

Fall 1997

UNLV Magazine

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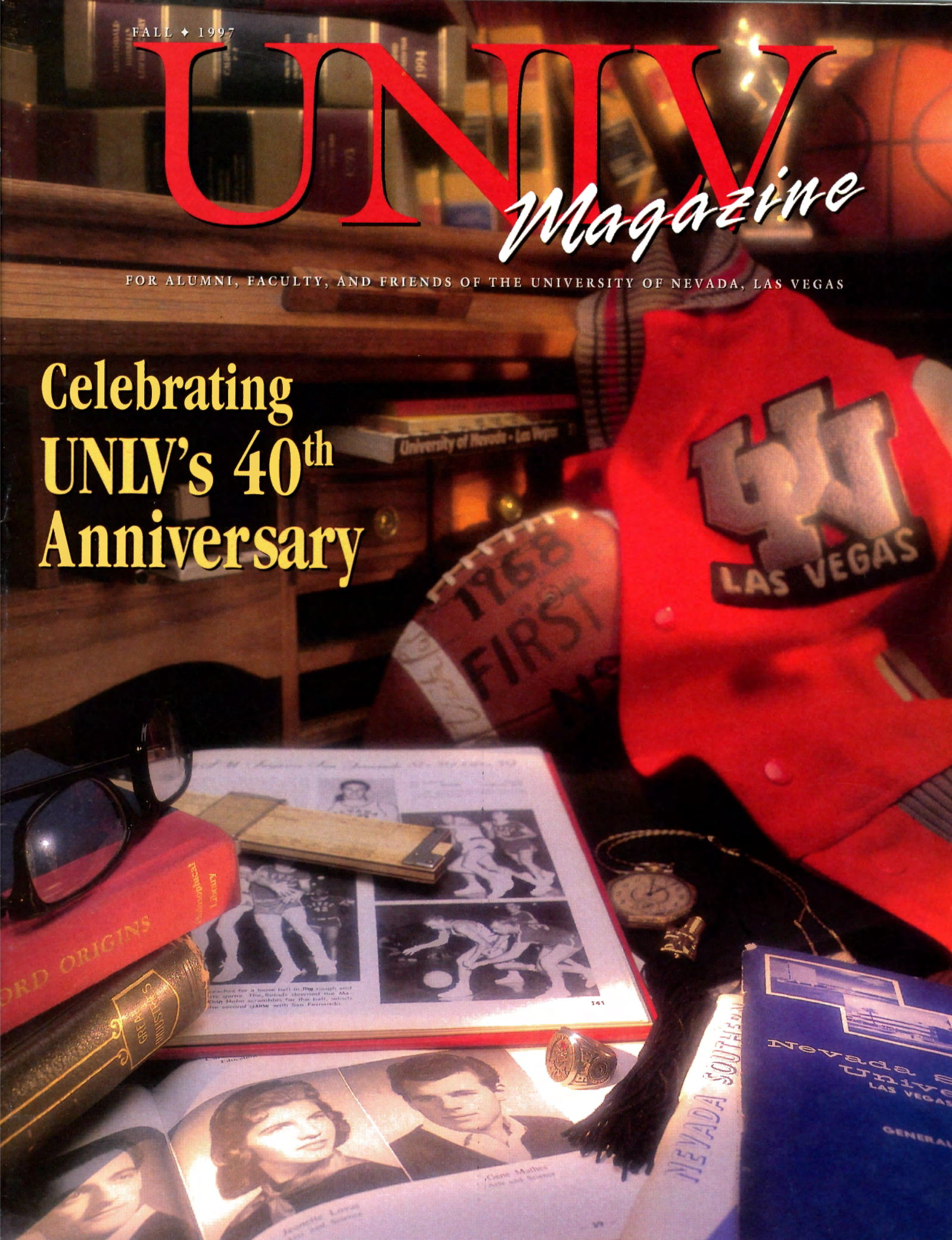
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FALL ♦ 1997

UNLV Magazine

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

Celebrating
UNLV's 40th
Anniversary



Homecoming '97

UNLV Alumni Association

You're Invited!

Homecoming schedule of events

Wednesday, September 24, 1997

Homecoming Golf Tournament, Desert Pines Golf Course.

1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

\$125.00 per person

Thursday, September 25, 1997

12:00 p.m. Quarterback Club Luncheon, Richard Tam Alumni Center

Friday, September 26, 1997

6:30 p.m. Cocktails, Richard Tam Alumni Center Courtyard

7:00 p.m. Dinner, served outdoors in the Academic Mall

7:45 p.m. Entertainment, Alumni awards presentation

8:00 p.m. Closing remarks

\$15 in advance/\$20 at door/Tables \$150 each

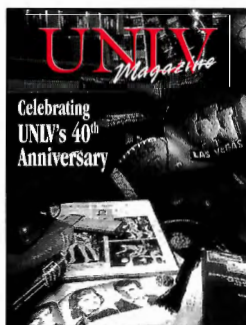
Saturday, September 27, 1997

5:30 p.m. Great tailgate party, Rebel Experience, Sam Boyd Stadium

(Free to all UNLV Alumni Association dues paying Alumni. \$6 each for others.)



Celebrating UNLV's 40th Anniversary



on the cover:

UNLV memorabilia provided courtesy of the James R. Dickinson Library, the Athletic Department, Wayne Cleveland, Walter Vodrazka, Carl Cook, Kari Coburn, and Bill Ireland. Photo by Studio West.

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UNLV Magazine

Vol. 6, No. 1

Fall 1997

40th Anniversary Feature

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The Start of Something Big

Early UNLV faculty recall the pleasures of arriving on campus at a time when the good news was that there was plenty of free parking. Of course, the bad news was that a rattlesnake could be waiting under your desk.

BY BARBARA CLOUD



40th Anniversary Feature

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Oh, The Things We Did

Some of them may have been wacky. Some may have been short-lived. Others might have actually changed the course of the university's destiny. But the UNLV events of the last 40 years that have come to be known as "our traditions" are uniquely our own, reflecting both the times in which they occurred and the character of the institution.

BY LAURIE FRUTH



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Hangin' at the General Store ... And Listening Closely

For 11 years, linguist Guy Bailey has been studying the dialect of the residents of a small town in Texas in search of the origins of African-American Vernacular English. What he finds may shed some light on a controversy that could affect how millions of children learn language skills in our schools.

BY DIANE RUSSELL



2-5 News
 22-24 Calendar
 26-27 Class Notes

New Deans Appointed to Lead Six University Colleges

New deans have been appointed to lead the Colleges of Fine Arts, Health Sciences, Business, Education, and Sciences, and the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. Their names were forwarded to UNLV President Carol C. Harter by Provost Douglas Ferraro following national searches.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Jeffrey Koep, who served as interim dean of the college for two years, has been selected as dean of UNLV's College of Fine Arts.

He first came to UNLV as chair of the theatre arts department in 1989 — a position he held until being appointed interim dean.

Koep currently serves as co-director of the SAG Conservatory in Las Vegas, director of the National Senior Adult Theatre Institute, national vice-chair and chair-elect of the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival, and chair of the board of directors of the Society of American Fight Directors.

He has directed more than 100 plays during his career and has acted in a wide variety of stage productions. He has also appeared in movies and commercials.

