

Fall 2001

## UNLV Magazine

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FALL ♦ 2001

# UNLV Magazine

FOR ALUMNI, FACULTY, AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

*How does UNLV serve the  
Southern Nevada community?  
Who makes community service  
happen? This issue of  
UNLV Magazine  
explores some  
of the projects  
and individual  
efforts that bring together the  
interests of the campus and the  
community in a circle of service.*

Circle

of

Service





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**UNLV**  
Magazine

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## Circle

## Service

### on the cover:

*Defining the circle  
of service.*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# The Circle of Service



Dr. Carol C. Harter

I am delighted to have the opportunity to begin writing a column for *UNLV Magazine*, and I can imagine no better time to start than now. The theme of community service explored in this issue of the magazine is one I discuss enthusiastically whenever given the chance. It is a subject that hasn't received enough attention over time, in my opinion, and one that is often eclipsed by discussions of the two other perhaps more visible functions of the university – teaching and research.

However, the tradition of universities providing service to the community in which they reside – and to society in general – is a venerable one and certainly important in the work and lives of faculty, students, and staff members at universities worldwide. While we do acknowledge the fundamental nature of the activities of teaching and research here at UNLV – and spend a great deal of our time and resources performing them – our commitment to service is always present as well, as evidenced by the wonderful examples of projects and individual actions depicted in the articles in this publication.

Several of the projects described here reveal the spirit of cooperation that exists between the university faculty and the community. These projects integrate the expertise, knowledge, and creativity of the faculty – as well as their desire to use their talents and time to produce a greater good – with the specific needs of Southern Nevada. The faculty involved in these projects, along with the many others on campus doing similar work, should be congratulated for both their altruistic orientation and their ingenuity in finding ways to combine their research interests with projects that serve the area so effectively.

In a community like Las Vegas – growing rapidly, so vital, so dynamic – there are countless opportunities for UNLV faculty to have a real and valuable impact on the lives of the citizens. That's excellent news for our faculty members who see many of our community's needs as challenges that provide them with the motivation to apply their knowledge and sophisticated skills in practical, constructive ways. UNLV faculty members come from

all over the world to share their experiences, perspectives, and abilities with their students and colleagues on campus. It seems only fitting for them to bring to their community all that they bring to their university.

But the faculty's community service is just one of the ways UNLV seeks to engender a sense of partnership with the community; many other efforts are ongoing as well. For example, a large number of our student organizations perform volunteer work for agencies and charities in the valley. Many of our programs, such as the Boyd Law School's Legal Clinic and our Dental School's oral health screening program for the state's high school students, are service-oriented. Many of our centers and institutes on campus, such as the Transportation Research Center, the International Gaming Institute, the High Pressure Science Center, and the Nevada Institute for Children, were established with the community in mind. Our sensitivity to the growing needs of Southern Nevada has motivated us to step up our efforts to increase the number of graduates headed into the fields of teaching and nursing to help alleviate local employee shortages in those two critical professions; we have also developed plans that should contribute in a meaningful way to the diversification of the city's economy. Given more space and time, I could elaborate on the many other types of community service that UNLV provides.

But it is important that I acknowledge here that whatever we have provided the community has been returned to us many times over in a variety of ways. Consider as a case in point the philanthropy of an individual also profiled in this issue of the magazine. The \$1 million gift Jean Nidetch donated in 1993 provides the support for a scholarship program that has funded the education of more than 120 students. Her gift is just one example of the tremendous generosity the community has shown the university; in the six years I have been at UNLV, more than \$136 million in private donations has been generated. These gifts have led to the creation of scholarships, courses, facilities, research projects, and programs that have not only enhanced the reputation of our university, but also have improved the quality of the learning experiences of our students.

And the students are, of course, at the center of the picture. Their education is our central mission; as part of that mission, if we can instill in them the importance of service – by offering them the opportunity to participate in activities that promote service and by modeling service-oriented behavior as an institution – then we have succeeded in providing the community with perhaps the most valuable service of all.

## NEWS

## Refurbished Fremont Cannon Returns Home to UNLV

The Fremont Cannon – symbol of the decades-old football rivalry between UNLV and UNR – has been freshly restored, thanks to the UNLV Alumni Association.

Awarded to UNLV following the Rebels' 38-7 victory over the Wolf Pack last October, the cannon is a replica of the howitzer used by trailblazer John C. Fremont in 1843 as he headed into what would one day be the state of Nevada.

After UNLV's football victory last fall, the cannon's wheels were damaged by fans during the post-game celebration.

That's when the UNLV Alumni Association stepped in and offered to pay approximately \$3,000 for the repair of the cannon and its refurbishment.

"The association was honored to be able to help," said Kevin Page, president of the Alumni Association. "The cannon is an important symbol of our annual rivalry

with UNR. We want it looking its best while it's at home here at UNLV."

The damaged wheels were repaired by Hansen's Wheel and Wagon Shop in Mitchell, S.D., at a cost of nearly \$1,500.

Back at UNLV, the cannon was polished, the body professionally cleaned, and the wheels and body stripped of the UNR-blue paint. It was then painted Rebel-red. This work, which is similar to the work done when the Rebels last reclaimed the cannon in 1994, was performed on campus.

When not on display at football games, the cannon is carefully stored in the Lied Athletic Complex.

Acquired with the help of UNLV's first football coach, Bill Ireland, in 1969, the Fremont Cannon is one of only two cannons used as symbols of rivalry in Division I-A football; the other is used as a trophy in the rivalry between the Univer-



The Fremont Cannon has been freshly restored, thanks to the UNLV Alumni Association.

sity of Illinois and Purdue University.

Built by the Kennecott Copper Corp., Nevada Mines Division, the cannon is valued at more than \$10,000 and is considered one of the best – and loudest – symbols of rivalry in college football.

## Several New Degree Programs Available on UNLV Campus

Several new degree programs, including three offering doctorates, are now available on campus.

The College of Education is offering new doctorates in learning technology, teacher education, and educational leadership. The College of Sciences is offering a master's degree in biochemistry, and the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs is offering a bachelor of science degree in human services counseling.

The learning and technology Ph.D. program will prepare its graduates to fill a variety of jobs in education and in other technology-intensive fields in which the ability to do research and assess the effectiveness of the technologies being used is paramount.

Graduates could qualify to work as faculty members or research and development personnel at universities and school districts, educational psychologists, employee training specialists, program evaluators, educational technology

coordinators, and instructional technology specialists.

The new Ph.D. program in teacher education will attract teachers and other educators who have an interest in

becoming practitioner-oriented scholars in teacher education and who are interested in teacher education as a field of research.

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## New Beam Music Center to Open

UNLV's new Lee and Thomas Beam Music Center, located along Maryland Parkway near the northeast corner of campus, is scheduled to open this fall.

The 35,000-square-foot building houses a variety of facilities for the university's music department, including a 300-seat recital hall, a music library listening

center, a recording studio, practice rooms, and the Arnold Shaw Research Center for Popular Music.

The \$7.3 million privately funded facility is another product of the university's longtime partnership with the Beam family of Las Vegas.

The facility was built by Haydon Construction.



Lee & Thomas Beam Music Center



## Rothman Receives Association's Outstanding Faculty Award

UNLV history professor Hal Rothman has been honored as the recipient of the UNLV Alumni Association's annual Outstanding Faculty Award.

"Presenting this award to Hal Rothman is a real pleasure," said Fred Albrecht, UNLV vice president for university and community relations. "Hal is a professor who excels both in teaching and in research. Students find his lectures informative and challenging. When it comes to research, writing, and publication, he is one of the most prolific writers on campus and has published works in a number of scholarly arenas."

Among Rothman's areas of expertise are the American West and environmental history.

Rothman, who has taught at UNLV since 1992, serves as editor of the journal *Environmental History*. In 1999, his book *Devil's Bargains: Tourism in the Twentieth Century American West* won the Western Writers of America's Spur Award for Contemporary Nonfiction. His other books include *Saving the Planet: The American Response to the Environment in the Twentieth Century*, *The Greening of a Nation? Environmentalism in the U.S. Since 1945*, and *I'll Never Fight Fire With My Bare Hands Again: Recollections of the First Forest Rangers of the Inland Northwest*.

He is frequently quoted as an expert in newspapers and magazines nationwide and has been interviewed for several national television and radio programs.

Rothman has received numerous awards during his years at UNLV, including the Marjorie Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award, the Marjorie Barrick Research Scholar Award, and the William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship in the College of Liberal Arts.

Rothman said he is honored to have been chosen to receive the association's outstanding faculty award.

"It's a lovely award," he said. "To be chosen by the UNLV Alumni Association from a faculty as deserving as ours is truly an honor."



History professor Hal Rothman (center) accepts the UNLV Alumni Association's Outstanding Faculty Award from Kevin Page, president of the association (left), and Fred Albrecht, UNLV vice president for university and community relations.

## Fred Albrecht Scholarship Established

The UNLV Alumni Association has allocated \$30,000 of its annual endowed scholarships to establish the Fred Albrecht Business and Law Endowment, according to association President Kevin Page.

The endowment, named in honor of Albrecht, UNLV vice president for university and community relations and longtime director of alumni relations, will provide \$10,000 for scholarships for students seeking the following three types of degrees: undergraduate business, master of business administration, and law. The association endows scholarships in 45 departments throughout the university.

"The scholarships are named in honor of Fred Albrecht because it was his hard work that helped raise most of the endowment funds," Page said.

The scholarships were awarded for the first time this semester, Page said, adding that students interested in obtaining the scholarship in the future should contact the business or law dean's office for detailed information and application forms. Candidates for MBA and law degrees must have also earned their

undergraduate degrees from UNLV to be eligible for the new scholarships.

The UNLV Alumni Association is working with Richard Morgan, dean of the William S. Boyd School of Law, to establish a law school alumni association similar to the one that already exists in the College of Business.

Page said the UNLV Alumni Association is also working with Morgan and College of Business Dean Richard Flaherty to establish various activities, including fund raising for endowed scholarships and deans' discretionary funds, as well as creating work-study opportunities for students and alumni of the business college and law school.

The College of Business has more than 9,800 alumni; the law school graduated its first full class in May.

Page said the UNLV Alumni Association, as well the business and law deans, believe these new programs will benefit the local business and legal communities, as well as students and alumni, and that strong community support will make these programs highly effective.

## University People



– **Ray Alden III**, former dean of the College of Sciences at UNLV, has been named provost following a national search. Prior to his appointment, he had served as interim provost at UNLV since August 2000. Alden has had more than 25 years of professional experience in the areas of aquatic ecology, environmental toxicology, and pollution ecology. He was principal investigator for more than \$20 million in research activity. He has been advisor to more than 40 agencies and has served on numerous regional, national, and international professional panels.



Ray Alden

– **Rebecca Mills** has been selected as UNLV's new vice president for student life following a national search. Mills, who joined the College of Education faculty in 1987, had served as interim vice president for student life since May 2000. Prior to that, she served for two years as senior advisor to the president and for three years before that as special assistant to the president for planning, assessment, and institutional research. She was assistant chair of the department of instruction and curricular studies from 1993 to 1995.

– Four UNLV faculty members have been selected to receive Barrick Awards for the 2000-2001 academic year in recognition of their records of distinguished research or creative activity. The recipients of the Barrick Distinguished



Mark Weinstein

Scholar Award include English professor **John Bowers**, a medieval literature expert who won a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship last year; English professor **Mark Weinstein**, a UNLV faculty member since 1970 and a

19th century British literature expert; and history professor **Hal Rothman**, the author of several books and the editor of the journal *Environmental History*. Each received a cash award of \$5,000. The recipient of the Barrick Scholar Award, which carries a \$2,500 cash award, is tourism and convention administration professor **Zheng Gu**, who has won a series of awards for his research papers on financial management and operation analyses for the hospitality, tourism, and gaming industries.

– Longtime successful coach **Charlie Spoonhour** has been selected to lead the UNLV men's basketball program.

The 12th head coach in Runnin' Rebel history, Spoonhour comes to UNLV boasting a 16-year Division I career record of 319-171. He most recently spent seven years as the head coach at Saint Louis University; he led that team to three NCAA tournaments and one NIT bid before retiring in 1999. Prior to arriving at Saint Louis, he served as a college coach at Southwest Missouri State, where he led his team to five NCAA tournaments and two NIT bids in nine seasons. In a 37-year coaching career that began in Missouri at Rocky Comfort High School, he has compiled a cumulative head coaching record of 696-280 (.713).

– **Stuart Tennant**, the former vice president for enrollment management at Frostburg State University in Maryland, has been named assistant vice president for enrollment management/dean of admissions. He will oversee the UNLV offices of admissions, student financial services, and registrar. Tennant also previously served as vice president for student affairs at the University of Northern Colorado and at Willamette



Charlie Spoonhour

University in Salem, Ore.

