meeting of the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies in Tampa, Fla., and on Jane Austen and literary pictorialism at the annual meeting of the South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Dallas. He also chaired a panel on William Hogarth at the annual meeting of the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in Pasadena, Calif.

Patricia Cruz, Mark F. Buttnes, Amy K. Klima-Comba, and Linda D. Stetzenbach (Harry Reid Center) along with Tracy D. Cronin (Technical Support Working Group, Arlington, Va.) presented a paper, "Utilization of a Room-Sized Experimental Chamber for Efficacy Testing of a Decontamination Product," at the American Society for Microbiology Biodefense Research Conference in Baltimore.

Patrice Hollrah (Writing Center) presented a paper, "The Most Sincere Lie a Person Could Ever Tell: Gender Construction in Louise Erdrich's The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse," at the 2003 Native American Literature Symposium in Minneapolis in March. While at the symposium, she was elected secretary of the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures.

Randy Pearson (Career Services) completed the Web design certificate offered by UNLV's division of educational outreach. He maintains the Web site for the office of career services, which can be found at http://hire.unlv.edu.

All UNLV faculty, classified staff, and professional staff members are encouraged to submit items to the "Spotlight on Accomplishments" section of Inside UNLV. Entries should be no more than 75 words in length. Please submit via e-mail to inside.unlv@ccmail.nevada.edu.

President's Column
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- The Research Infrastructure Subcommittee is charged with reviewing recommendations regarding research. It will summarize priority needs and services, conduct campus discussions and forums to identify barriers to research and prioritize issues related to efficient and effective conduct of research, and recommend strategies to identify needs and rectify problems.

- The Contract Processes Subcommittee is charged with recommending a consistent and formalized contract creation process across the campus. It will also recommend a cadre of "contract authorities" who will develop, review, and authorize contracts throughout the university in order to more efficiently process the increasing volume of contracts.

- The Space Planning and Allocation Subcommittee was the first group to produce a set of recommendations, which the cabinet recently approved. Several of the recommendations address specific decisions about space assignments and moves of various offices. The subcommittee's other recommendations were more philosophical and conceptual in that they seek to address larger policy questions. For instance, the group recommended that the university adopt square footage standards and guidelines for functions and activities on the campus based on benchmark data from peer institutions, recommended guidelines from higher education organizations, and the goals advanced by the UCCSN.

The subcommittee also recommended a policy requiring that the leasing and subleasing of UNLV facilities to outside entities be fully approved by the university and that these arrangements be negotiated only by the facilities management and planning division through the assistant director of real estate and business. Additionally, the subcommittee recommended that the university explore the adoption of the Cornell University standards for developing, distributing, and maintaining campus policy and also send appropriate university representatives to a seminar on the Cornell standards and processes. Finally, the group suggested we consider establishing an office of policy to bring cohesion and oversight to policy issues.

All of these recommendations address some larger policy concern and will have a substantial impact on the way we conduct business in the area of space planning and allocation. They seem quite logical to me and well founded in the sense that they appropriately bring sound judgment and methodical thinking to several previously hazy issues. Not coincidentally, this is the precise goal of the CIoC and its subcommittees: to bring reason, planning, and order to areas that seem to have formerly lacked such qualities or that at least require additional administrative attention. The beauty of this arrangement is that it not only yields constructive recommendations, it also involves greater numbers of faculty and staff in the problem-solving and consensus-building process, resulting in more informed decisions and greater buy-in from the campus community.

I believe the work of the CIoC and its subcommittees will enhance our institution's effectiveness, and I look forward to hearing the recommendations of the other existing subcommittees, which are expected within the coming weeks. In the meantime, I appreciate the contributions of those of you involved in the process and hope to share your insights with the rest of campus soon.
Hurst Reflects on More Than Three Decades at UNLV

by Cate Weeks

Editor’s Note: Checking with Human Resources for the classified staff member with the longest service to UNLV showed that this honor belongs to Mary Hurst of the campus moving shop. In this story, Hurst, who intends to retire sometime this year, talks about her time at the university and her plans for the future.

From atop a 30-foot ladder and behind a forklift, Mary Hurst has watched the university grow for nearly 36 years.

Hurst, a maintenance repair worker in the campus moving shop, still vividly recalls the day she joined UNLV: July 3, 1967.

"Once my baby boy was about 2, I was ready to come to work. They had just opened up the second and third floors of the old Dickinson Library," she said. "Back then, the campus was wide open with just a few buildings here and there. And we didn't have campus police, we just had a man with a flashlight."

That baby boy Hurst mentioned is Kenneth Johnson, who is now a welder at UNLV with 18 years of service. "I remember coming every now and then to see her work," he said. "It was like an adventure to come to campus."

Hurst's daughter also seems to be following her mother's lead; Bonita Johnson has worked as a custodian on campus for six years.