Koep has won numerous awards, including two John F. Kennedy Center Gold Medallions presented for contributions to excellence in theatre in 1989 and 1992. Koep is one of only nine persons in the United States to receive more than one of the Kennedy Center medallions.

Before coming to UNLV, he served as chair and associate professor of communication arts at Indiana University at South Bend.



Jeffrey Koep

COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Carolyn Sabo, interim dean of UNLV's College of Health Sciences since July 1995, has been selected as dean of that college.

Sabo, who came to UNLV as an assistant professor in the department of nursing in 1984 and was promoted to associate professor in 1990, also served as acting chair of the department of radiological sciences and acting director of the department of physical therapy.

She has served as coordinator of the graduate nursing program at UNLV, assistant professor of nursing at the University of Utah's College of Nursing, staff nurse and head nurse at the University Medical Center in Salt Lake City, and staff nurse at Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake City.



Carolyn Sabo

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Elvin C. Lashbrooke, the former associate dean of the Eli Broad College of Business at Michigan State University, has been appointed dean of UNLV's College of Business.

Lashbrooke, who had served as associate dean at Michigan State since 1993, had also previously chaired the university's department of general business and business law for 11 years.

He has taught law and business courses at Michigan State, Cambridge University, Notre Dame Law School, Stetson University College of Law, and DePaul University College of Law.

He taught mathematics at St. Edward's University and served as a mathematician and analyst for the

Elvin Lashbrooke



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Seniors Win NCAA Tennis Championships

Two UNLV seniors, Luke Smith and Tim Blenkiron, brought home two NCAA tennis championships last spring.

Smith, who won the men's NCAA singles competition, joined with Blenkiron to take the doubles championship as well. Smith's victory marks the first singles title for UNLV, and it was only the second time in 20 years of NCAA championships that the same player claimed the singles and doubles titles in the same year.

An art major from Clarendon,

Australia, Smith was not seeded in the singles tournament; he was ranked 65th when he entered. He then went on to win without losing a set.

Blenkiron, a hotel administration major from Woodside, Australia, had never before participated in an NCAA tournament. The doubles team, which was ranked 19th and was also unseeded, lost only two sets in the NCAA competition.

With the victories, both Smith and Blenkiron earned automatic berths to this year's main draw of the U.S. Open. ☐



Regents Approve Four New UNLV Degree Programs

Four new UNLV degree programs — a master of science and a Ph.D. in environmental sciences, a master of fine arts in creative writing, and a bachelor of science in culinary arts management — have been approved by the Board of Regents.

The new graduate programs in environmental sciences, which are now being offered, are interdisciplinary programs involving faculty from 11 different UNLV departments, the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, and the Desert Research Institute.

The degree programs emphasize the need to understand the consequences of using science and technology in the service of civilization.



Initially, students will be able to specialize in one of three tracks:

environmental chemistry, environmental policy and management, and environmental geology. Additional tracks are anticipated in such fields as environmental health and environmental law.

The new master of fine arts in creative writing, which is also currently underway, is a unique creative writing program with an international emphasis.

Students are required to spend one semester during their three years of study in a non-English-speaking country and also are required to complete one significant literary translation. Additionally, foreign novelists, short-story writers, and poets will be

brought in to teach each semester.

The program is small; only 12 students per year will be admitted. Two tracks are available to students — one in fiction and one in poetry.

The bachelor of science in culinary arts management will provide educational opportunities for the student planning to pursue a career as a chef/manager. The program, which will begin in fall 1998, will accommodate transfer students from two-year culinary arts programs, such as the one at the Community College of Southern Nevada.

To be administered by the food and beverage management department and the dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration, the program is designed to be a joint effort with CCSN. ☐

UNLV 40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

The following events are being held as part of UNLV's 40th Anniversary celebration. All of the events are open to the public.



SEPTEMBER-FEBRUARY

EXHIBIT: History of UNLV financial aid. Weekdays, 8am-5pm. Student Financial Services Lobby, Student Services Complex 232. 895-4112.

SEPTEMBER-MAY

EXHIBIT: Prominent business and community leaders who received financial aid. Weekdays, 8am-5pm. Student Financial Services Lobby, Student Services Complex 232. 895-4112.

OCTOBER

16 GROUND BREAKING: Stan Fulton Building for UNLV's International Gaming Institute. 9:30am. Southeast corner of Swenson & Flamingo. 895-1795 or 895-3641.

17-31 EXHIBIT: Pictorial history of UNLV student housing. Weekdays, 9am-3:30pm. Hazel M. Wilson Dining Commons. 895-3489.

ONGOING EXHIBIT:

Faculty showcase highlighting College of Education faculty. Weekdays, 8am-5pm. Carlson Education Building 301. 895-4329 or 895-1102.

AUGUST

27 PREMIER UNLV: Fall Welcome Program & 40th Anniversary Celebration Kickoff. 7:30-8:30pm. Lawn area north of softball field. 895-3221 or 895-3621.

SEPTEMBER

11 COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS OPEN HOUSE & RETROSPECTIVE: 40 Years of Success. 2-4pm. Flora Dungan Humanities Building 240. 895-4311.

18 COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OPEN HOUSE: Award presentations and donation of books to Paradise Professional Development School. 9am-2:15pm. Carlson Education Building 301. 895-4329 or 895-1102.

27 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME: Anniversary festivities throughout the evening. UNLV vs. Illinois State. 7:05pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3781 or 895-3221.

For information about additional events, call 895-3621. And look for our 40th Anniversary web page at www.unlv.edu.

Professor Thomas Wright Receives Outstanding Faculty Award

The UNLV Alumni Association recently selected history professor Thomas Wright as its 1997 recipient of the Outstanding Faculty Award.

Wright, who is known for his expertise in Latin American history, has been a member of the UNLV history department faculty since 1972.

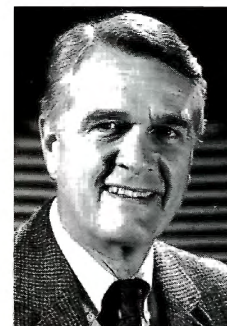
He served as chairman of the history department from 1978 to 1981 and as dean of the College of Arts and Letters from 1983 to 1989.

The author of more than a dozen scholarly articles, Wright has written four books, all on the subject of Latin

America. He has traveled extensively in support of his research; most recently, he served as a visiting professor in Costa Rica and Chile through the University Studies Abroad Consortium.

Wright served as editor of *Halcyon: A Journal of the Humanities* from 1991 to 1995.

He received the Governor's Arts Award in 1986 and the Humanities Award from the Nevada



Thomas Wright

Humanities Committee in 1996.

Wright holds a doctorate and master's degree in history from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in history from Pomona College.

His father, John S. Wright, for whom Wright Hall is named, was the first recipient of the Alumni Association's Outstanding Faculty Award in 1975.

Thomas Wright is the 24th recipient of the award. ■

New Deans

continued from page 2

National Security Agency. He also had a private law practice in Austin, Texas.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

John E. Readence has been named dean of UNLV's College of Education.

Readence, a member of the education faculty at UNLV since 1993, replaced former Dean Dale Andersen in May 1996 to serve for one year while a search was conducted to fill the position permanently.