– **Frederick Conboy**, the former senior development officer at Arizona State University, has been selected as UNLV's new associate vice president for development. Conboy worked for more than 16 years at the Kansas University Endowment Association. He will report to UNLV's vice president for development and will supervise the development officers who work directly with the deans of the university's colleges.

– UNLV history professor **Sue Fawn Chung** has been named one of the two Nevada advisors to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The trust, which was chartered by Congress in 1949, recently became a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting America's treasures, particularly historic buildings and the neighborhoods and landscapes they anchor, documents and works of art, and other print media. Chung and Andria Daley-Taylor, the state's other trust advisor, will work on public policy matters and projects with the Preservation Association of Clark County, the State Historic Preservation office, and other state and regional preservation organizations and archaeological societies.

– UNLV junior **Inna Bashta** was chosen as one of 12 students from across the nation to receive a fellowship to attend the 2001 Summer School in Nuclear and Radiochemistry at Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York. She participated in the intensive six-week school, which consists of both lecture and laboratory work on the fundamentals of nuclear science and its applications to nuclear medicine and related fields. Bashta is a chemistry major who is pursuing a minor in physics.



Sue Fawn Chung



## New UNLV Alumni Association Board Elected for 2001-02

The UNLV Alumni Association is headed by a 19-member board elected by association members. Each member serves a three-year term. The following are brief profiles of the board members who will serve during the 2001-02 academic year:

– **Dr. Mark W. Doubrava**, '85 Bachelor of Liberal Studies, is a board-certified ophthalmologist and is fellowship trained in corneal and refractive surgery.

– **Dave Dreibelbis**, '88 BS Management Information Systems, is the web center manager for EBWorld.com, the E-commerce division of Electronics Boutique.

– **Nancy M. Flagg**, '79 BA Education, '92 MA English, is deputy to the chancellor of the University and Community College System of Nevada. Previously, she served as deputy to UNLV President Carol C. Harter.



Nancy Flagg

– **Sharlene Flushman** holds a bachelor's degree in education. She is the volunteer coordinator of UNLV's Home Away From Home Program. She previously taught elementary school.

– **Bruce Ford**, '86 BS Finance, is vice president and deputy senior regional credit officer for Wells Fargo Bank.

– **Karen Hare**, '87 BA Communication Studies, is an account manager with Research Institute of America, a tax research and compliance company. Previously, she worked as a teacher with the Clark County School District.



Bruce Ford

– **Kirk Hartle**, '88 BS Accounting, is the chief financial officer of Boretta Enterprises Inc., a company specializing in golf retail businesses and golf course development. Previously, he worked as a senior manager for the certified public accounting firm of KPMG.

– **Kirk D. Hendrick**, '88 BA Communication Studies, is an attorney affiliated with

Jones Vargas. Until earlier this year he worked for the Nevada attorney general's office as chief deputy attorney general of the gaming division and as chief legal counsel to the Nevada Athletic Commission.



Kirk Hendrick

– **Cristina Hinds**, '95 BA Political Science, is an attorney with the firm of Hinds & Morey. She previously worked for the Clark County district attorney's office as a deputized law clerk.

– **Rich Israel**, '93 BS Finance, is an account executive with Horace Mann Insurance and Investors Corp.

– **Chip Johnson**, '72 BS Business Administration, is the owner of Real Estate Services Group.

– **Jim Kirkwood**, '83 BS Accounting and Finance, is the operations controller for Harrah's Las Vegas.

– **Tina Kunzer-Murphy**, '75 BS Education, '77 Master of Education, is general manager of ESPN Regional at UNLV. She serves as director of the Las Vegas Bowl.

– **Sam Lieberman**, '96 Bachelor of Social Work, is exploring his job options in local politics and in the nonprofit sector. He previously worked for U.S. Sen. Harry Reid as a regional representative, doing outreach to people with disabilities and to the nonprofit sector.

– **Donya Monroe**, '86 BS Finance, is a financial advisor and certified financial manager with Merrill Lynch.



Donya Monroe

– **Kevin J. Page**, '86 BS Finance, '87 MBA, is senior vice president with Wells Fargo Institutional Asset Management. Previously, he worked for First Security Investment Management and First Interstate Bank.



Chip Johnson

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### Residence Hall Addition Opens

A new 433-bed addition to Tonopah Hall opened this fall to create the Tonopah Living, Learning and Scholarship Complex. The \$16.8 million, nearly 99,000-square-foot addition has brought the total number of beds in the facility to 648 and has added two new wings. Originally opened in 1966, the six-story Tonopah Hall served as the university's sole residence hall until 1988 when several other residence halls opened. With the new addition, UNLV is now able to provide residence hall rooms for 1,500 students.

# Walking the Walk

Meet Ina Dorman, Clark Lamping, and Jim Perdue – three UNLV alumni who said they wanted to make a difference in the lives of others. And they weren't kidding.

BY BARBARA CLOUD

**S**ome people talk the talk. Some people walk the walk.

Most of us say we would like to work to help others, but few of us find the time to do so.

But for UNLV alumni Clark Lamping, Ina Dorman, and Jim Perdue, "walking the walk" is part of their day-to-day lives. Through their respective professions, all three are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others.

Lamping is a Clark County firefighter who battles blazes and rides on a rescue unit as an emergency medical technician – assignments that regularly provide him the opportunity to save lives. He is also very



Ina Dorman



Clark Lamping



Jim Perdue

active in fund raising for the local burn foundation.

Dorman works to increase the number of social workers in the Clark County School District, knowing that these skilled professionals can provide a wide variety of



valuable services to students and their families. For many years, she worked to see to it that homeless children in Southern Nevada were able to attend school.

Perdue works as a federal probation officer – a job in which he not only monitors the activities of those convicted of federal crimes, but also tries to help them move back into society and stay out of trouble.

UNLV Magazine recently asked these three alumni to tell us about their jobs, some of their altruistic deeds, and what sparked their desire to do good.

## CLARK LAMPING

Clark County firefighter Clark Lamping literally saves lives in his job.

He doubles as a firefighter and as an emergency medical technician assigned to one of the department's medical rescue units. Both duties have enabled him to rescue people in life-threatening situations.

"I brought a guy back to life after he had a heart attack," he says, recalling one incident in which he used a defibrillator to get the patient's heart started again. "It's always a really good feeling when you can do something like that. It makes your day, obviously."

On another occasion Lamping, in full firefighting gear, climbed seven floors to rescue an elderly woman who was unable to use the stairs to get to safety.

"We heard there was a person trapped in the 14-story building, so we went up the stairs, carrying oxygen, just in case," he recalls. "I picked her up and carried her to safety. She was very frightened and told me she didn't want to die. I said we weren't going to let that happen. She had inhaled a bit of smoke, so when we got down we gave her a little bit of oxygen."

In a less dramatic albeit heart-warming way he also made the day for a local family when he rescued their cat from a fire and gave it mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

While Lamping, a Las Vegas native, says he feels ideally suited to his job, he didn't always plan to be a firefighter. When he graduated from UNLV in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in psychology, he decided

to travel.

"I left the country to find myself and travel all the way around the world," he says. "I found I love to travel and meet new people. The world is a much bigger place than I thought it was."

When he returned from his journey, he seriously considered moving abroad. He took a number of odd jobs to make enough money to pursue his plans.

"I thought my life's calling was to be a scuba diver in the Caribbean. Then I saw that the Clark County Fire Department was hiring, and I applied. I felt that it was something I really wanted to do; I didn't want a job where I had to put on a tie to go to work. But there were 2,000 people applying for just 100 jobs. I didn't think I had a realistic chance, so I went ahead with the scuba diving plans.

"Just two months before I was going to leave for the Caribbean, I was notified by the fire department that I had done well on all the exams and was on the hiring list," he says. He got the job in 1998.

Since that time, Lamping has found he enjoys the variety of experiences the job offers.

"One of the things I love is that no two days are the same; no two calls are the same," he says. "One day you can have fun, and the next day can be absolutely heart-wrenching. When I put on that uniform in the morning, I never know what is going to happen – it keeps it really fresh."

At Fire Station No. 18 at Flamingo and Paradise roads, described by *Firehouse* magazine as the busiest fire station in North America, Lamping's day begins at about 7 a.m. with a check of the equipment.



In addition to his work as a firefighter and emergency medical technician, UNLV alumnus Clark Lamping volunteers for the Burn Foundation, a charitable organization that aids those who have lost their homes in fires.

Other station duties depend on rank.

"I have very little seniority, so my job is to mop floors," he says with a smile.

The fire-fighters spend their days training, doing business inspections, going to schools for fire drills, and otherwise honing their skills. They are on shift

24 hours at a time and work one day on and one day off for 10 days; they then have several days off.

The UNLV grad thrives on the activity.

"I think I'd go crazy if I was at one of the stations on the outskirts where I didn't get as many calls," he says. "I love being in the heart of the action. I can't stand sitting around, waiting for things to happen."

That inability to sit around – combined with his drive to help people – prompts Lamping to spend some of his spare time working for the Burn Foundation, which was established by the five fire departments in the Las Vegas valley to help those who become homeless because of a fire.

"I'm very proud of our work," he says. "We provide funds, furniture, and other things a family needs to get re-established. We also pay for funerals, if necessary."

Despite the sometimes heart-rending nature of his work, Lamping says he has no regrets about passing up the beaches and waters of the Caribbean for his current job.

"I would say this is the perfect career match for me," he says, adding that the excitement – combined with the opportunity to help people – has made his job among the most satisfying he can imagine.

## INA DORMAN

Ina Dorman would find homeless children sleeping in cars or camped out with their parents on a more or less permanent basis on the shores of Lake Mead. Not surprisingly, the children weren't enrolled in school.

The year was 1988, and the Clark County School District had decided something needed to be done to get homeless children to school. Dorman was assigned the job of developing a program to combat the problem, which had been brought into focus by federal legislation – the Homeless Assistance Act – requiring school districts to take action.

The first obstacle Dorman discovered was that enrollment in school was impossible for homeless children at the time because the school district required a permanent home address in order for a child to be officially admitted. Hence, one of Dorman's first chores was to create an avenue through which homeless children could enroll even though they didn't have a permanent address.

After overcoming that obstacle, Dorman went on to solve many other problems in the next 10 years as she spent her days supervising the school district's program for homeless children.

"It meant going anywhere a homeless family might be staying," she recalls. "I assisted them with transportation to school, getting the appropriate paperwork completed, and helping the parents get welfare and social services. Once the children were enrolled, I contacted people who could help them succeed."

Though the challenge she faced in trying to locate and help all the homeless children in the county was huge, she says she was able to avoid becoming overwhelmed by approaching the problem one student at a time.

"I tried to deal one-on-one with the student, the school staff, and the family," she says.

She started with no budget; she enlisted the aid of a Sunday school class to get school supplies and clothing for the children.

Dorman recalls one particular student living in a campground at Lake Mead. He had to walk to the highway each day to catch the school bus.

"One day the nurse at a Boulder City elementary school called me to report the youth was coming to school so dirty that the other students were ostracizing him," she says. "He was living in the elements. His parents were doing the best they could, but they had no access to laundry facilities, and there was no real way for him to get clean."

Dorman asked the nurse whether the school had a shower. It did. She got the student some extra clothing and made laundry arrangements with a nearby middle school.

"The young man would go to school, take a shower, get dressed, and take his dirty clothes to the middle school to be laundered," Dorman says, adding that the plan worked well. "The mother was so grateful that her son was then accepted by the other students."

While working on the homeless children program, Dorman enrolled at UNLV to complete the degree she had begun pursuing when she lived in Denver 17 years ago. Since helping people was part of her job – and she certainly enjoyed it – she decided to major in social work. In 1993 she earned her bachelor's degree from UNLV and went on to obtain her master's degree in social work from the university in

1995. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in organizational leadership.

Dorman continued supervising the district's program for homeless children until 1998; during her decade in charge of the program, she saw its numbers grow. In the first year, 50 children were identified. By the time she left the project, she and the agencies involved had located more than a thousand.

She estimates that there may

now be as many as 2,000 homeless children in the school district.

Since 1998, Dorman has supervised a different important project – increasing the number of social workers in Clark County schools. She coordinates and supervises 20 UNLV social work student interns – both graduate and undergraduate – in the schools.

Social workers are rare birds in the state's schools, she says. There are only 11 in Nevada, eight of them in Las Vegas; seven of those are concentrated in special education.

Dorman believes there is a broader and important place in schools for the social worker.

"Our role is different from the counselor or the psychologist," she says. "We link the family to services outside of the school that can provide assistance to them. We do a lot of networking."

"The schools are becoming more comfortable with having social workers than they used to be," she notes of her pioneering work, adding that the social workers have helped increase awareness in the schools of

*continued on page 29*



UNLV alumna Ina Dorman worked for a decade finding ways to help homeless children get to school.