Hurst's first job was as a night custodian at the library. She next worked as a window washer. "I've washed enough windows to last a lifetime," she said. "I think I washed every building we had on campus at the time. That was the toughest job I've had - climbing that ladder with a five-gallon bucket and squeegee."

She was also a maintenance worker in Beam Hall, changing the filters and oiling the motors of the ventilation equipment. Later, she was charged with ensuring that all dormitory fire extinguishers, emergency lights, and elevator emergency phones worked properly.

For the past dozen years, Hurst has worked in the moving shop, where "you never know what you're going to be doing from day to day, so that's kept things interesting."

The many friendships she's made on campus have also kept her daily work interesting. "It just seems that over the years people have always come to me for advice. All kinds of people from all kinds of races have come to me when they needed to cry on someone's shoulder or talk out a problem. I always try to uplift them. Maybe this is the gift that God has given to me."

In retirement, Hurst hopes to continue uplifting people by volunteering to help at her church, Tristone Baptist. "There's something that needs to be done at church every day of the week, not just Sundays," she said.

She also plans to spend more time with her family. In addition to Kenneth and Bonita, Hurst also has two sons, 10 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

"I don't intend to work," she said. "I'm just going to enjoy the time the Lord gives me."

But, she added, "I'm not going to just go home, plop down in front of the TV and eat, either - that's how you get old."

Nevada Small Business Development Center Gets Reconnected

by Gian Galassi

The Nevada Small Business Development Center (NSBDC) recently moved its office from the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce to new facilities on UNLV's Paradise campus. The relocation, which was completed earlier this semester, has provided more client parking and is helping to further strengthen the center's relationship with the university and the Las Vegas community.

Started in 1985, the NSBDC serves as a statewide resource for business assistance and is part of UNLV's College of Business. The center provides a full range of free and confidential counseling and business support services at little or no cost for starting, operating, and growing businesses in Nevada. Some of these services include loan acquisition assistance, Disadvantaged Business Certification assistance, environmental and safety assessments, and professional business training.

The relocation to UNLV is somewhat of a homecoming for the NSBDC, which previously had been housed on campus until the center's growth demanded more office space than the university could provide. In 1998, the center moved into the chamber's building, where it enjoyed a complementary business environment and lower operating costs. But in 2000, when the chamber reached full capacity and the NSBDC was required to pay rent for the first time, officials decided that the cost of staying at that location would jeopardize the quality of its services.

Working with Richard Flaherty, dean of the College of Business, and Provost Ray Alden, officials at the center once again began exploring locations on campus that would be conducive to its needs.

"Finding appropriate space for the center was no small task on a campus like UNLV," said Michael Graham, deputy state director of the NSBDC. "But in the end, facilities at the Paradise campus became available, and we were offered the opportunity to get reconnected to the UNLV community."

According to Graham, the center is already reaping the benefits of the new location. Chief among these, he said, are the resources that are shared as a result of being so closely connected to UNLV.

"Now that our computer systems are integrated with the university’s, we can communicate and exchange information in much better and more productive ways," he said.

This integration of systems has improved everything from scheduling meetings to accessing information resources. For example, clients of the NSBDC will soon be able to retrieve information from the LiED Library through a special technology interface between the center and the business library’s mainframe databases.

But businesses aren't the only beneficiaries of the center's new location. Recently, a class of business students attended a seminar at the center to learn how to counsel small business owners and to learn about the resources available to assist local companies. Future plans include working closely with both law and engineering students to help address regulatory and energy efficiency issues, respectively.

The relocation has also helped the center's bottom line by significantly reducing its overhead. Additionally, the center consolidated its main and North Las Vegas offices. Graham said those savings are critical for offsetting budget cuts the center has suffered lately.

But he emphasized that despite the state's financial woes the center is poised to help companies survive these uncertain economic times by helping them become more efficient and by increasing their markets and revenues.

And the demand for its services shows no sign of slowing down. In the past two years, the center has experienced a 25 percent increase in the number of people participating in its classes grow by nearly 1,900.

"The university has made great advancements in recognizing our needs and assisting our program in being a resource for the community," said Graham. "All of us in the NSBDC are sincerely grateful for the opportunity to once again be directly connected to campus. Our work now and in the future can be directly attributed to the efforts of UNLV's administration, which helped us get back on campus and connected again."

For more information on the services offered by the center, visit its new facilities on the Paradise campus or contact center staff at ext. 5-4270. Information also can be found on the Web at www.nsbdc.org.
Professor Helps Vets Overcome Post-Traumatic Stress

by Gian Galassi

When Larry Ashley sees images of American troops fighting in Iraq, he can't help but think of the many war veterans who are still waging their own personal battles here at home. It's times like these, he said, that can challenge the emotions of anyone who has lived through a war.

Ashley, an assistant professor in UNLV's counseling department, studies the connection between the effects of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and addictive behavior in combat veterans.

"I know the counseling hotlines are being inundated with phone calls right now," Ashley said, referring to the veterans who are struggling with the lingering effects of PTSD. "You can't really watch TV, pick up a newspaper, or read a magazine without being confronted with scenes of war. It's undeniably going to trigger a lot of intense feelings that some people have not thought about for a long time."