Previously, Readence served as associate dean for academic affairs and graduate studies in the College of Education at Louisiana State University; coordinator for advanced graduate studies in UNLV's department of instructional and curricular studies; chair of the language and literacy interest group at UNLV; and head of the



John Readence

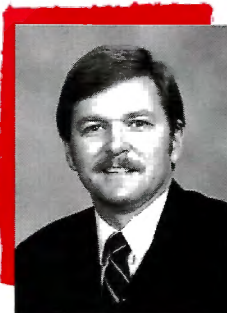
department of pedagogical studies at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, among other administrative positions.

Readence has served as editor of a number of professional journals on reading education and is currently editor of *Reading Research Quarterly*.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Raymond W. Alden III, the former director of the Applied Marine Research Laboratory at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va., has been appointed UNLV's new dean of the College of Sciences.

Alden had directed the Applied Marine Research Laboratory since 1982 and served as professor of biological sciences at Old Dominion since 1988. Previously, he served as associate professor of biological sciences; he held a joint appointment as assistant professor in Old Dominion in the department of biological sciences and assistant professor in Old Dominion's Institute of Oceanography.



Raymond Alden III

GREENSPUN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS

Martha S. Watson, the former associate dean of the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of Maryland, has been named the first permanent dean of UNLV's Greenspun College of Urban Affairs.

Watson, who served as associate dean at the University of Maryland for five years, also served as acting chair of the department of speech communication there.

She was also graduate director of Auburn University in Alabama from 1987 to 1989 and director of the basic course at Auburn from 1977 to 1981. She has taught English, secondary education, and speech at the universities of Maryland and Kansas, Auburn, and Stephen F. Austin State University (Texas).

She served as editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Speech* from 1990 to 1992. ■



Martha Watson

Bigelow Chair of Consciousness Studies Established

A \$3.7 million gift from Robert T. and Diane Bigelow will fund a new academic position in the College of Sciences at UNLV.

The Bigelow Chair of Consciousness Studies will be filled initially on an annual basis by distinguished visiting science scholars. The first appointee is Charles Tart, a former professor of psychology at the Institute for Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, Calif.

"The students and faculty at UNLV

are extremely fortunate that concerned citizens like Robert and Diane Bigelow take an active interest in the sciences and provide funds to bring the finest quality scholars here to teach," said UNLV Provost Douglas Ferraro.

The new donation is a continuation of Bigelow family gifts in support of the Colleges of Sciences and Health Sciences at UNLV.

"We are very interested in seeing the disciplines of physics, biology, and

chemistry — empirical scientific investigations into the natural laws of the universe — applied to the study of consciousness," explained Robert Bigelow, president of Bigelow Holding Company. "There is a lot of important research by clinical biochemists, neurobiologists, and others who are trying to understand consciousness. Our goal is simply to help scientists unravel some of the mysteries of consciousness and ultimately benefit mankind." ■

Lied Athletic Complex Receives \$500,000 Donation

The state-of-the-art, 328-seat auditorium in UNLV's new Lied Athletic Complex has been officially named in honor of Barron Hilton, recognizing a \$500,000 gift to UNLV for the athletic complex from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

"Future student-athletes will be inspired by the tradition of excellence that is represented by the Hilton name," UNLV President Carol C. Harter said. "This is much more than an auditorium — it is a place of learning that was specifically designed to fill multiple roles

for study, classrooms, and meetings. We are deeply indebted to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for underwriting the cost of this outstanding facility for our dedicated student-athletes."

The 65,000-square-foot, \$8.5 million Lied Athletic Complex opened in August last year and was built entirely with private funds initiated by a \$4 million challenge gift from the Lied Foundation Trust. The gift from the Conrad N. Hilton Founda-

tion brings the total number of major donors to 15.

The Barron Hilton Auditorium is the largest facility of its kind on campus and serves a multitude of purposes. The area is used for study hall and tutoring during the day. During training hours, teams can reserve space for meetings. Large-group activities, such as NCAA

orientations, can be conducted for all UNLV athletes and staff at one time. ■



New Academic, Administrative Directors Appointed

Four new directors have been appointed at UNLV.

■ Leroy Pelton of Salem State College in Massachusetts has been hired to direct UNLV's School of Social Work. Before coming to UNLV, Pelton was both a professor in the School of Social Work at Salem State and executive director of the Center for Applied Research and Development in the college's School of Human Services. Previously, he served as chair of the children and family services concentration in the master of social work program at Salem State.

■ Harvey Wallmann, the former director of physical therapy at Strength

Training, Inc. in Phoenix, has been named director of UNLV's physical therapy program. A former instructor of physical therapy at Purdue University, he is a licensed physical therapist and holds certification as a strength and conditioning specialist and athletic trainer. Wallmann's appointment signals the start-up of the long-anticipated physical therapy program in the College of Health Sciences.

■ Lynnette Boggs McDonald, a former assistant city manager for the city of Las Vegas, has been hired as UNLV's director of marketing and community relations. McDonald will be responsible for establishing a marketing plan for the

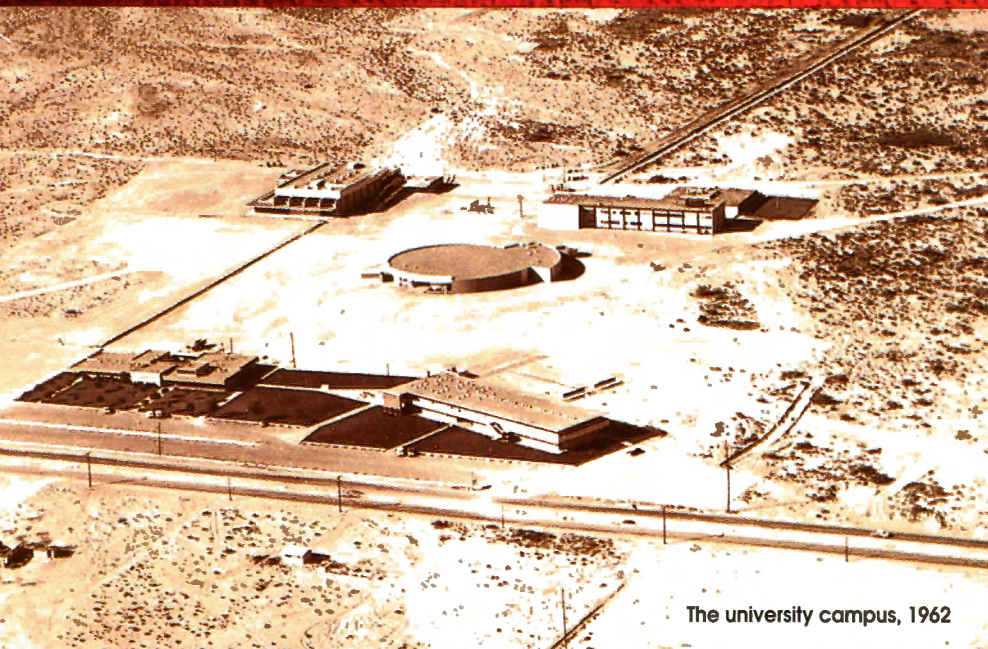
university. She had served as assistant city manager for the city of Las Vegas since January 1994, and, prior to that, she was director of marketing for the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

■ Ann Casados-Mueller, formerly the Desert Research Institute's director of recruitment and workplace diversity, has been hired as UNLV's director of diversity initiatives. She will be responsible for planning, developing, and administering effective diversity programs for students, faculty, and staff. Casados-Mueller, who worked at DRJ for six years, served as the director of equal employment opportunity for the state of Nevada from 1989 to 1991. ■

The Start of SOMETHING

Early UNLV faculty recall the pleasures of arriving on campus at a time when the good

news was that there was plenty of free parking. Of course, the bad news was that a rattlesnake could be waiting under your desk. The times and the nature of the anecdotes might have changed over the course of four decades, but the fond recollections of UNLV faculty haven't faded.