# Putting Red Rock on the Map



*When two UNLV professors discovered that no site-specific geology guide to Red Rock Canyon existed, they decided to take on the task of producing one themselves. The resulting project enabled them to combine their interest in involving students in their research with their desire to promote the value of community service.*

BY BETTY BLODGETT

**W**hen geologists come to Las Vegas, it's generally not for the purpose of seeing the neon lights, the dancing fountains, or Siegfried and Roy.

Well, granted, it may be for some.

But what attracts many geologists to Las Vegas are the rocks – or, more specifically,

the rocks found just outside Las Vegas at Red Rock Canyon.

With its dramatic red- and yellow-hued cliffs and unique sandstone formations, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is so remarkable that geologists from all over the world travel to see and study the

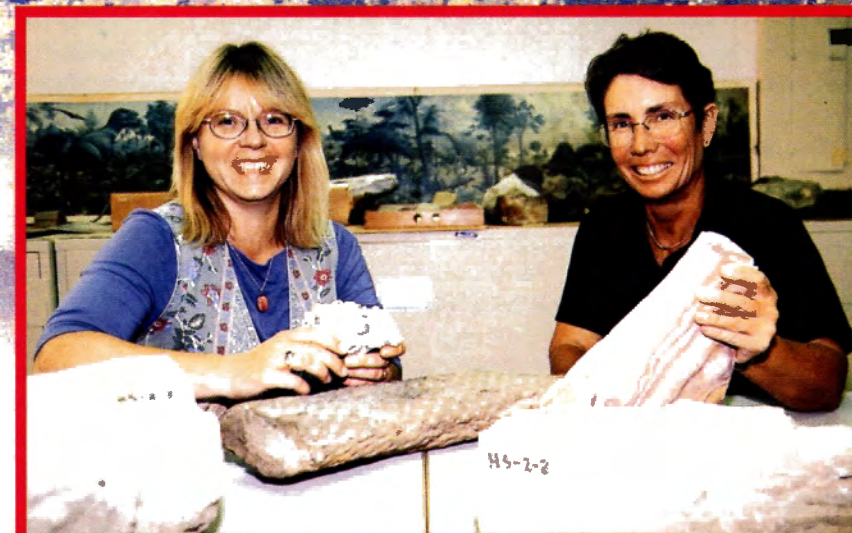
geology specimens there, according to UNLV geoscience professor Wanda J. Taylor.

And it's fortunate that they already know what they're looking for when they get there, she adds. For the rest of us untrained in the field of geology – who couldn't make

the distinction between the mudstone up at Red Rock and the flagstone in our backyards – a little geological guidance would make all the difference in our appreciation of the area.

But amazingly enough, Taylor notes, no site-specific geology guide for the area's popular scenic loop road and hiking trails has ever been published.

That will soon change when Taylor and her colleague Margaret "Peg" Rees complete their new illustrated geologic



Geologists Wanda Taylor, left, and Margaret "Peg" Rees, seen here examining rock specimens back at the lab, have led a project to create an illustrated geologic guide to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

guide to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

The two professors decided to take on the task of producing the guide when they

realized it could help them achieve three important goals. First, they knew it would be a perfect opportunity to set up a challenging faculty-guided student research project. It would also give the involved students a chance to use some of the geoscience department's new

state-of-the-art equipment. And, perhaps most importantly, the project would provide a valuable community service.

"Creating a geologic guide to Red Rock



was a natural choice for a community-service project," says Taylor, an associate professor who has been with UNLV's geoscience department since 1991. "For years, the geoscience department has responded to requests from scientists, the media, and the general public for expert educational information about the area. Now all of that information will come together in one book."

Conceived by Taylor and Rees two years ago, the Geologic Guide to Red Rock Canyon will contain easy-to-understand maps and descriptions and will become an essential tool for naturalist tour guides and other educators, Rees says.

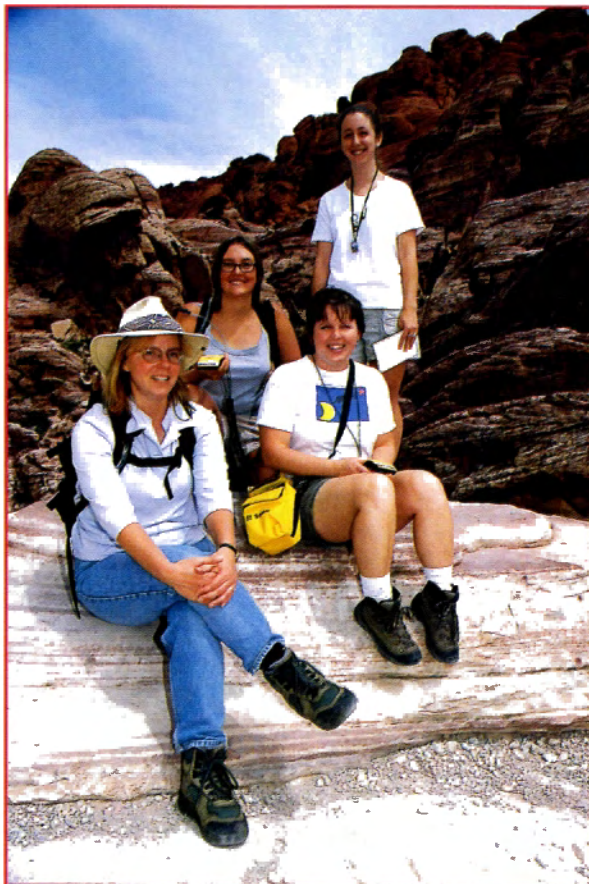
"It will enable visitors to better understand the geologic history of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, the geologic processes that formed the scenery, and the impact of humans on the area," Rees says, adding that the story of how the project evolved is an interesting one.

In 2000, Taylor and Rees competed for and were awarded a UNLV Planning Initiative Award grant for more than \$18,000 to develop the guide. Their success in receiving the grant was due in part, they feel, to their plans to incorporate in the project an innovative educational technique called research-based learning.

The technique, which integrates classroom learning with hands-on research, is being used at both research-oriented universities and institutions with strong teaching and educational reputations.

"This educational method is used in science to provide undergraduate and graduate students with direct experience with the methods and processes of scientific inquiry," Taylor says. "The technique emphasizes to the students the investigative process by which we as scientists acquire and generate new information and ideas. It also helps the students develop critical and scientific thinking skills."

She adds that the students learn to collaborate with their peers and professors



Taylor and several of her students spent several weeks in all working at Red Rock, mapping the area and collecting data about rock formations. From left are Taylor, Ilsa Schiefelbein, Treasure Bailey, and Robyn Howley.

on research projects, which illustrates the importance of cooperation, not individual competition.

"In addition," she notes, "they obtain valuable job skills and gain confidence in their ability to use the technological equipment and software that they'll need to use in the workplace."

Taylor and Rees agreed early on that the community service aspect of the project would also enhance the students' learning.

"Perhaps the most important thing of all that the students learn is the importance of giving back to the community as individual citizens and as scientists," says Rees, who currently serves as UNLV's associate provost for academic budget.

After selecting the handful of geology students to be involved in the initial phase of the project, Taylor and Rees had those students create a shaded-relief base map of the Red Rock Loop Road and its associated side roads and hiking trails. Such maps are used to convey the elevation of the area and include terrain features such as mountains and naturally

formed drainage channels.

To produce this map, one of Taylor's graduate students drove the loop road with a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and stopped at each scenic turnout to pinpoint its exact location. That GPS data was then placed on the map by using a Geographic Information System (GIS) software program called ArcView.

"Learning this technology was about a one-month project," Taylor says. "This was an important first step because the students gained efficiency and confidence in GPS data collection and GIS map production. We knew that GPS and GIS technology would be important tools for students to learn to use not only in the preparation of the Red Rock guide, but also for their own research and for future employment."

Once the base map was created, Taylor and Rees moved forward with the next phase of the project, which was to have the students go out to Red Rock during the 2000 fall semester and collect field-based data about the different rock formations; that data would later be included on the map and in the guide.

About 30 students, from both the undergraduate and graduate levels, were included in the field data collection process. The initial part of this phase of the project involved gathering information from scholarly literature and existing geologic maps about the type of rock and fossils they expected to find in the field.

"They then took this existing knowledge with them out into the field and began collecting and analyzing new data," Taylor says. "The students collected data at many geologic sites along the Red Rock Loop Road and hiking trails. At each of these sites, they would look at the rock units and describe exactly what was there."

For example, they would record that, "At this site, there is 'x' number of meters of sandstone and 'y' number of meters of mudstone." The students would then collect samples to bring back to the lab for analysis. From their analyses, they would then conclude what type of environment existed at a site when a particular rock type was formed.

"One of the biggest reasons why Red Rock Canyon is such a great place to study geology is the desert environment," Taylor says. "Because of the desert's sparse vegetation, the rocks and land forms are well exposed. You can actually touch them and study them up close."

The students found that the rocks revealed interesting stories. Over the last several hundred million years, Red Rock Canyon went through dramatic geologic processes. The area was once covered by an ocean and later by desert sand. Faulting created earthquakes and tilted, folded, and broke the rocks apart. All of these environmental changes have been recorded in the rocks over time.

A good example of the impact of these environmental changes can be seen in the distinctive fiery sandstone formations that give Red Rock its name, Taylor says.

"The Aztec Sandstone was created about 200 million years ago by wind-blown desert sand," Taylor explains. "We know this with certainty because the sandstone is made up of well-rounded grains of quartz sand that could only have been sculpted that way by wind. Cross-beds can be seen distinctly in the sandstone, which indicates the sand dunes migrated as wind currents changed in their direction and intensity, depositing new sand layers over old."

Taylor says the importance of such information, especially to geologists, is that the more we can learn about how these ancient rocks were formed, the better we can understand what is happening in the area today.

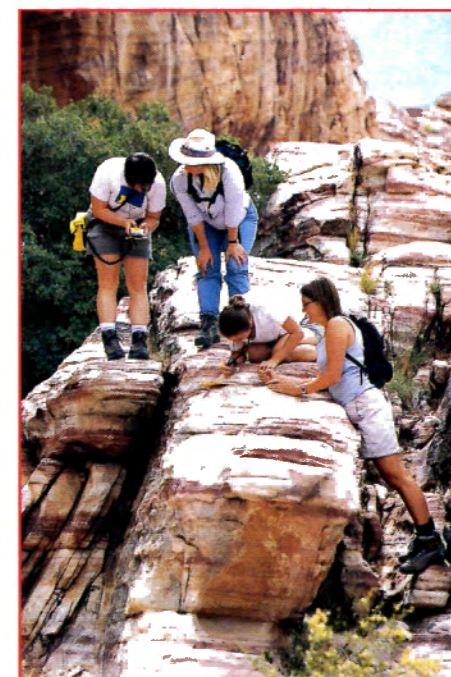
One of the exciting new discoveries the students made while doing their field research was positively identifying a new rock unit named the Kayenta Formation, Taylor says.

Through their research, the students learned that the Kayenta Formation lies on top of the better-known Chinle Formation – the dark red- to purple-colored rock layer beneath the Aztec Sandstone cliffs.

"What's so interesting about this discovery is that this particular formation had never really been fully researched before out at Red Rock," Taylor explains. "It was thought that it was there and was briefly mentioned in scholarly literature, but the

research done by our students confirmed its presence."

Once all of the field data were collected and analyzed, the students began the task of compiling the information into the guidebook. They used computer software to produce graphic images of the analyzed sites and began writing the accompanying text. The goal of the students was to tie the maps and graphics together with the written text so



The students involved in the project collected samples at many geologic sites along the Red Rock Loop Road and hiking trails. At each of the sites, they would look at the rock units and describe exactly what was there.

that users of the guidebook would have a good explanation of the geologic features and concepts they were seeing as they drove along the Red Rock Loop Road.

As the project proceeded, the students and their two professors held regular meetings at which they collectively participated in critically evaluating the research results.

"This provided the students with learning experiences beyond what's available in the typical classroom," Taylor says. "It

helped them understand the need for and importance of critical peer evaluation in the scientific process."

Throughout the project, Taylor says, both the faculty and the students came to find the combination of student research and service-based learning to be very valuable.

"The students' interest and enthusiasm for service-based learning is what made this project a success," Taylor says. "They came away with a strong understanding of the local geology, how to properly collect and interpret data, and how to apply effective writing, editing, and critiquing skills. They also now know how to use state-of-the-art equipment. Plus, they feel a sense of pride and accomplishment knowing that they have provided a community service by creating this guidebook."

Students involved with the project agree. Undergraduate student Treasure Bailey and graduate students Robyn Howley and Ilsa Schiefelbein all say that the hardest – yet most rewarding – part of the project was working together.

"Initially, we each had different concerns and ideas about the best way to get things done," Bailey says. "But we learned the importance of working together, respecting one another, and seeing how all of our individual strengths came together to create this book."