Ashley understands those feelings well. Although more than 30 years have passed since he served in Vietnam, he says certain sights, sounds, and smells can still trigger vivid and sometimes difficult memories of his 18-month tour of duty with the Army's 25th Infantry Division. Some of his experiences there were so intense, in fact, that he couldn't even acknowledge that he served in the war until almost 20 years after returning from Asia.

Today, a framed print of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., hangs above Ashley's desk. In it, there is a reflection of a young American soldier reaching his arm out from the black granite wall to comfort a grieving visitor.

In Ashley's case, it wasn't until he watched the movie Platoon, which was based on the unit in which he served, that he realized he could no longer ignore his past. He decided from then on to help others who were facing similar issues.

"Every soldier who has killed someone during a war or has seen someone be killed has to deal with that experience eventually," said Ashley. "You can't just sweep it under the rug. A person's perception of death will forever affect how he looks at the rest of his life, especially if he has almost died himself."

This realization, along with Ashley's personal experience, inspired him to create a treatment model for Vietnam vets, which addresses the most common manifestations of war-related PTSD. Among the symptoms are sleep disturbances and feelings of isolation, rage, alienation, anxiety, and guilt.

But the last symptom is often overlooked, he said.

"Killing somebody can be an adrenaline rush, but the guilt associated with those feelings can be devastating," he said. "Unfortunately, there has been little research done about the euphoric effect that can come from war's destructive qualities."

According to Ashley, it's these grim realities of war that cause some veterans to engage in high-risk behavior like drug or alcohol abuse. They do so, he believes, because they consider the consequences of their addictions to be less painful than the trauma of remembering the war.

"They know drugs can't change history, but they can certainly make the pain go away for a little while," he said.

Over the years, Ashley has been invited to speak about combat trauma and addictions to soldiers and counseling professionals around the world, from the United States to Croatia to Australia.

But it was a trip back to Vietnam in 1994 that proved cathartic for Ashley. As a member of a 12-person clinical team, he returned to Asia to see if Vietnamese soldiers suffer from the same effects of PTSD that American troops do. During a spontaneous memorial in a city where many of his fellow soldiers perished, Ashley said he experienced a profound and, ultimately, necessary release of negative emotions. It was also the first night in more than 20 years that he was able to sleep without being awakened by intrusive thoughts about the war.

Ashley realizes, however, that not everybody can benefit from such an experience. Yet, he believes all veterans should seek the assistance they need to help them let go of the past and move forward with their lives.

Not all of his work is with war veterans, however. Since coming to UNLV in 2000, Ashley has worked to establish several new programs in UNLV's counseling department, including undergraduate minors in addictions treatment, addiction prevention, and compulsive gambling counseling — the latter being the only program of its kind in the country. He has also overseen the creation of the undergraduate program in human services counseling, which already has an enrollment of 80 students.

But that's just the beginning, said Ashley. In addition to building strong graduate programs in the department, he said his mission now is to create a center for excellence in addiction education and trauma at UNLV — a place he envisions will educate physicians, counselors, psychologists, and other health-care professionals about the connection between addictions and trauma.

"Before they put me out to pasture, I want to make an impact in my profession," Ashley said. "I just want to be able to give something back."

News from the Colleges

collaborations, jointly funded research projects, and established research programs.

In addition to the activities of these organized research units, individual research projects are under way. These include projects in chemistry to develop new liquid crystals and light-emitting polymers (professor Pradip Bhownik), to make sensors from self-assembled monolayer materials and organic-metal nano-composites (professors David Hatchett and Byron Beruant), and to study the structure and dynamics of materials that may be incorporated in nano-scale machines (professor Allen Johnson).

The macrowheme of Energy and Materials Science will enhance materials research at UNLV. The multi-million-dollar Science, Engineering, and Technology Building being considered by the Nevada Legislature will provide a physical home for many materials science and engineering activities on campus, including state-of-the-art facilities for synthesizing and characterizing materials.

Urban Affairs

Starting in the fall, the department of counseling will offer a minor in compulsive gambling counseling as part of its undergraduate program in addictions counseling. Addictions counseling courses in the curriculum include Introduction to Human Services and Counseling, Drugs and Behavior, Perspective on Addictions, and Prevention Strategies and Development Theories in Addictions. These are augmented by courses specifically in compulsive gambling counseling.

The course Compulsive Gambling Counseling I Orientation to the history, etiology, and prevalence of compulsive gambling. Students learn the characteristics of compulsive gamblers, stages of progression, similarities and differences to other addictions, the effects on families and finances, and legal issues. It will be offered for the first time in spring 2004.

In Compulsive Gambling Counseling II, students learn client-oriented counseling modalities and strategies, assessment tools, and treatment skills. This course will be offered in fall 2004.

For more information, contact Larry Ashley in the department of counseling at ext. 5-3935.