The university campus, 1962

by Barbara Cloud

EXCITEMENT. ADVENTURE. Opportunity. Words you would find on a recruitment poster for the Marines, right? Or maybe a brochure for the Peace Corps?

Surprisingly enough, they're just a few of the enthusiastic terms used by four decades of faculty to describe why they came to UNLV.

Whether they arrived at the dusty Maryland Parkway campus in the 1950s or in the mid-1990s when the dust had given way to green campus malls rimmed with tall trees and modern buildings, most faculty members recall vividly what brought them to UNLV.

Many came to accept their first teaching jobs, attracted to an institution at which an enterprising spirit was needed

to get things started. Later arrivals found a more established but still growing campus. One thing they all seemed to share was the desire to contribute to the progress of a young campus clearly on its way up. And, they all have great stories to tell.

One of the earliest arrivals was Herbert Wells, who retired last spring after teaching engineering at UNLV for 40 years.

BIG

Wells, who in 1957 was a process engineer at the Timet plant in Henderson, was asked to teach a surveying class at what was then the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada. Not long afterward, he joined the faculty full time.

In those days, in order to get a degree, students from the southern campus had to attend classes at UNR for at least one semester, and much of the administrative and curricular planning at the southern division had to be approved in Reno.

Wells remembers flying up north at least once a month with three other faculty members for University Council meetings, during which it would be determined if the southern campus could offer new courses or services to the growing population of the Las Vegas community.

"Reno would tell us what was good for us," Wells says, "and the vote was often 26-4 if the issue involved us." The thought that Northern Nevadans were dictating policy chafed the southerners, who were determined to achieve autonomy as speedily as possible.

At the same time, Wells says, the people in the fledgling engineering and science programs had good relationships

with their Reno counterparts. The northerners contributed extra copies of books for the library, as well as surplus equipment.

Wells tells of also getting help from his own students. Eight students enrolled in his first surveying class, and he had only one set of surveying instruments. However, one of the students, already a professional surveyor who thought he might be able to learn something new, brought his instruments to help out.

Wells also remembers registration the first year he taught. Part-time teachers were asked to attend in case students had any questions.

He and several colleagues were watching the registration line when one student in particular caught their attention: a red-headed woman wearing only her freckles, a small pink bikini, and pink high heels. She carried a pink purse and a poodle dyed the same color. Speculation was rife

among the observing instructors as to which classes she planned to take, says Wells, who at that point had not seen any of the more exotic sides of Las Vegas. All he knew was that she

didn't enroll in any of his classes.

By the time Wells joined the faculty, the southern division had outgrown its quarters in the basement of Las Vegas

High School. Maude Frazier Hall was built in 1957 and provided the structural heart and soul of the campus.

"Everything was done in Frazier Hall," Wells says. "We had all of the faculty in one room, except for the chemist and the biologist who each had a laboratory." The library was in what is now the Registrar's Office, the labs were in the area that houses the College of Extended Studies. Construction of the gymnasium — now the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History — and Archie Grant Hall soon followed.

James

Deacon, now a biological sciences professor and the chairman of the environmental studies department, also remembers the cozy quarters of the early days.

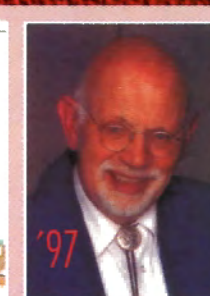
"The campus was certainly small," says Deacon, who joined the faculty in 1960. "But that didn't bother me at all. I was really excited about the beauty of the place and how different it was from the plains where I grew up."

However, the principal attraction for Deacon was not so much aesthetic as practical; accepting a teaching post at UNLV provided him an opportunity to do research on some hard-to-find subjects: desert fishes.

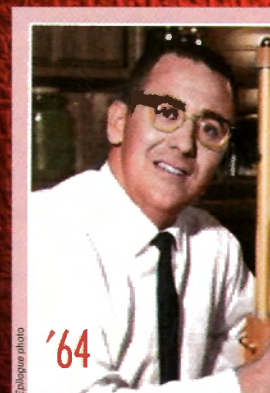
"When I started looking for a job, one of the things that was really attractive about this place was that it was in the desert, near some of these creatures. And there hadn't been much work done on them. There wasn't an ichthyologist within 450 miles. It was a whole new, vacant area of the globe full of interesting creatures," says Deacon, who came to



'62



Engineering professor Herb Wells retired from UNLV last spring.



'64



'97

Biological sciences professor James Deacon is now chairman of UNLV's environmental studies department.

UNLV directly from graduate school at the University of Kansas.

While research opportunities might have brought him to UNLV, it was the students who kept him here. Deacon became immediately committed to his students; for him, what has become a modern buzzword in academe — “student centeredness” —

was a matter of course. He has always involved students in his research projects and has taken every chance to get his students out of the classroom and into the wilds to apply what they’ve learned.

He remembers, for example, two summers of classes in Clark Canyon in the Spring Mountains, where students collected and studied animal specimens.

“All the time we spent in the field contributed to a high level of student involvement,” Deacon says. “You get a lot more interaction there than in the classroom. Learning becomes more personal; it becomes an opportunity to focus not only on the scientific ideas, but also to integrate them into the rest of your life.”

Like Wells, Deacon recalls having to be resourceful at gathering teaching supplies. He taught a class in comparative anatomy for pre-med students, and since he had relatively few laboratory materials, he suggested that students get more involved by collecting some of their own. As it happened, two students who worked for veterinarians decided to take advantage of raw materials from the vet to build a horse skeleton.

“The skeleton stayed around the lab for years,” Deacon says. “They even put a little paper heart inside.”

Animals were naturally a part of

Deacon’s discipline, but he ran into more than his fair share unexpectedly right on campus. Roadrunners frequently scurried about, he says, and there was a fox den about where the Juanita Greer White Life Sciences building stands now. And one of the first scientific articles from the new university was a report of a very rare spotted bat that had been found semi-mummified in

the gymnasium building.

Then there were the rattlesnakes. By the time Deacon arrived on campus, the library had been moved to Grant Hall, and Billie Mae Polson was the librarian. One day, Deacon received a phone call from Polson, who still serves the library, now as senior catalog librarian, requesting that he “please do something” about the snake under her desk. It didn’t faze Deacon or his students that the serpent was a rattler.

“We had started getting students involved in natural history projects, so we were collecting snakes and lizards and fish and mammals and all kinds of specimens all over Southern Nevada. So it was not a big deal to collect a rattlesnake from under Billie Mae’s desk. It turned out to be one of four we collected on campus that first year; it was a sidewinder, not really very big.”