The guidebook will be available to the general public sometime in 2002; the project participants hope that one day the publication will be available at the visitors' center at Red Rock.

The guide will provide general geological background information, as well as site-specific information keyed to the route maps. It also will include an introduction to the geological history of the Western United States and how it is revealed in the rock types and structures, such as faults and folds, within Red Rock.

"It will be geologically accurate, appealing to the eye, and something that the general public will find very readable and easy-to-understand," Rees says. "The information that our students learned and put into this guidebook will help the millions of visitors to Red Rock better understand and enjoy the area's spectacular geology and the surrounding environment."



When UNLV professors Pat Markos and Dan Allen first visited the MASH Village for the homeless, they were pursuing a research interest. Within two years, they had become the champions of a medical clinic for the homeless and were counted among the clinic's founders. What happened in the interim demonstrated that, to the two professors, the plight of the homeless was ...



After visiting the MASH Village for the homeless, UNLV professors Pat Markos, left, and Dan Allen realized that establishing a medical clinic at the facility would provide much-needed health services to the homeless and at the same time serve as a base for their research projects.

# More Than An Academic Concern

BY LAURIE FRUTH

**T**he lines form early outside the medical clinic at Father Joe's MASH Village. The clinic doesn't open until 7:30 a.m., but already patients are streaming into the center with complaints of earaches, fevers, and other ailments.

Some are here for the first time; others are returning for follow-up care. Their maladies are as varied as the circumstances that brought them to the Mobilized Assistance and Shelter for the Homeless, Las Vegas's service center for the poor and homeless. But they all have two things in common: a need for primary medical care and an utter lack of resources to pay for doctors, food, or even a roof over their heads.

Some 12,000 men, women, and children are homeless in Las Vegas – a number that UNLV professors Pat Markos and Dan Allen hope to reduce someday through their collaborative research on the psychological and medical needs of the homeless population. But their interest in the subject is more than academic: As two of the founding members of the free medical clinic at Father Joe's MASH Village, they are engaged both intellectually and emotionally with the people they are studying.

Their association with the clinic is part of a community partnership between UNLV, the MASH Village, Lake Mead Hospital, University Medical Center, and a host of social service

agencies and private practice health care professionals. The partnership was established a year and a half ago, but the story really began four years earlier when Markos, an associate counseling professor, began taking graduate students in an advanced community counseling class out to the MASH Village.

"That's how I got started with the MASH Village," Markos says. "My students began doing one-on-one counseling with clients at MASH. To this day, this is the only counseling that is offered at the village."

Markos was pleased to be able to provide a service that benefitted both MASH residents and her counseling students – so much so, in fact, that she applied for and received a small grant to study the needs of the homeless population. But she really wasn't looking for additional involvement – that is, until she met Allen, an assistant psychology professor at UNLV.

"We got to talking, and I discovered that we had a lot of interests in common, particularly in the area of researching mental illness. Many homeless people are either mentally ill or have alcohol or substance abuse problems, so when Dan said he was looking for a clinical setting in which to gather data for his research on these conditions, I suggested he might want to come with me out to the MASH Village."



A short time later Markos and Allen met with Ruth Bruland, executive director of the MASH Village, to discuss possible areas of research. And it was during that meeting that the plans for the medical clinic began to take shape.

At the time, Bruland was all too aware of the critical need for health care services for the homeless. In fact, representatives from Lake Mead Hospital had already approached her with the idea of opening a clinic at the MASH shelter. The hospital offered to put up \$120,000 per year to support the clinic – a good start but not enough money to adequately equip and staff a clinic to serve a population of nearly 12,000.

So Bruland began looking around for others who had the potential to help.

“And when I met with Pat and Dan and threw out the idea of a clinic, their eyes lit up at once,” Bruland says.

Indeed, Markos and Allen were intrigued by the notion of a free clinic that could provide much-needed health services to the homeless and at the same time serve as a base for their academic research projects.

“We realized we could achieve two goals at once,” Markos says. “We knew that research on the homeless population was desperately needed, and we also knew we wanted to help the MASH Village. It seemed like a perfect fit.”

They quickly recognized that this sort of community partnership was exactly the type of project for which certain university-sponsored grants had been designed. But the two professors also realized that they would need additional funding from sources outside the university to make the project a success. They quickly set up a meeting with Randall Hempling, then the chief executive officer of Lake Mead Hospital, to pitch their idea.

“And he was very interested,” Markos says. “He said he would give us \$240,000 for two years. We then went to the University Medical Center. They said they couldn’t give us cash, but they would give us all of our lab work and X-rays for free. Once Lake Mead Hospital and UMC were on board, we were ready to apply for matching funds through the university’s Applied Research Initiative

program.”

In November of 1999, Markos and Allen learned that they had received an Applied Research Initiative grant in the amount of \$585,000 – news that left them feeling both overjoyed and overwhelmed. They certainly had plenty of experience in health care – she



**Ruth Bruland, executive director of the MASH Village, left, was thrilled that Allen and Markos were willing to help establish the village's medical clinic. The three are seen here in one of the clinic's exam rooms.**

as a certified rehabilitation counselor and he as a psychologist, mental illness specialist, and former unit coordinator for a Veterans’ Administration hospital in Pittsburgh. But neither had ever built a clinic from the ground up. So they contacted George Kaiser, then chair of the department of family and community medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Kaiser agreed to serve as the clinic’s medical director and provided them with a detailed list of the equipment and supplies they would need. With that list in hand and with the help and support of those at the MASH Village, the pieces began to fall into place.

Bruland persuaded the city of Las Vegas to allow MASH to purchase a double-wide trailer to serve as the clinic’s temporary home and then hired a designer to draw up the plans for the clinic’s exam rooms, waiting area, dispensary, and offices. The trailer was

put in place, and the plumbing and electrical hardware were installed; calls were made to anyone in the community who had supplies that could be of use to the clinic. A part-time nurse practitioner was hired with funding from the grant, and volunteer physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals were recruited to work in the clinic.

On May 11, 2000, the clinic officially opened its doors, becoming the only free medical facility in Las Vegas to serve exclusively the homeless and uninsured poor.

Since that day, nearly 5,000 patients have taken advantage of the clinic’s health care services, and the numbers continue to climb. Markos says the demand has been so great that occasionally the clinic has had to close the intake window in order to catch up with the 30 or 40 patients in the waiting room. But no one has been turned away or denied access to the qualified specialists, on-site pharmacy, or comprehensive medical care offered by the clinic.

Response from the local medical community has also exceeded all expectations. Bruland says that she has been approached by a number of physicians who want to give their time.

“But we don’t have any place to put the gynecologist, the podiatrist, or other specialists who want to help us out. And while this is a wonderful problem to have, it does illustrate the tremendous amount of need that is still there,” she says.

Bruland believes that the right donor is out there and that someday the double-wide trailer will be replaced by a larger, permanent building. In the meantime, she is very happy to have the free clinic up and running. And she is full of praise for the contributions of UNLV and particularly of Markos and Allen.

“Pat and Dan are ‘doers’ and were really the first link in what has become a very long chain of supporters,” Bruland says. “Lake Mead Hospital was already poised to be a partner, and we knew UMC wanted to participate. But Pat and Dan pulled it all together.”

Markos and Allen appreciate the accolades but are much too focused on the work that still needs to be done to spend



**“There is this sense that we are making a difference. And that’s really the reason that Pat and I are working so hard out there.”**

**– UNLV psychology professor  
Dan Allen**

provided with follow-up care.

By tracking patients and their ailments as they come through the clinic, Markos and Allen hope to demonstrate that patients are receiving better and more cost-effective care than before the

clinic was built.

The two are only halfway through their study, but early results suggest that provision of services via the clinic has indeed lessened the demand for expensive emergency care.

“We’d only been open for a few months when I was asked to make a presentation at the national Health Care for the Homeless conference,” Markos says. “And we calculated that in the first year of operation, the clinic would save Lake Mead Hospital nearly a million dollars.”

Allen says that in the second year of the study they will track patients who make return visits to the clinic; he is optimistic that the results will show the beneficial effects of follow-up care.

“The bottom line is that if we provide these services and keep people out of the E.R., then we all benefit. The hospital saves money, the patients have access to comprehensive medical care, and people who once would have gone untreated now receive the care they deserve,” Allen says.

Another area of concern for Markos and Allen is the rapidly growing number of homeless women over the age of 50. Allen explained that homelessness has traditionally been considered a situation primarily affecting men. This is partly because men are

more likely than women to abuse substances and to be military veterans – two key variables that often lead to homelessness; it is also partly because homeless women and children are less visible because they take advantage of available shelters. Whatever the reason, resources allocated to help the homeless have often been provided with men in mind, particularly in the area of health services.

So Markos and Allen have designed a second study to determine how and why older women become homeless and how their medical and mental health needs differ from those of men. Markos suspects that most of these older women have been in and out of homelessness for years because of mental illness, addiction, or domestic violence. But she says that at least some of these women fall into the category of the working homeless – those who hold down full-time jobs but don’t make enough money to pay for housing.

“So many people are lured to Las Vegas by the warm weather and availability of jobs,” Markos says. “But when they get here they discover they need a sheriff’s card and a health card just to get a job. And when they do get a job, they make \$7 an hour. You can’t live on \$7 an hour if you have children to support.”

Whether they are working or not, Allen says, the homeless have health care needs that differ from those of the general population.

“If you look at the leading causes of death in the general population, you’ll see

*continued on page 32*





# Instrumental in Their Students' Success

*Janis McKay knew that plenty of opportunities await musicians who can play the oboe, bassoon, or French horn – instruments rarely chosen and played by students. The challenge, as McKay saw it, was finding a way to get young musicians interested in what she calls the “endangered instruments” – and then giving them the chance to excel.*

BY DIANE RUSSELL

**T**hey are endangered. There seem to be fewer and fewer of them each year. Without someone taking action to ensure that their numbers not only hold steady, but actually increase, is it possible that someday soon they will totter on the brink of extinction?

Someone must take action – now.

And then, just when the situation looked its

bleakest, three UNLV music professors came to the rescue....

Wait a minute. Music professors preventing the extinction of a species? What's this all about? Though there are no doubt many enthusiastic environmentalists on the UNLV music department faculty, we don't usually envision them out rescuing an endangered species – that is, of course, unless the species in question happens to be a teen-ager with a special gift for the oboe.

It all makes perfect sense, really,

when it becomes clear that the endangered species being discussed is not the panda or the white tiger, but an increasingly rare breed of young musician willing to take on the challenge of playing the oboe, the bassoon, or the French horn.

Those three instruments, according to UNLV assistant professor of music Janis McKay, are so seldom chosen by students signing up for band and orchestra in middle school and high school that the number of students playing them has dropped to a frustratingly low level. That trend has resulted in a good deal of difficulty for high school band and orchestra teachers who need those instruments for the musical pieces to sound right and for university music professors who must recruit talented high school musicians to come study with them at the college level. It is likewise frustrating for professional symphony and chamber orchestras that need highly qualified musicians to fill their ranks.

While McKay recognizes why so few students choose these instruments – they're unfamiliar to many students, tend to be costly, and, in the case of the French horn, can be difficult to learn – she remains committed to promoting the oboe, bassoon, and French horn to young musicians.

To encourage more students in Southern Nevada to begin playing the instruments, McKay, who is herself a bassoonist, decided to create a program that would make it easier for them. Borrowing the name of a Seattle program she'd heard about, McKay designed the Endangered Instrument Program, which provides free lessons to students from nine at-risk middle schools in Southern Nevada and loans the instruments to the participating students as well.

She says she sees the program as a great way not only to generate more musicians who play these instruments, but also as a way for the university to help achieve its goal of being of service to Southern Nevada.

“I was specifically looking to try and do something that would help the community, that would be a way for UNLV and the

UNLV music department to serve the community,” she says.

McKay applied for and received a UNLV Planning Initiative Award for more than \$29,000. These competitive awards are allocated annually by the office of UNLV



UNLV music professor Janis McKay decided to create the Endangered Instrument Program to encourage more students in Southern Nevada to begin playing the bassoon, oboe, and French horn.

President Carol C. Harter to members of the university community for projects that advance the goals of the university's strategic plan.

With the assistance of two of her colleagues – oboist and associate professor of music Stephen Caplan and French horn player and assistant professor of music Bill Bernatis, who also happens to be McKay's husband – the Endangered Instruments Program was launched in the Clark County School District in February. Marcia Neel, the district's assistant director of arts and

activities, coordinated the district's partnership in the program.

Students chosen to participate in the program are provided hour-long group lessons from the professors each week. The students who successfully completed the program last spring will move into advanced group lessons this fall, and a new set of beginners will enroll in the basic group lessons. Students who successfully complete the second year of training will be encouraged to continue playing their instruments in high school and will be offered private lessons at deeply discounted rates.

“Ultimately, becoming a good oboist, French horn player, or bassoonist could translate into college scholarships for the students, either at UNLV or at any number of universities and colleges across the nation,” McKay says.

During the spring semester approximately 30 middle school students participated in the lessons. In addition to being taught by the three professors, they also received instruction from UNLV students studying the same instruments. The

professors and the UNLV students all volunteer their time; most of the Planning Initiative Award money went to purchase instruments, while a small amount was used to buy music stands and books. The instruments are now owned by UNLV, which will greatly reduce the cost of operating the program in the future.

The program targets students in selected middle schools that are classified as serving at-risk students – in other words those students who, because of social or economic factors, are believed to be less likely to



successfully complete their K-12 education without some special attention.

McKay says that typically the bassoon, oboe, and French horn are at a major disadvantage when it comes time for young students to choose an instrument.

To start with, the herd instinct is in play, and students tend to see everyone around them playing one of the more popular instruments – the flute, clarinet, or trumpet, McKay says, adding that many of them have never heard someone play a French horn, bassoon, or oboe. Some, she says, have never even seen the instruments.

“Many times the schools can’t afford the instruments,” McKay notes. While a good student-model trumpet, for instance, often can be purchased for \$500 or less, a student-model bassoon or oboe typically costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000, she says. (A professional model bassoon can cost more than \$30,000.)

And, while many of the more popular instruments can be rented from music stores, those same stores tend not to carry oboes, bassoons, and French horns because the demand for them is not great; also, they are expensive to maintain.

“The problem with the French horn is not the expense of buying it, but the difficulty beginners face when they take up the instrument,” she says. “They struggle because the French horn is a more difficult instrument to start on than, say, a trumpet or a trombone. Sometimes kids who are not really serious will get frustrated and quit the horn before they’re committed to it because they have the idea that it’s just too hard. But actually, once they get going, it’s no more difficult than anything else.”

One selling point for the French horn is that it is often used by movie studios for soundtracks, according to McKay.

“It gets all the great themes in the movies and all the great musical lines. Somebody who’s a good French horn player can look forward to having really rewarding



McKay and her UNLV music department colleagues, oboist Stephen Caplan, center, and French horn player Bill Bernatis, provide free, hour-long lessons each week to students from nine at-risk middle schools in Southern Nevada.

parts to play, including lots of solos. In addition to that, the French horn is the one instrument that’s used in both the woodwind and the brass quintets,” she says.

To get the program off the ground, McKay, Bernatis, and Caplan went to the various middle schools to talk with the students and to perform for them so that they could hear what these particular instruments sound like.

Knowing that familiar music would appeal to the students more than would material they hadn’t heard before, the trio picked their musical choices with care. For McKay, that meant choosing “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice” from *Fantasia* to demonstrate the bassoon.

To demonstrate the oboe, Caplan usually played the snake charmer music from the movie *Aladdin*, she says.

Bernatis, playing the French horn, had many familiar movie musical scores to choose from and often would play music from *Star Wars*, *Robin Hood*, or *Batman*.

After the professors’ presentation, students who thought they might be interested in learning one of the endangered

instruments contacted their music teachers. The teachers then recommended to the professors those students they thought would be successful in the program.

The schools’ band directors are enthusiastic about the program, McKay says, both because it provides them with badly needed oboe, French horn, and bassoon players and because it provides the students with instruction from musicians who are experts on those instruments.

The band directors appreciate the program also because they have to spend the majority of their time on the instruments being played by the greatest number of students, she says, adding that the band directors themselves tend to be more proficient on those more common instruments.

Phil Haines, who was the band director at Smith Middle School last spring, says the Endangered Instruments Program benefits both the school music programs and the individual students.

“The music programs benefit because many schools wouldn’t have any players on these instruments if it weren’t for this program,” Haines says. “It’s also a big help for the students to receive lessons from musicians who are experts on these difficult instruments. Anytime I have students playing these instruments, I try to get them private lessons, but that is an expense many families cannot afford.”

One major benefit to students who stick with the program and show promise on their instruments, according to McKay, is that playing one of these particular instruments well can be a good route to college.

She says that is one reason she wanted to take the program to at-risk schools where many students come from low-income families.

“If the students are successful, this could be really a great way for them to get beyond any economic limitations they might face and have a way to get to college that would provide them some scholarship money,” she says.

McKay herself received a college scholarship because she could play the bassoon, even though, by her own admis-

sion, she wasn’t the best bassoon player at the time. And, as is the case for many students, the bassoon hadn’t been her first choice of instruments.

“I started out playing piano in the third grade. Then I picked up saxophone in the band when I was in sixth grade. I sang in choirs at my church the whole time that I was home. And I played the handbells. I just really liked music, and I was good at it when I was young,” she recalls.

It wasn’t until the 11th grade that she began playing the bassoon, and then only because Joe David, her band director at Valdosta High School in Valdosta, Ga., asked her to help out by learning the instrument because, not surprisingly, no one else in the school was playing it.

“I actually wasn’t that interested in it. I really wanted to play the oboe, and I figured that if I humored him, I would get to do that,” she says. “I wasn’t particularly crazy about it when I first started. It wasn’t until I got to college that I really liked it.”

When it came time to go to college, McKay applied to Florida State University and auditioned for a saxophone scholarship.

She was a very good saxophone player and had no trouble being accepted into the program; however, she was not offered any scholarship money, which meant she couldn’t afford to go there.

“Saxophone players are a dime a dozen, and it didn’t matter how good I was; they just didn’t need anyone,” she says.

Then one day the bassoon teacher from the University of Georgia called.

The interesting thing was that McKay hadn’t even applied to the University of Georgia. And, she says, at that time she certainly wasn’t an outstanding bassoonist.

“The bassoon teacher called me because a percussionist from the University of Georgia had traveled through my town and heard me play and then told the teacher about it. Keep in mind that my hometown is about five hours away from the University of Georgia – that’s how far afield they were having to look for a bassoon player.”

The professor ended up recruiting two

freshmen bassoon players that year, including McKay, and considered it a very successful year.

Once she was in college, McKay’s feelings about the bassoon changed.

“I had been self-taught up until that point,” she says. “Once I had real lessons with a real bassoon teacher – someone who could show me the things I needed to know – I got to where I really loved it. I liked the parts I got to play. I liked the tone of the



McKay offers bassoon instruction to Pedro Deleon, a sixth-grader participating in the program.

bassoon. I liked the fact that I got to be in an orchestra, which was not an option for me as a saxophone player, as there are few orchestral saxophone parts.”

Clearly, she did change her mind about the bassoon. She now holds three degrees in music – a bachelor of music education from the University of Georgia, a master of music from the University of Louisville, and a doctor of musical arts degree from Ohio

State University. And, she has played the bassoon for a host of symphony and chamber orchestras from Austria to West Virginia to Illinois.

At UNLV, she, Caplan, and Bernatis are members of the Sierra Winds, a group that has performed across the country and around the world and is considered by many to be one of the leading wind quintets in the nation. She is also principal bassoonist with the Las Vegas Philharmonic and a member of the Pro Music Chamber Orchestra of Columbus, an assignment that requires her to travel to Ohio each month.

McKay says there’s no doubt that her own successful experience as a bassoonist is one of the reasons she is so enthusiastic about the Endangered Instruments Program and what it can mean for the middle school students enrolled in it.

That’s why she would like to see the program expand to include both more students and more instruments, including some of the string instruments, such as the viola.

McKay says such an expansion would require more money because if the program is to grow much larger, it will need to be able to pay teachers to go out into the schools. At some point the number of students enrolled would become too high for the UNLV faculty and student volunteers to handle alone.

She says an exciting recent development is a show of interest by the Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra in partnering with UNLV and the school district in offering the program. The Philharmonic’s primary role would be to assist with grant writing,

which could lead to increased funding.

“I’m so excited about the possibility of the Philharmonic joining with us and helping with grant writing,” McKay says. “The potential for expanding the program and helping more students is limited only by money.”

And, what is without limit, she adds, is the potential for what students can achieve through the program. *U*



# INSPIRING PERSEVERANCE

*The recipients of the Jean Nidetch Scholarship have endured tragedy and hardship most of us will never have to face. But they have remained steadfastly committed to pursuing their education. The woman who funded their scholarships believes that kind of perseverance should be rewarded. To the recipients themselves, the scholarship has been a gift of inspiration.*

BY MAE WORTHEY-FLENNY

The adversities they have endured are as diverse as they are dismaying.

Some have been plagued by debilitating health problems. Others have come from war-torn foreign lands or have lost a loved one to tragic circumstances. Still others have been forced to face the physical limitations imposed by their disabilities.

Though their backgrounds and hardships vary tremendously, the individuals described above share two things in common: an intense desire to obtain an education and a deep-felt sense of gratitude for Jean Nidetch, the individual who has made their education possible.

Nidetch is the founder of a scholarship that is awarded to UNLV students who have overcome adversity and performed well in school and in life despite the very difficult circumstances they have faced.

Nidetch, a Las Vegas resident and the founder of Weight Watchers International,

established the scholarship bearing her name in 1993. Since that time, more than 120 UNLV students have benefitted from the award; each year a group of about 20 new students receive it.

Recipients must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, must demonstrate a financial need, and must explain in a personal essay how they have overcome adversity to pursue their education.

Several of the scholarship recipients recently offered to share their stories with *UNLV Magazine* in an effort to illustrate how valuable the scholarship has been to them. They consider it a way to thank the woman who has rewarded them – along with many of their fellow UNLV students – for their academic performance, as well as for the spirit of triumph they have chosen to adopt in the face of some of life's most difficult circumstances.

## DU KIM

By the time Du Kim was 9 years old, she had been through experiences that most of



Du Kim

us have only read about or seen on television. Along with her family, she escaped the war-ravaged land of Vietnam, only to be imprisoned in a Cambodian jail and later sent to two different refugee camps.

In the essay she prepared, Kim described the frightening circumstances that she and her family endured to make their way to freedom.

"I was very young at the time, but I do remember we had to go through the forest to try to cross the border to Thailand, and bombs were dropping around us," she recalls. "When we got to Thailand, there were about a hundred immigrants, including us. They put us in a jail and then sent us to a refugee camp." They remained there for eight months before being moved to another refugee camp located in the Philippines where they spent 14 months.

In 1991 Kim and her family were able

apartment we had maybe wasn't great by most people's standards, but it was great for us because we had nothing when we arrived. It was my first time having a TV or a refrigerator or a house where the roof didn't leak."

She and her family later moved to Los Angeles, but decided they might be better suited to a smaller town. They moved to Nevada in 1997, settling in Mesquite.

"I have worked full time since I was a sophomore in high school," she says. "I have given all of my paychecks to my parents to support the family. My parents are very proud of me because I will be the first of all their children to attend a university. I am setting a good example for my four younger siblings."

For Kim's father, the most important goal was to settle in a place where his children could have a better life than he had growing up in Vietnam. So, when Kim was awarded the Jean Nidetch Scholarship, the entire family moved to

Las Vegas to make it more convenient for her to attend the university. Kim is pursuing a certificate in radiography and plans to go on to obtain a degree in nuclear medicine. After earning her bachelor's degree, she hopes to attend medical school to become a radiologist.

"I just want to thank Jean Nidetch because the scholarship has really helped me," she says. "It has made me able to attend college and only have to work part time. My parents don't make a lot of money, and without the scholarship, I don't know what I would have done."

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## RAQUEL SILVA

Born with cataracts, Raquel Silva later developed glaucoma, a condition that caused her to become completely blind at the age of 13.

With the help of the UNLV Disability Resource Center and some devices



Raquel Silva



designed to aid the visually impaired, Silva, a freshman majoring in social work, is able to attend class and performs well in her studies.

She attributes her drive to succeed in part to her mother, who, she says, made her believe she was no different from anyone else.

"I don't know if it was out of denial, perhaps because she didn't want to believe I was blind, but my mother expected a lot out of me," she says. "My blindness was an obstacle in high school, but I still got pretty good grades. The hardest thing was seeing my friends go out and do normal teen-age things. I just stayed in my room and became a bookworm." But, she adds, her religious faith helped keep her motivated through that time.

Now, like other people her age, Silva enjoys going to the movies, rollerblading, bike riding, and spending time with her boyfriend, Joel, a UNLV sophomore.