The primitive setting that provided such a good laboratory for the biologists brought a stark dose of reality to another early faculty member.

English professor Felicia Campbell was fresh out of graduate school when she was interviewed by telephone for her teaching position on campus. She accepted the job sight unseen and flew to Las Vegas in time to start the fall 1962 semester.

“Jim Dickinson [James R. Dickinson, sent from Reno in 1951 to start evening classes in Las Vegas and for whom the library is named] picked me up,” she recalls. “I didn’t have a car; I didn’t know how to drive. I didn’t realize there were places where you *needed* to do that.”

Campbell spent her first Las Vegas night in a room across from the campus. “I thought I was going to walk across the street for breakfast, but there was nothing in any direction for at least three miles. When I came out of my room that first morning, Ann Fowler, a new sociology teacher, was standing on the street corner looking across at UNLV. We looked at each other, and she said, ‘My God, it’s a gas station.’ There was nothing but these old, flat buildings. So we went and got a bottle of Gallo.”

Yet, Campbell was undaunted. “I learned to drive and bought a car, those sorts of things. I was looking for excitement, adventure, something different, and I had found it,” she says, noting that the only other university she had applied to was in Ibadan, Nigeria. Hence, she acknowledges that she probably had a greater tolerance for the unexpected than the average English professor.

Still, she must have had some doubts about what she had gotten herself into that day during her first year on campus when she encountered a gun-toting stranger.

“I was teaching one day in Grant Hall, and this guy came in. He had a very large pistol, and he sat down in the back row, put the pistol down, and just sat there. I didn’t know what to do, so I kept on lecturing.” The pistol-bearer sat for about 15 minutes, then got up and left. “I’ll never know whether it was a close call or not,” she muses.

Campbell was impressed in quite a different way by another student. Bob Coffin, now a state senator, was enrolled in her American literature class.

“I remember this well — it was 1968 and I was pregnant with my daughter.

My students were making book on when I was going to disappear.” Coffin’s contribution to that memorable year was to make a personal telephone call to one of the authors he and his classmates were studying.

“We had just read Kurt Vonnegut’s *Cat’s Cradle* — this was before Vonnegut became really famous — and Bob called him up. Vonnegut was terribly flattered that somebody was using his book in a class, and he talked to Bob for quite a while.”

Campbell remembers the early days as a “tremendous amount of fun.” She relished being exposed to the interdisciplinary benefits of having most of the faculty in one building. And when faculty gathered for meetings for a time at the Tropicana Country Club, she enjoyed witnessing the comings and goings of such celebrities as Sammy Davis Jr.

“We had a lot of fun talking and dreaming about the university in those days,” she says, adding that she, too, has memories of those interminable airplane flights to and from Reno and of asking for permission to develop the southern campus.

Like Campbell and many other early university faculty, foreign languages professor Donald Schmiedel had not seen the campus before arriving to teach his first classes in 1965.

He and his wife were married in Ohio that August and considered the trek West both a honeymoon and an adventure.

“I thought I would spend a few years here and go on to someplace else. But it was an absolute adventure. You got the feeling you were building something, that you were in on the ground floor. Things were chaotic at times, but then things are always chaotic. We were never in a rut here because we always wanted to see if something new was going to happen.”

At the time of his arrival, the campus had just become Nevada Southern

University, and its first chancellor, Donald C. Moyer, had been appointed. But autonomy was still several years away.

Schmiedel, who currently organizes graduation ceremonies and has done so for the past decade, recalls the faculty’s keen frustration over UNR’s presence at Commencement. He points out that Nevada Southern wasn’t even allowed to lead its own procession at the time he arrived on campus.

“We were not allowed to have our own marshal,” Schmiedel says. “A fellow from Reno would bring a mace down and lead our procession.”

But other strides were being made. In 1965 the first floor of the round library building was occupied, as was what is now the Lilly Fong Geoscience building. The university’s first dormitory, Tonopah Hall, was under construction. There was even some grass around the library and Frazier Hall.

Schmiedel moved into the brand new Wright Hall, then called the Social Sciences Building, in 1965. The entire faculty of the foreign languages department, as well as the English department, were able to fit on the second floor. Schmiedel recalls that his office was on the south side of the building, looking out over an empty lot adjacent to Tonopah Hall.

“The space was sort of an informal parking lot — there were lots of informal parking lots in those days; if there was a driveway out to a road, that was where you parked.”

The informal parking lot was littered with nails left over from construction — a continual annoyance to Schmiedel. One

day, “tired of driving around through nails,” he collected a quart jar full of them and turned them over to the first dean of faculty, Jerry Crawford, now an emeritus professor of theatre. Crawford, in turn, took the jar of nails to Chancellor Moyer. Though he’s not sure if his point had any impact on Moyer, Schmiedel was pleased that the parking lot got cleaned up — even if he had to do it himself.

That do-it-yourself atmosphere didn’t bother nursing professor Mary Fitzgerald either; she found the growing campus a stimulating environment.

“Every year was a new adventure,” says Fitzgerald, who came to Las Vegas in 1965. “There were new people, new programs, and new buildings.”

She was working part-time at Rose De Lima Hospital in Henderson when she heard about the nursing program at Nevada Southern. Fresh out of graduate school and interested in teaching, she applied for a job and was hired.

“I’ll never forget the offices,” she says. “We had a large room in Frazier Hall with subdivisions of plywood to create faculty ‘offices.’ The walls ended about two feet short of the ceiling. There were about five of us in the room, and we didn’t have to go out of our offices to talk to one another.”

The office accommodations were a bit rustic, but there were other advantages to being at the young university, Fitzgerald says. She appreciated the freedom to try new ideas, such as a video conferencing exchange she established with the nursing program in Reno. Through the exchange, the southern

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English professor Felicia Campbell still teaches at UNLV.



Foreign languages professor Donald Schmiedel still teaches at UNLV.

Oh, The Things We Did

Some of them may have been wacky. Some may have been short-lived. Others might have actually changed the course of the university's destiny. But the UNLV events and activities that have come to be known as "our traditions" are uniquely our own, reflecting both their times and the character of the institution. And, for alumni, remembering them is, well, a hoot.

BY LAURIE FRUTH



Above: This 1959 Homecoming float depicts Beauregard, the NSU wolf mascot that was eventually replaced because of his Confederate uniform. At right, Nancy Jeffers was crowned Spring Cotillion Queen of 1957.

Most of the photos used with this article are from *Epilogue* yearbooks, provided courtesy of the James R. Dickinson Library's special collections department.



UNLV ALUMNI, GET READY FOR a trip down memory lane — or a flashback, depending on your era.

Think back to your college years at UNLV. Chances are that you'll recall participating in some really goofy organized event or activity that seemed awfully important at the time. It might have been the laugh-a-minute Greased Pig Contest of 1974, the mud-in-your-eye Oozeball Tournament of 1988, or the enchanting Spring Cotillion of 1957. Or maybe the event you remember had a more serious tone, like the one at which students protesting north-south funding inequities hanged then-Governor Paul Laxalt in effigy.