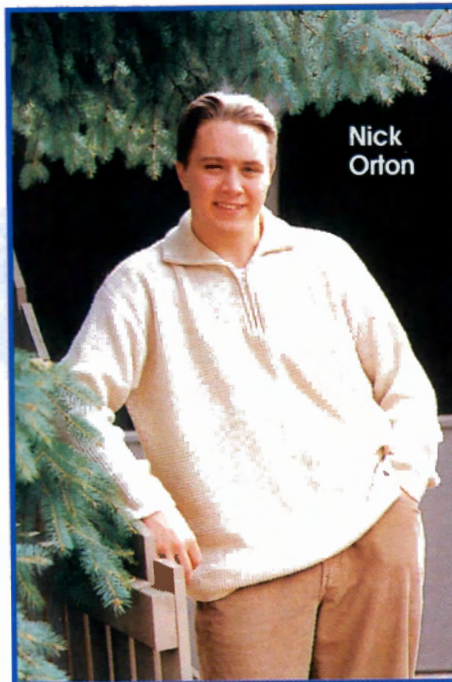
She plans to enter the field of vocational rehabilitation so that she can help others with physical challenges realize their potential.

"Just knowing that Jean Nidetch provided me with this opportunity helps me work harder," she says. "Knowing that she made the effort to create the scholarship makes me want to put forth the effort to do well in school. She has a certain charisma and excitement about her, even though she has been through a lot. That sets a great example for me."

## NICK ORTON

To UNLV freshman Nick Orton, earning a degree has always been the most important goal in his life. He wasn't about to let anything stand in his way – not even a brain tumor.

Orton, who is from South Dakota, had visited Las Vegas several times on vacation and decided UNLV was the college he wanted to attend. He says he had heard of the Jean Nidetch Scholarship when he graduated from high school in 1999, but – not having faced any real adversities to speak of – he didn't apply. But soon after, his life changed – dramatically.



During a routine doctor's visit that year, Orton was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Within the following several months, he underwent four surgeries to remove the tumor. The second surgery was the most frightening and intense, lasting more than 15 hours.

"I lost the movement and feeling in the right side of my face because of the proximity of the surgery to my brain stem," he says. "I wouldn't say I had to learn to walk again, but I lost some equilibrium, so it took me about two to three months to walk normally." He spent roughly a year recovering.

Then last year, against the advice of his parents and doctors, he decided it was time to move on with his life and pursue his dream of earning a college degree.

"I had absolutely no plan of postponing my schooling any more than I had to," he says. "I never changed my focus. I wanted to come to school here. I chose the school before I chose my major."

He is currently majoring in hotel administration and hopes to move to Jamaica and become a resort manager when he graduates from UNLV.

"The scholarship has helped me incredibly," he says. "I was overjoyed when I

got it. It would have been a struggle to pay for school without it, to say the least."

## TIFFANY NIEDERT

For Tiffany Niedert, a 1999 UNLV graduate, having a positive attitude has gotten her through some tough times. At 7 years old, she was diagnosed with diabetes and at 8 she was diagnosed with a rare form of muscular dystrophy that required her to begin using a wheelchair by the time she entered the seventh grade.

"At age 8, one day I couldn't get my leg to relax, and my doctor referred me to the Mayo Clinic. I was diagnosed with torsion dystonia, a type of muscular dystrophy," she says. "It's where your muscles contract, and you can't relax. There's no cure. I was told they see about one case a year of what I had."

As time went on, it became increasingly difficult for her to walk.

"They told me it would get worse, and they knew of nothing that would stop it. They tried medicine, but unfortunately it didn't do anything. So eventually, I couldn't



run or even walk for any length of time."

Niedert is now able to walk limited distances but uses a wheelchair most of the time. But she doesn't let her condition stop her from being active or pursuing her goal of becoming a teacher. Niedert, who earned her degree in elementary education, is currently applying for a teaching position with the Clark County School District.

"We are all dealt a hand; whether you win or lose depends on how you play that hand," she says. "I could sit in my room and cry all day because I have diabetes and I'm in a wheelchair, but what is that going to get me? I have to accept what God gave me. I don't see it as an adversity but just a part of my life – something I have to accept. Either you live with it and move on or let it stop you from being who you want to be."

While the UNLV alumna is very proud of pursuing her education, she realizes she owes a debt of gratitude to Nidetch.

"The reason I got through college was because of the scholarship," she says. "I've always wanted to become a teacher. I want to help change somebody's life – the way someone has helped change my life."

While all of the scholarship recipients have different stories of triumph, they all share a common admiration for Nidetch. They see her as not only a benefactor, but also as a source of inspiration, nudging them toward their individual goals.

"We write letters back and forth all the time," says Niedert. "She's more than just someone who was there to help one time. It's like you're a member of her family. She keeps in touch."

Nidetch says she enjoys knowing how the recipients are doing. She gets a chance to interact with them during a scholarship reception each year and often attends their graduation ceremonies. She enjoys the idea



Jean Nidetch, the founder of Weight Watchers International, established the UNLV scholarship bearing her name in 1993. Since that time, more than 120 UNLV students have benefited from the award.

of helping the scholarship recipients realize their potential.

"To me, getting an education is probably the most important thing a young person can do," Nidetch says. "It gives me great pleasure to know that I could help these students discover their talents and abilities. My feeling is that if they have overcome such challenges and maintain an A/B average, then they deserve it. So many have faced tremendous adversity, but they persevere."

Encouraging others is the story of Nidetch's life. A countless number of people have been inspired to reach their weight loss goals through Weight Watchers, the company that Nidetch started out of her Queens, New York, apartment in 1961. She faced plenty of obstacles of her own early on in her career; for one, earning her place among respected business owners at the time she started out wasn't easy.

"In the '60s, women had a tough time

starting their own businesses," she recalls. "When I formed my company, it was frowned upon. When I went to rent space, the landlord told me to take the lease home to my husband and have him sign it. My husband wanted to know why, and I told him to just sign it. Today, women can't believe that happened. We have come a long way."

Since that time, she has received numerous awards and has written several books and columns about her experiences.

Nidetch, who was featured recently on A&E's *Biography*, has been recognized by the *Ladies Home Journal* as one of the most important women in the United States alongside such icons as Amelia Earhart, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

A devoted UNLV supporter, Nidetch has had a tremendous impact here at home in Las

Vegas as well. Her \$1 million gift to UNLV in 1993 established not only the scholarship bearing her name, but also the Jean Nidetch Women's Center, which offers many services, including programs on sexual assault prevention, personal safety, and health awareness. The center also organizes support groups and distributes information on community and campus resources.

Nidetch, who was awarded an honorary doctorate from UNLV in 1993 for her commitment to young people and education, supports numerous other UNLV programs as well.

"Jean gave the center its breath of life," says Coney Spano, director of the Jean Nidetch Women's Center. "Her contribution has enabled us to develop programs and services to help students achieve academic success. She's going to have an impact on UNLV and the city forever, and that's a significant accomplishment." *—L*



# CALENDAR

## September 2001

2 Women's Soccer: UNLV vs. Washington State. Noon. JF. 895-3207.

5-9 Theatre: *Closer Than Ever*. Call for times. BBT. 895-2787.

7 Football: UNLV vs. Northwestern. 5pm. SBS. 895-3900.

Men's Soccer: UNLV vs. Vanderbilt. 7:30pm. JF. 895-3207.

7-8 Women's Volleyball: UNLV vs. Gonzaga – Sept. 7, 7:30pm. Western Carolina – Sept. 8, 2:30pm. American – Sept. 8, 7:30pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

9 Men's Soccer: UNLV vs. San Diego. 2pm. JF. 895-3207.

10 University Forum Lecture: "An Evening of Public-Affairs Commentary." 7:30pm. Free. MBMA. 895-3401.

11 President's State of the University Address: 2pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3201.

12 Women's Soccer: UNLV vs. Southern Utah. 7:30pm. JF. 895-3207.

14 Football: UNLV vs. Colorado State (MWC). 5pm. SBS. 895-3900.

14 & 16 Men's Soccer: UNLV vs. Michigan State – Sept. 14, 7:30pm. Rider – Sept. 16, noon. JF. 895-3207.

18 University Forum Lecture: "Traditional Bride/Modern Woman: Gender Role Portrayals in Reality TV Wedding Shows." 7:30pm. Free. MBMA. 895-3401.

20 University Forum Lecture: "Through an African Lens: 150 Years of Sierra Leone Photography" (slide-illustrated). 7:30pm. Free. MBMA. 895-3401.

21 Men's Soccer: UNLV vs. Western Kentucky. 5:30pm. JF. 895-3207.

Women's Soccer: UNLV vs. UC-Berkeley. 8pm. JF. 895-3207.

23 Writers' Retreat & Conference: 8am. MSU. 895-3394.

Men's Soccer: UNLV vs. Connecticut. Noon. JF. 895-3207.

28 Women's Volleyball: UNLV vs. Wyoming. 7pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

Women's Soccer: UNLV vs. Cal-Poly. 7:30pm. JF. 895-3207.

28-30 Theatre: *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (runs through Oct. 7). Call for times. JBT. 895-2787.

29 Performing Arts Center's Charles Vanda Master Series: Philadelphia Orchestra. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

Football: UNLV vs. BYU (MWC). Time TBA. SBS. 895-3900.

Women's Volleyball: UNLV vs. Colorado State. 7pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

30 Women's Soccer: UNLV vs. Utah State. Noon. JF. 895-3207.

## October 2001

2 University Forum Lecture: "Johnny Rebs and Billy Yanks: Uncommon Soldiers." 7:30pm. Free. MBMA. 895-3401.

Women's Soccer: UNLV vs. UNR. 7:30pm. JF. 895-3207.

4 University Forum Lecture: "A Martial South? Dixie and the Vietnam War." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

6 Las Vegas Philharmonic: Premier Concert. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

10-13 Senior Theatre: Short Play Festival. Call for times & titles. PHT. 895-2787.

11 University Forum Lecture: "A Celebration of Irish Writing." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

11 & 13 Women's Soccer: UNLV vs. BYU (MWC) – Oct. 11, 7:30pm. Utah (MWC) – Oct. 13, 7:30pm. JF. 895-3207.

12-13 Dance Arts: Fall Concert. Call for times. JBT. 895-2787.

12 & 14 Men's Soccer: UNLV vs. San Jose State (MWC) – Oct. 12, 7:30pm. Fresno State (MWC) – Oct. 14, noon. JF. 895-3207.

13 Performing Arts Center's Best of the New York Stage: Kristen Chenoweth. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

Football: UNLV vs. San Diego State (MWC). Time TBA. SBS. 895-3900.

17 Women's Research Institute of Nevada: Annual Fall Reception. 3pm. TAC. 895-4931.

18 Music: UNLV Symphony Orchestra Concert I. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-3949.

# CALENDAR

19 University Forum Lecture: "The Art and Expression of Spanish Dance: Flamenco" (lecture and live performance). 7:30pm. Dance Studio One HFA. 895-3401.

19 & 20 Women's Volleyball: UNLV vs. Air Force – Oct. 19, 7pm. New Mexico – Oct. 20, 7pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

19-28 Theatre: *Machinal*. Call for times. BBT. 895-2787.

20 Jean Nidetch Women's Center: 8th Annual Community Job Fair. 8:30am. MSU. 895-4475.

21 Music: UNLV Wind Orchestra Concert I. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

25 University Forum Lecture: "Ecotourism in Costa Rica" (slide-illustrated). 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

Music: UNLV Choral Ensembles Fall Concert. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

28 Men's Soccer: UNLV vs. Sacramento State (MWC). Noon. JF. 895-3207.

30 Music: UNLV Jazz Ensemble II. 7:30pm. BBT. 895-0862.

31 Music: UNLV Symphony Orchestra Concert II. 11:30am. AHCH. 895-3949.

University Forum Lecture: "Deciding Where to Live and Work: Assessing Livability." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

## November 2001

2 Women's Volleyball: UNLV vs. San Diego State. 7pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

Women's Soccer: UNLV vs. San Diego State (MWC). 7:30pm. JF. 895-3207.

Performing Arts Center's Charles Vanda Master Series: Awadagin Pratt and Nokothula Ngwenyama. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

3 Football: UNLV vs. Utah (MWC). 1pm. SBS. 895-3900.

4 Music: 76 Trombones Plus 4 in Concert. 2 pm & 6pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

Senior Adult Theatre: Plays TBA. Call for times. PHT. 895-2787.

5 University Forum Lecture: "The Role of Animals in Ancient Greek Mythology and Life." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

7 Music: UNLV Community Band Concert I. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-3733.

8 Music: UNLV Jazz Combos Fall Concert. 7:30pm. BBT. 895-0862.

Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. National Team (exhibition game). 7:35pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

9 Performing Arts Center's The World Stage: Bangarra Aboriginal Dance Company. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

9-10 Women's Volleyball: UNLV vs. BYU – Nov. 9, 7pm. Utah – Nov. 10, 7pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

9-18 Theatre: *A Comedy of Errors*. 8pm. JBT. 895-2787.

11 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. National Women's Basketball League (exhibition game). 3pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

13 Music: UNLV Symphony Orchestra Concert III, featuring UNLV Jazz Ensemble I. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-3949.

15 University Forum Lecture: "Medieval Music" (featuring a live performance). 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

16 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. Cal-State Fullerton. 7:35pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

17 Las Vegas Philharmonic: Concert II. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

18 Performing Arts Center's Best of the New York Stage: Ramsey Lewis and Billy Taylor. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

19 University Forum Lecture: "Travels in the Former East Germany." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

20 Music: UNLV Wind Orchestra Concert II. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

23 Women's Volleyball Thanksgiving Classic: UNLV vs. William & Mary. 7:30pm. TMC. 895-3900.

24-25 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. Sacramento – Nov. 24, 7:35pm. Team TBA – Nov. 25, 4pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

26 Desert Chorale: *The Messiah*. 7:30pm. AHCH. 531-3550.

28 Art Exhibit: MFA Thesis – China Adams (runs through Dec. 15). DBFA. 895-3649.

29 University Forum Lecture: "John Steinbeck: America's Writer." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.

30 Theatre: *Endangered Species* (runs through Dec. 9). Call for times. BBT. 895-2787.



Nokothula Ngwenyama  
November 2

For more information on UNLV events and publications, visit UNLV's World Wide Web home page at <http://www.unlv.edu>

## Building Abbreviation Guide

AHCH:	Artemus Ham Concert Hall
BBT:	Black Box Theatre
DBFA:	Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery
HFA:	Alta Ham Fine Arts
JBT:	Judy Bayley Theatre
JF:	Johann Field
MBMA:	Marjorie Barrick Museum Auditorium
MSU:	Moyer Student Union
PHT:	Paul Harris Theatre
SBS:	Sam Boyd Stadium
TAC:	Richard Talm Alumni Center
TMC:	Thomas & Mack Center

Events are subject to change/cancellation.

UNLV Lady Rebel Basketball



## December 2001

- 1 UNLV Winter Commencement: 9am. TMC. 895-3229.
- 3 University Forum Lecture: "How Safe Are You When You Travel?" 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.
- 5 Music: UNLV Symphony Orchestra Concert IV. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-3949.
- University Forum Lecture: "Balaban: A Reading." 7:30pm. MBMA. 895-3401.
- 6-7 Kennedy Center and College of Fine Arts: *Lily's Purple Plastic Purse*. Call for times. AHCH. 895-2787.
- 10 Desert Chorale: *The Redeemer*. 7:30pm. AHCH. 531-3550.
- 15-16 Las Vegas Philharmonic: A Yuletide Celebration - Dec. 15, 8pm. Dec. 16, 2pm. AHCH. 895-2787.
- 19 & 21 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. Eastern Washington - Dec. 19, 7:35pm. Tennessee-Martin - Dec. 21, 7:35pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- 30 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. UC-Santa Barbara. 5pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

## January 2002

- 2 & 4 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. Texas-Corpus Christi - Jan. 2, 7:35pm. Northern Arizona - Jan. 4, 7:35pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- 6 Performing Arts Center's Best of the New York Stage: Mandy Patinkin. 2pm. AHCH. 895-2787.
- 12 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. San Diego State (MWC). 7:35pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- 13 Las Vegas Philharmonic: A Family Guide to the Orchestra. 2pm. AHCH. 895-2787.
- 22 Art Exhibit: Joe Brainard - A Retrospective (runs through Feb. 28). DBFA. 895-3649.
- 24 & 26 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. Air Force - Jan. 24, 7:35pm. New Mexico - Jan. 26, 7:35pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- 26 Performing Arts Center's Best of the New York Stage: Alvin Ailey II Dance Company. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.

## February 2002

- 1 Performing Arts Center's Charles Vanda Master Series: Thomas Hampson. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.
- 8-17 Theatre: *Of Mice and Men*. Call for times. JBT. 895-2787.
- 14 & 16 Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. Colorado State (MWC) - Feb. 14, 7:35pm. Wyoming (MWC) - Feb. 16, 7:35pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.
- 15 Performing Arts Center's The World Stage: Samulnori. 8pm. AHCH. 895-2787.
- 17 Performing Arts Center's Best of the New York Stage: Diane Reeves. 2pm. AHCH. 895-2787.
- 21-24 Nevada Ballet Theater: Mixed Repertory Concert. Call for times. JBT. 895-2787.
- 28 Theatre: Annual Spring Ten-Minute Play Festival. 2pm. PHT. 895-2787.
- Music: UNLV Wind Orchestra Concert III. 7:30pm. AHCH. 895-2787.
- Women's Basketball: UNLV vs. BYU (MWC). 7:35pm. Cox Pavilion. 895-3900.

## UNLV Men's Basketball Schedule 2001-2002

The following is the tentative schedule of the men's basketball team. All games are at the Thomas & Mack Center. For times and ticket information, call 895-3900.

Nov. 17	Wisconsin
Nov. 20	Nicholls State
Dec. 1	Georgia Southern
Dec. 20	UNR
Dec. 22	Texas
Dec. 28	Tennessee State
Dec. 30	Old Dominion
Jan. 5	Wyoming
Jan. 21	Colorado State
Feb. 3	DePaul
Feb. 9	BYU
Feb. 11	Utah
Feb. 13	Florida International
Feb. 23	San Diego State
Feb. 28	Air Force

## Walking the Walk

continued from page 9

the kinds of non-academic problems that can interfere with learning, such as the high drop-out, teen pregnancy, and teen drug addiction rates.

For example, one of her current interns accompanied a pregnant teen to the delivery room and held her hand while her baby was born; she then followed up and got the young mother connected with the appropriate social services, mentored her, and got her back into school where she is now doing well. Other interns have helped students discover that college is a realistic option for them.

Dorman's commitment and dedication have earned her several awards: the Andre Agassi "Kind Heart Award" in 1996; the National Association of Social Workers Award in 1999; School Social Worker of the Year for Nevada and Practitioner of the Year for the UNLV School of Social Work in 2000; and the Clark County School District's Excellence in Education Award.

But she doesn't do it for the awards. "My experience in social work is probably the most rewarding thing that has ever happened to me," she says. "It has given me an appreciation of life."

### JIM PERDUE

Jim Perdue knew that he wanted to make a difference in people's lives even before he graduated from UNLV in 1986.

"I wanted to go into a field where I could have some kind of impact, where I could try to influence the system," he says of his decision to become a criminal justice major and to pursue a career in law enforcement.

After graduation, Perdue took a job with the Nevada parole and probation department. Three years later he moved to the federal parole and probation office where he is now a senior probation officer with a caseload of 55 offenders. Those offenders have been convicted of a wide range of

federal offenses from murder to bank robbery to driving under the influence in a national park.

It is Perdue's job to follow the progress of the offenders assigned to him, to guide their efforts at leading crime-free lives, and, in some cases, to turn them in for violating the terms of their parole or probation.

While Perdue acknowledges that he must face the unpleasant task of recommending that some offenders be incarcerated, he is gratified that he has been able to help keep many others out of jail. His work to develop several innovative ways of improving certain aspects of the probation and parole system has helped in that effort.

For instance, while working for the federal government, Perdue has created a program that helps keep offenders out of jail by assigning them to community service. The distinguishing feature of Perdue's program is that the offenders are supervised by the parole and probation officers.

"Previously, offenders had been supervised by independent contractors hired by the government," Perdue says. "Supervising the program ourselves gives us more control over what the offenders are doing in the community and over which community-service projects are selected. Also, we have first-hand knowledge that we can report back to the judges, which makes them more satisfied with the program." He adds that the support of the federal judges has been critical to the success of the program.

He has also encouraged greater use of laptop computers by parole and probation officers; that has allowed them to spend more time in the field instead of at their desks.

"That gets us more in touch with the

community," he says, adding that being out in the field helps the officers identify more appropriate community-service projects, such as the gardening done at the Helen J. Stewart School for special children or collecting trash at Sunset or Lorenzi parks.

Perdue's next goal is to establish a network through which nonprofit agencies

in need of community service workers can gain better access to the program.

Perdue finds it gratifying that his program helps both agencies within the community and the offenders.

"Some people are thankful for the break of being able to perform community service rather than going to jail or prison," he says.

But Perdue has had to take a tougher approach with certain offenders, and that often means jail time for them.

"It's difficult but necessary when you investigate an

offender who is not ready to change - when you catch him in an illegal act - and have to take him out of the community," Perdue says. "But I get calls from offenders who thank me later for being firm, for getting them off drugs and off the streets, and changing their lives."

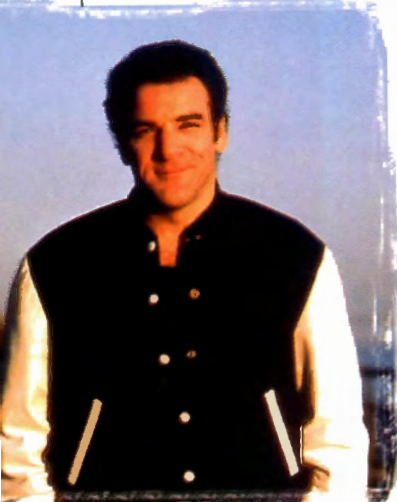
Perdue's long hours and thoroughness as a probation officer have resulted in his receiving several awards. In 1999 he went to Washington, D.C., to receive the U.S. Attorney General's National Crime Victims Fund Award directly from then-Attorney General Janet Reno. He has also received three federal special service awards for his work "above and beyond the normal call of duty" in the Nevada district.

The job, which requires him to be on call 24 hours a day, is demanding, but Perdue, who received his master's degree in criminal justice in May, says he loves it.

"The most rewarding thing is when you help someone succeed in turning his life around. That's what makes my job worth doing."



As a federal probation officer, alumnus Jim Perdue follows the progress of the offenders assigned to him and guides their efforts at leading crime-free lives.



Mandy Patinkin  
January 6



## CLASS NOTES

### 1970s

**Roseline "Eve" Pouinard**, '77 BA Social Work, has worked 24 years with the Clark County Department of Family and Youth Services as a probation officer. In 1999, she was selected as the probation officer of the year in Nevada. She is also a motivational speaker and a consultant....

**Ann Dreschler**, '78 BS Business Administration, has been promoted to senior vice president with Silver State Schools Family Credit Union. She earned her MBA from UNR in 1985 and graduated from the Pacific Coast Banking School of the University of Seattle in 1994. She lives in Henderson....**Evelyn M. Cook**, '79 BA Communication Studies, has been named executive director of Heidrick Ag History Center, an agricultural museum in Woodland, Calif., featuring antique tractors, farm machinery, and trucks. She lives in Sacramento....**Frank Delayne Larsen**, '79 BS Marketing, works at Cashman Equipment as a sales representative for Caterpillar. He spent 21 years as a customer service agent for Delta Airlines and has also worked for Motorola Communications....

### 1980s

**Jan C. Lewellyn**, '81 BA Political Science and Criminal Justice, '97 MA Communication Studies, moved to San Diego last year and works as the firm administrator for the CPA firm of Jassoy,



Jan Lewellyn, '81, '97

Graff & Douglas in La Jolla. While living in Las Vegas, she lobbied for state legislation on health care and court administration issues and was also a supporter of the arts....**Albert Young**, '83 BA Criminal Justice, owns and operates Al's Tin Shop, a sheet metal fabrication and repair business. He was a sergeant with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department until his retirement in 1999. He had worked for Metro for 24 years....

**Carol Corbett**, '85 BS Business Administration, is a contract archival consultant and historical researcher for libraries, museums, historical societies, universities, and governmental agencies through her company, Great Basin Research. The Nevada State Library and Archives recently honored her for her contributions to the state's archives and records programs, adding her portrait to the Heritage Hall of Fame in the State Archives Research Room. She served on the State Historical Records Advisory Board from 1983 until 1996. Before starting her own company, she worked for Clark County as a systems analyst and as assistant county recorder....**Philip Altschuler**, '87 BS Hotel Administration, is vice president of human resources for Federal Realty Investment Trust. He is responsible for all human resources and organizational development activities, including recruiting, training, development, compensation, performance measurement, employee relations, and benefits administration. Before



Carol Corbett, '85

joining the trust in 2000, he had worked as senior manager of strategic staffing for Host Marriott Services Corp., as regional director of human resources for Host Marriott Corp., and as corporate director of human resources for Feld Entertainment Inc. At Feld, his work involved the company's live shows such as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey, as well as Disney on Ice....**William M. Paladino**, '87 BS Hotel Administration, became the general manager of the Meridien Hotel on Geneva Lake in Wisconsin in July 2000. Previously, he worked as director of sales at the Wyndham in Oak Brook, Ill. He lives in Delavan....

**Maurice "Nick" Rissman**, '87 Master of Music, earned a doctor of musical arts degree from Temple University in 1995. He is now an assistant professor of music theory and composition at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. In 1998, he received the artist fellowship award from the Nevada Arts Council....

**Gloria King**, '88 BA English, is a poet. Among the publications in which her work has appeared are the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Interim*, and *Pegasus*. She has also authored a book of love poetry titled *Eden Revisited*....