Whatever the event was — no matter how serious or lighthearted it was — it somehow took on greater significance while you were in college. Even if it started out as just a good laugh, by the time you finished, it made you feel a part of something bigger, something that united you with other students. It was the stuff that ... well, memories are made of. You knew that one day, you'd look back longingly to those heady days of your youth and wish you had as much time now as you did then for the good things in life — like drinking beer in the sunshine and singing bawdy songs with a crazy old guy named The Fox.

Well, guess what? That day has arrived. *UNLV Magazine* is setting the Way-Back Machine and taking you on a guided tour through the last 40 years of the most memorable events and activities that were held regularly (at one time or another) on the UNLV campus. They are, in effect, our traditions; there weren't that many of them to begin with,

and only a few have survived. And, yes, they were usually such *young* traditions that they hardly seemed to qualify. But they are, after all, uniquely ours.

1957-1967 The Early Years

When the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada opened its doors in 1957, only a few hundred students attended classes in Maude Frazier Hall — the sole building on campus. With so few students milling around between classes, "Nevada Southern," as it was commonly called at the time, must have been a pretty quiet place, right? Well, not entirely. A few gala events were organized, forming the first recognized, albeit somewhat short-lived, student traditions.

A quick look at the slim 1957 edition of the university's yearbook reveals that the biggest events on campus that year were the Winter Sno Ball, the Spring Cotillion, and UNR's Homecoming game.

Pages and pages of the yearbook were devoted to the Winter Sno Ball and Spring Cotillion, which were formal dances held at Strip hotels. The events had a high school-prom-like feel: students

In 1967, students hanged then-Governor Paul Laxalt in effigy off the roof of Granf Hall to protest his decision not to increase funding for the southern campus.

who attended drank non-alcoholic punch, munched on cookies and cake, and danced under the benevolent eye of the Sno Ball or Cotillion Queen.

Retired Department of Energy scientist David Stevenson, who attended the university during that era, remembers the Spring Cotillion as a pretty tame event.

"The cotillion was a big dance equivalent to a senior prom," he says, recalling that the one he attended was held at the Frontier Hotel. "They were really good to us. They let us use an old





Both bonfires and Greased Pig Contests were held annually as part of University Day festivities.

showroom and even provided an orchestra. It was quite a gathering."

He says the students chose to name the dance after the elaborate, formal balls held in the Old South "because we were the southern branch of the University of Nevada."

The focus of the other big event that first year — UNR's Homecoming — seemed to be less on the football game and more on the arduous trek to Reno made by a few dedicated Nevada Southern student fans. The yearbook recounts the long, cold journey of the intrepid group of students who overcame a vehicle breakdown and withstood below freezing temperatures to watch "their" team play.

The inconvenience and expense of traveling north to participate in Homecoming festivities were two of several reasons students from the southern campus wanted their own intercollegiate athletic team. Then, in 1958 the first basketball team was established, providing some solace for students who had tired of traveling out of town to attend a "home" game.

But students yearned for not only a home team, but also the activities that go along with a Homecoming game. As a result, University Day was born.

The first University Day was held in

the fall of 1958 when the southern campus welcomed visiting UNR students and faculty to stop by Frazier Hall on their way to Arizona to attend a football game between UNR and the University of Arizona. Tours and other activities were offered.

By the next year, however, it appears that University Day was on its way to becoming an event for Southern Nevadans; there was no mention in the yearbook of UNR's involvement in any way. And, soon, one day of activities gave way to a weekend of revelry. The 1962 *Epilogue* yearbook proclaimed University Day as "the biggest event on campus," replete with Greased-Pig, Pie-Eating, and Tug-of-War Competitions.

A young biology professor named James Deacon, who is now the chairman of the environmental studies department, was later an active participant in one of the more colorful events of University Day.

"I remember that the organizers of University Day would release a greased pig, and various student organizations would enter a team to try and catch the pig. My ichthyology class entered the contest, and I actually caught the pig. The next day the second-place team complained to student government that the class wasn't really a student organization. I offered to give them the trophy back but, in the end, the second-place

team decided I should keep it."

Another central activity of University Day was the bonfire. But students didn't just throw some firewood together and strike a match; there was robust competition involved. Freshmen would construct a tower of combustibles and then physically fend off upperclassmen hell-bent on setting it ablaze.

"Ultimately, every bonfire was torched," recalls Deacon, adding that the bonfires were built right on the campus grounds. "The first year I was here they had a huge pile of debris [for the bonfire] right about where the library stands now."

Photograph captions in the *Epilogue* document blazes that produced flames more than 30 feet into the air.

As the decade drew to an end, it was apparent that a few additional traditions were heating up. Attention began shifting away from delicate cotillions and moving toward angry demonstrations. By the early 1960s a new tradition began to evolve on the Las Vegas campus: protests over perceived inequities between the southern and northern branches of the University of Nevada.

The 1963 *Epilogue* documents a student protest march down Fremont street in response to the Nevada Legislature's decision to concentrate its educational funding on the Reno campus. In 1967, students hanged then-Governor Paul Laxalt in effigy in front of Grant Hall to protest his decision not to increase funding for the southern campus. The days of Sno Ball Queens and cotillions were quickly coming to an end.

1967-1978 The Rivalry Begins

In the late 1960s, while college students across the country disrupted classes, took control of campus buildings, and generally railed against their schools' administrations, university students in Las

Vegas did something rather unusual for their time: they joined with, rather than opposed, their campus administrators. They had a unifying cause — the fight for independence from UNR.

In 1967 Donald Baeppler was hired to serve as academic vice president for the university. When he arrived on campus, he discovered that he would also be acting as the interim president until a permanent president could be hired. Baeppler recalls his second week on campus.

"I had a group of student leaders call and make an appointment with me. And I thought, 'Oh, no, here it comes — my first set of student demands.' But as it turned out, the burning issue for these students was how to sever ties with Reno and how to secure a separate budget for the southern campus."

To illustrate the disparity between the support given the Reno campus and that given to the southern campus, the students built a shantytown of cardboard and wood on the grounds of the campus.

"They called the town 'Tumbleweed Tech,'" Baeppler says, explaining the probable origins of a nickname that, to the dismay of many, became attached to the university as a whole for a number of years. But the construction of the shantytown worked well as a protest tactic, he notes. "They were successful in communicating their displeasure to the regents."

The efforts of students, faculty, and administrators were rewarded in 1968 when the university system was reorganized, and the southern campus was given its autonomy — as well as a new name soon after: the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"At that time, we were desperately in need of facilities, but the regents decided that what UNLV really needed was a football team," Baeppler recalls. "The thinking was that a football program would build community support, and it did, to a certain degree."

That year, the newly formed team played its first game against the UNR

Wolf Pack. In honor of the occasion, a replica of the howitzer used by trailblazer John C. Fremont was built to symbolize the football rivalry between the two universities.

"Possession of the cannon would go to the winning team, and both universities used to proudly display the cannon when it was in their possession," explains Fred Albrecht, who came to UNLV in 1970 as an assistant football coach and now serves as executive director of alumni and community relations.

"During the '70s, students from the losing university would try and steal the cannon," he adds.

"UNR students would steal the cannon from us, and UNLV students would steal the cannon from UNR. Then some not-so-clever UNLV students got caught stealing the cannon and were detained by the authorities in Reno. To dissuade future students from engaging in this type of behavior, both universities decided to keep the cannon under lock and key from then on. We now lock the cannon in the athletic department when we have it."

The exchange of the Fremont Cannon is one tradition that has endured over the years, as has the use of the UNLV mascot, which was created the same year as the cannon and was also born out of the north/south rivalry.

"UNLV adopted the name Rebels and designed a mascot — a wolf named Beauregard — who was dressed in a Confederate uniform," Albrecht says. "The Confederate uniform was adopted because UNLV, the southern campus, had broken away from UNR. But there was considerable, and justifiable, opposition to the uniform."

In 1976, UNLV students voted to change the mascot from a wolf to a minuteman, complete with colonial hat and a long rifle. But many students opposed the use of the minuteman; while politically correct, he was not geographically accurate.

Finally, in 1977 the minuteman



UNLV students Greg McKinley (left) and Steve Francis stood by the Fremont Cannon during Homecoming in 1976.

evolved into a pioneer with a buckskin outfit and a shotgun.

"The mascot has been modified over the years, but today's mascot retains the pioneer look we established in 1977," Albrecht explains.

As some traditions were born, others were expiring. Growing concerns about the environment eventually led to the end of the bonfire ritual. Changing social mores had already led to the quiet demise of the Sno Ball and Spring Cotillion. The war in Vietnam, the Watergate scandal, the energy crisis, and the recession had taken their toll. UNLV students were ready to party.

1978-1988 The Party Years

Although fraternities and sororities continued to sponsor formal and semi-formal balls, by 1978 the UNLV student body had grown too disparate and unceremonious to support universitywide dances. Student entertainment programmers decided that something more casual

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Start of Something Big

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associate degree was made available to UNR students and the UNR bachelor's degree was made available to Nevada Southern students.

Local TV stations were involved, Fitzgerald remembers, adding that, "Every time the wind blew, the transmitter went down.

So sometimes we videotaped the course and mailed it to Reno." Eventually the number of nursing students in Las Vegas warranted a full degree program.

The decade of the 1970s brought a spate of new faculty, among them musician Kenneth Hanlon, who now serves as the associate provost for academic budget and facilities. A trombonist playing full-time with the Si Zentner Band on the Las Vegas Strip at the time, Hanlon wanted a part-time teaching job in the UNLV music department to supplement his income so he could afford to commute to the University of Southern California to study toward a doctorate.

However, the music department had only full-time openings, and Hanlon was persuaded to accept one of them in 1970 — with the expectation that he would have time to continue to play in the Zentner band.

Opportunities came quickly for faculty in those early years. In Hanlon's second week on the job, Howard Chase, the founding chair of the music department, resigned his position as chair, and Hanlon was tabbed to replace him.

He admits he was a neophyte in the administrative realm.

"I had no idea what I was getting into," Hanlon says. "My first year, every time I turned around I'd get a phone call, and it would be, 'uh, Mr. Hanlon, you've done x, y, or z, and that's not the way we do it.' And I would just laugh and say, 'Well, I'll add this one to my list. Tell me how we do it, and we'll do it right from now on.'"

Hanlon's

office was also in the Social Sciences Building; he shared a floor with the dean of the College of Fine Arts, the whole speech and theatre department, and the entire College of Hotel Administration.

"Now, all the old timers say, 'Remember when we used to know

everybody?' That was part of the good old days," Hanlon says. "There was so much more collaboration because people knew one another."

Physics professor Len Zane, who now directs the Honors College, agrees with Hanlon that it was easier to get to know other faculty when the university was smaller, as it was when he came to UNLV in 1973.

"One of the nice things early on was meeting people across campus," he says.

Zane was also hired on the basis of a telephone interview and thought Las Vegas would be an interesting place to live for a year or two. But he and his wife were impressed right away by the friendliness of Las Vegas.

"Everybody seemed happy living here," he says, noting that they had theorized that since "everybody moved here from somewhere else," they were here by choice, not by accident of birth.

Zane, who had received his Ph.D. from Duke and had spent time at Oxford and Harvard, had some adjusting to do when he arrived; he acknowledges that coming to a small, relatively new university was a bit of a letdown after spending time in the Ivy League.

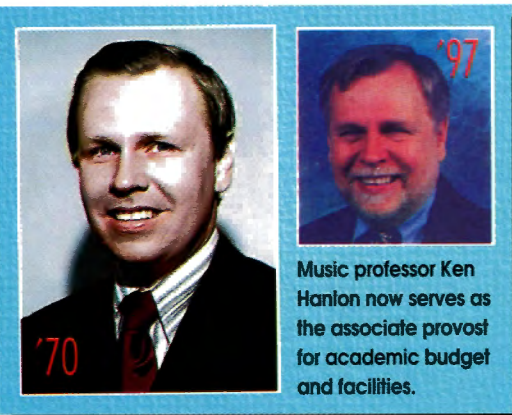
"But there was no sense that we were going to accept lower-tier status. There was always a sense that we were going to become the very best physics department we could."

By the time John Stefanelli, a professor in the food and beverage department, arrived at UNLV in 1978, the College of Hotel Administration had already attained an international reputation.

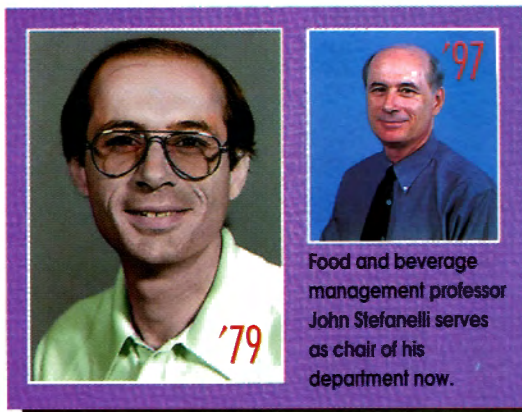
Nevertheless, Stefanelli, who now chairs his department,

remembers finding the program even better than he expected. UNLV could offer greater specialization opportunities than many other programs, he says, and its relationship with the resort industry in Las Vegas was unparalleled in hospitality education.

"The university and the hotel program were tiny then, but I knew I was coming into something special. You could feel it in the air; it was an electric environment," he says.



Music professor Ken Hanlon now serves as the associate provost for academic budget and facilities.



Food and beverage management professor John Stefanelli serves as chair of his department now.

Although some of Stefanelli's colleagues elsewhere in the world still bought into the old stereotypical image of Las Vegas as a town consisting solely of hotels and casinos, they all seemed to know about the university.

"Even in those days, you did not have to explain to the hospitality industry what the letters 'UNLV' meant," he says.

As if to confirm the university's "Young, Proud, and Growing" motto of the era, a growth

spurt hit the campus in the 1980s, and with it came an influx of new faculty. They were attracted by the opportunity to be part of something new and vital, just as their earlier counterparts had been.

Martha Young, a professor in instructional and curricular studies, who came to Las Vegas from Albuquerque in 1986, liked the fact that "nobody stood in your way or said, 'That's not how we do it here.'"

Anthony Ferri, a communication studies professor, recalls that UNLV stood out in his mind among the universities to which he was applying at the time.

"I interviewed at other institutions, but UNLV was the bright spot," says Ferri, who came to UNLV in 1985 from Fort Wayne, Ind. "It was very modern, flexible, and eager to move ahead, and it still is. I don't know of any other place that was quite like that. It's one of the good parts of the Wild West mentality in Nevada."