### 1990s

**Dana Cotham**, '91 BS Business Administration, received her law degree from UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law in May. She was a member of the law school's inaugural class. Previously, she was employed in the human resources field for various local governmental agencies in Southern

Nevada....**Angela M. Kolar Braun**, '91 BA Political Science, received an MBA from Pepperdine University in 2000. In October of that year she married Eric Braun. Currently, she is a portfolio manager for Wells Fargo in Newport Beach, Calif....**Karen Stephenson**, '91 BS Business Administration, is a partner in Fair Anderson & Langerman, the largest female majority-owned CPA firm in Nevada. A CPA, she joined the firm in 1994. In 1998, she became the audit and accounting manager; she became a partner in January of this year. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Nevada Society of CPA's. One of the challenges she has faced in recent years is that her husband, Greg, who has muscular dystrophy, received a heart transplant in 1996. The couple has a 2-year-old son, Trevor....



Karen Stephenson, '91

**Jason Cleary**, '94 BS Business Administration, received an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 2000 and moved to Texas to work for Texas Instruments. He is a market analyst. His wife, **Heidi Grimm Cleary**, '94 BS Business Administration, is a financial analyst for Texas Instruments. They live in Dallas....**Scott Gulbransen**, '95 BA Communication Studies, is the manager of corporate communications for Intuit's TurboTax division in San Diego. His book, *The Broken Election*, was published in April. Previously, he worked at UNLV as a media relations assistant for the athletic department. He lives in Carlsbad....

**Tim Colbert**, '96 BS Marketing, has been promoted to



Tim Colbert, '96

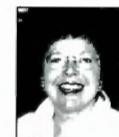
regional controller for Del Webb's Nevada Operations. He oversees the daily operations of the accounting department and is involved in financial forecasting. Previously, he was with Del Webb's audit firm, KPMG. He began his career with Del Webb in 1988 as accounting supervisor for Sun Cities Las Vegas and later served as assistant controller and assistant regional controller. He is a CPA....**Eric D. James**, '96 BA Economics, is the owner of a State Farm Insurance agency. He has served as an agent representative and a licensed agent for State Farm, a medical underwriter for FHP/Pacific Care, a credit manager and loan officer for Norwest Financial Group, and an office manager and medical underwriting coordinator for Advanced Diagnostic Imaging.

He is also a medical specialist/medic for the U.S. Army Nevada National Guard. In addition to his bachelor's degree, he has an associate's degree in fire science....**Mark A. McKinney**, '96 BA Communication Studies, is the assistant director for social equity and diversity at Millersville University in Pennsylvania.



Mark A. McKinney, '96

In his job he plans and manages budgetary expenditures, investigates discrimination complaints, and assists in the implementation of the campus climate survey and diversity master plan. Previously, he was a member of the Nevada Highway Patrol and served as a personnel administration supervisor with the U.S. Army. He has master's degrees in public administration and in acquisitions and procurement management from Webster University. He lives in York....**Kim J. Tun**, '96 BS Hotel Administration, is a public relations/special events specialist with Media Access Group, an advertising agency that is based in Reno. Her responsibilities include public relations and special events planning for the agency's gaming accounts in Oregon, California, and New Mexico. Previously, she worked as a special events and promotions associate at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. She also worked for Carson-Tahoe Harley-Davidson, L. Lance Gilman Commercial Real Estate, and R&R Advertising....**Pauline Bukantz**, '97 MA Communication Studies, is employed as a lifeline coordinator for HELP of Southern Nevada. She also serves as a volunteer for the agency....



Pauline Bukantz, '97

**Kim Arth**, '99 BA Anthropology, is a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger, West Africa, and works in agriculture/food security.

### DEATHS

**Milton Dupalo**, '79 BS Business Administration, died Dec. 27, 2000. He spent 22 years as a U.S. Army ranger, serving in combat during the Korean conflict and the war in Vietnam. He retired with the rank of sergeant major. After earning his degree at UNLV, he began a second career in the hotel industry, working his way up to the position of assistant general manager of the Holiday Inn. Among his survivors are his sons, Michael Dupalo and Martin Dean Dupalo, '92 BA Political Science, '93 BA Communication Studies.

As you can see, we have changed our format to accommodate more Class Notes submissions. We are committed to getting your Class Notes information out as soon as possible, so keep those cards and letters coming!

## We'd like to hear from you!

We would like to invite all UNLV alumni to submit information about themselves to *UNLV Magazine* for inclusion in the Class Notes section. Please fill out the form below completely, type or print clearly, and avoid abbreviations. Also, please supply home and office telephone numbers so we can reach you if there is a question about your entry. We encourage you to submit a head-and-shoulders photograph of yourself to accompany your Class Notes entry.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science)  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Numbers: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Career or Personal Information \_\_\_\_\_

Entries should be mailed to: Diane Russell, UNLV News and Public Information, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 451012, Las Vegas, NV 89154-1012



## New Degree Programs

*continued from page 3*

The program seeks to prepare students for university-level faculty positions in teacher education, helping them to connect the theory and research related to teaching and learning to the practice of teaching in schools and universities.

The new Ph.D. program in educational leadership will emphasize the areas of higher education administration and post-secondary education.

It differs from the doctoral program in educational leadership already offered by the university in that the existing program is tailored to meet the needs of practitioners while the new program is designed for those persons interested in research-based careers.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to assume leadership positions not only at universities and community colleges, but also in the private sector and in government agencies.

The new master's degree in biochemistry will offer students the opportunity to study the chemical composition of living things, focusing on the complex chemical combinations and reactions involved in metabolism, reproduction, growth, and heredity.

The rigorous, two-year program will prepare graduates to pursue a number of options, including working for biotechnical or pharmaceutical firms, studying for a doctoral degree in biochemistry, or attending medical school.

A new bachelor's degree program designed to prepare students to work in a variety of social service settings, including family counseling centers and alcohol

rehabilitation facilities, is also being offered.

The bachelor of science degree in human services counseling is available through the counseling department in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs.

This degree will equip students for jobs in counseling centers, half-way houses, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers, mental health clinics, geriatric care facilities, child treatment centers, and other facilities with a social service mission. Minors in addictions prevention, addictions treatment, human services counseling, and family studies will be offered as part of the program.

Students who successfully complete one of the addictions minors will be eligible to apply for state certification as addictions counselors if they also complete a mandated number of hours of supervised experience. Completion of a two-semester internship in a community agency will be required of all human services counseling majors. ☞

## More Than an Academic Concern

*continued from page 17*

that cancer and heart disease top the list. But the leading causes of death among the homeless are quite different. These people die from poisoning, injuries, and diseases that result from being exposed to the elements," Allen says. "Add to that the list of health concerns that affect women – breast cancer, menopause, osteoporosis – and you see that we don't have a lot of information about this group of people in general and about older women specifically."

As if these two studies weren't enough to keep Markos and Allen busy, they have undertaken a third project. This project also focuses on homeless women but is concerned with the medical and psychiatric functioning of these women across the life span. The professors plan to evaluate 300 homeless women of varying ages to see if they can find differences among the age groups.

"We're optimistic that this information will help us determine when and how to

intervene so that we can prevent future illness and continued homelessness," Markos says.

Markos and Allen admit that the last year has been exhausting, what with building a clinic, collecting data on three separate research projects, and continuing to teach classes at UNLV. During that time they also faced the added stress of worrying about a funding controversy that nearly resulted in the village having to close its doors.

"We were roughly a year into our research when the city of Las Vegas and the MASH Village entered some turbulent negotiations over funding," says Allen, adding that for a few weeks the two professors wondered what would become of all of their work. But they are pleased to report that the funding problem has been resolved, the village and clinic are still operating, and their research is continuing.

Despite all of the stress and the work, both Markos and Allen feel they are the lucky ones in the whole project – lucky to have been involved in a project that has offered them such rewarding experiences and has contributed so much to those in need.

Markos calls her participation in the

program the perfect marriage between two loves: research and service to the community.

Allen agrees.

"There is this sense that we are making a difference. And that's really the reason that Pat and I are working so hard out there." ☞

## Alumni Board Officers

*continued from page 6*

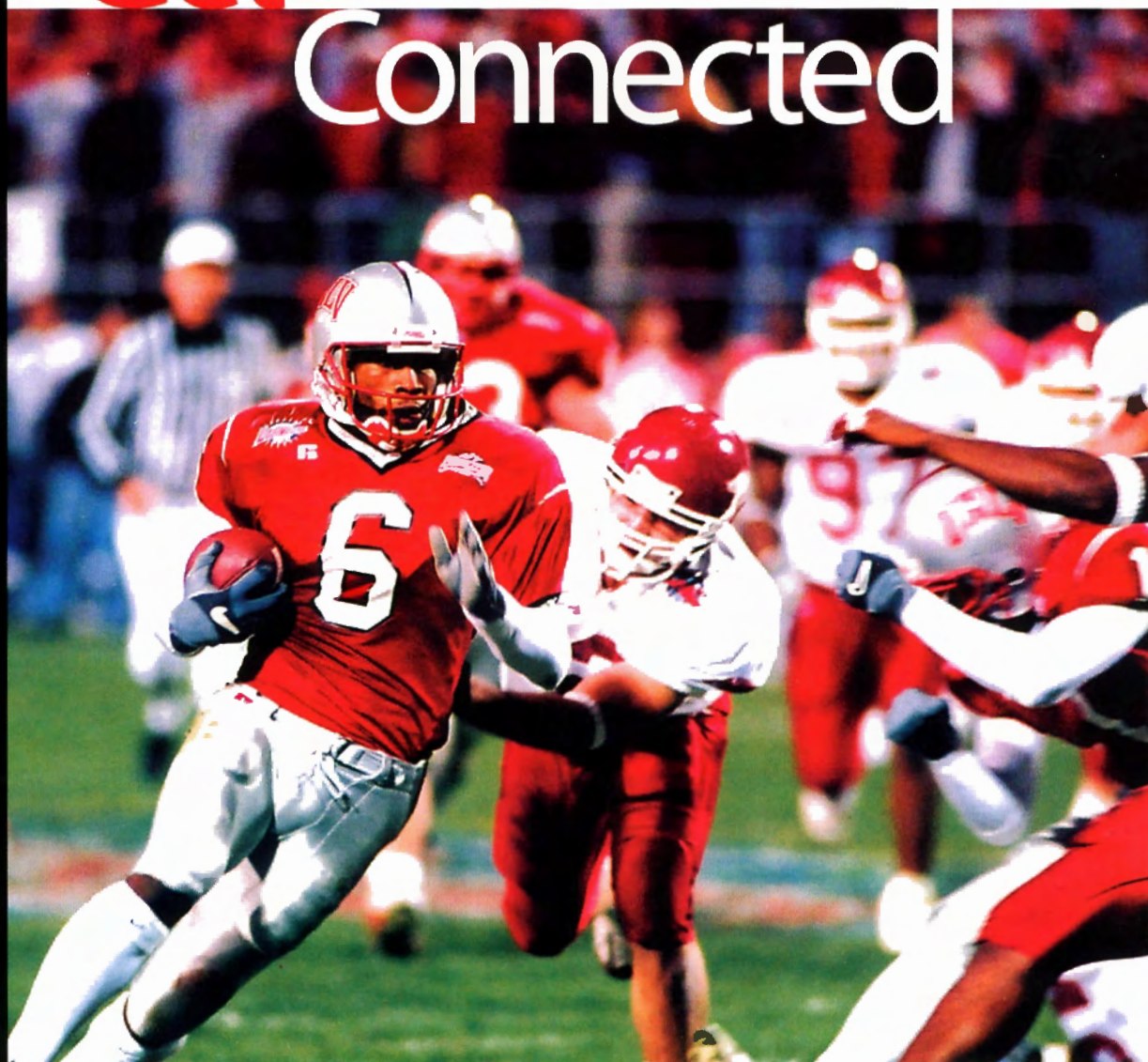
– **James J. Ratigan**, '78 BS Business Administration, is the managing partner of RCR & Associates.

– **Barry Shinehouse**, '69 BS Business Administration, '70 MBA, is self-employed as an attorney and a certified public accountant.

– **Dianne M. Weeks**, '95 BS Marketing, '97 MBA, is a business development officer with Wells Fargo Bank. She previously worked as a business development manager with IBEW Plus Credit Union.



# Get Connected



## UNLV Homecoming '01

**Friday, October 12**

### **HOMECOMING DINNER**

5pm, Richard Tam Alumni Center.  
Featuring football coach John Robinson as guest speaker. Limited seating. Call now!  
Active members - \$15 Non-active members - \$25

**Saturday, October 13**

### **TAILGATE**

4pm (three hours before kickoff), Rebel Experience

### **UNLV vs. SDSU GAME**

**Monday, October 15**

### **GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Canyon Gate Country Club  
Noon, shotgun start



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS,  
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