Both Young and Ferri admit they were somewhat unprepared for certain aspects of the city though.

"I arrived at the airport and wondered why everyone was playing video games," says Young. "It didn't occur to me at first that they could be slot

machines." Ferri also found the atmosphere in the casinos "very weird."

"It was a multi-sensual experience, the likes of which I'd never felt before," he says, adding that the university was a stabilizing force that helped him overcome his culture shock.

Many new faculty members, women in particular, have endured teasing from their colleagues elsewhere

because of Las Vegas' image.

Economics professor Helen Neill, an environ-

mental economist who arrived at UNLV in 1992, says that when she wrote to her high school alumni newsletter about her job here, some of her friends added a post-script: "Helen is really lying; she is

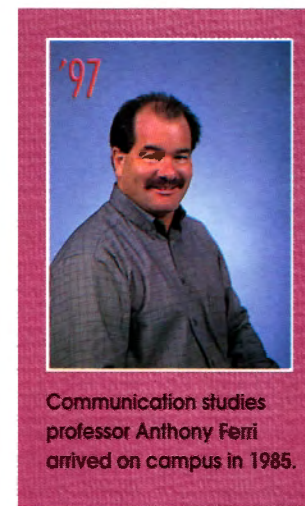
really working at a club off the Strip."

Neill takes the teasing with good humor. "After all, UNLV was my first choice," she says, referring to her job search after completing her Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico. "Once I interviewed with the faculty in the economics department, the more I really wanted the job. And after the on-campus interview, I really, really wanted the job."

Neill's enthusiasm mirrors that of faculty who arrived some 40 years ago.

For her, as for them, coming to UNLV meant the adventure of living in Las Vegas.

"I'd heard a lot of stories about Las Vegas; it sounded like a completely different world." And the university's relative youth and spirit of innovation truly have provided her with many opportunities, she says, citing as an example her membership in the university's advisory group that developed the new master's and Ph.D. programs in environmental science that began this fall.



Communication studies professor Anthony Ferri arrived on campus in 1985.

UNLV now has some 20,000 students in more than 140 degree programs; its faculty and staff have grown to more than 2,100. The university's scholarship and service benefit many constituencies, both inside and outside the state; several

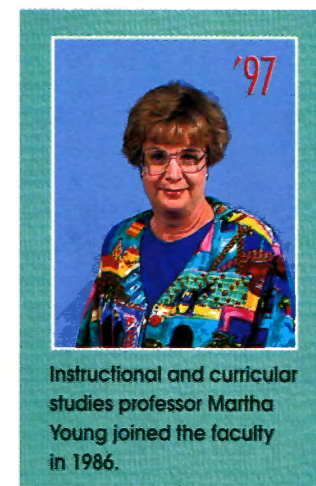
UNLV athletes have won national championships, as has the men's basketball team. And more than 33,000 students have graduated.

It appears that four decades of effort have paid off.

Much of the intimacy of the early days is gone, thanks to the sprawling campus and the increasing number of faculty and students. Change, some of it subtle and gradual, some of it more pronounced, is leaving its mark on the

character of the institution.

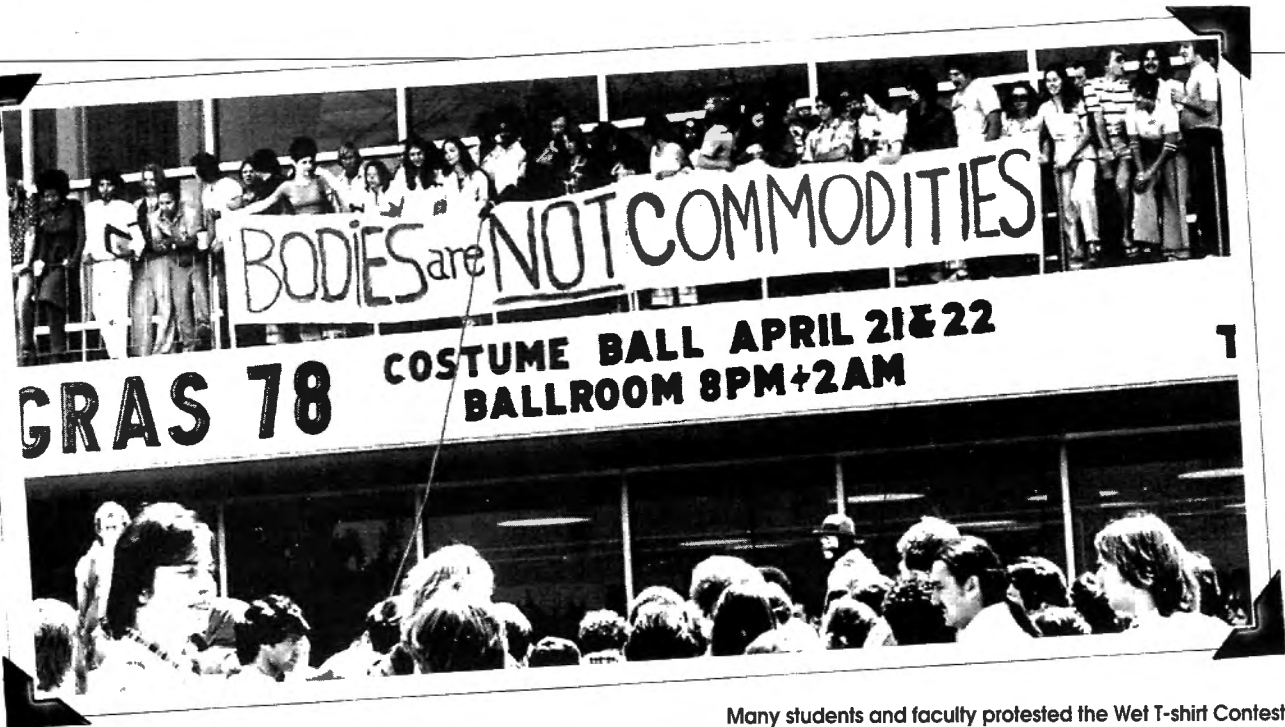
But one thing is certain: No one arriving today would mistake UNLV for a gas station. ☐



Instructional and curricular studies professor Martha Young joined the faculty in 1986.



Economics professor Helen Neill came to UNLV in 1992.



Many students and faculty protested the Wet T-shirt Contest held as part of Mardi Gras festivities in 1978.

Oh, The Things We Did

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was in order — an event at which more comfortable attire could be worn. Oktoberfest was born.

Oktoberfest was a day-long celebration of what the 1980 *Epilogue* proudly proclaimed to be the number one activity on campus — drinking. Oktoberfest and its spring companion, Mardi Gras, were huge hits on campus, thanks largely to the efforts of Entertainment and Programming Chairman Dave Gist who, according to the *Epilogue*, “was in charge of partying, and party, UNLV did.”

Alums of that era gleefully recall the antics of The Fox, a middle-aged, fun-loving party animal whose claim to fame was chugging beers while standing on his head.

“The Fox was great,” says 1984 graduate Rafael Villanueva, now the marketing director at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino and the president of the UNLV Alumni Association. “He would play the piano and sing these incredibly raunchy songs. He was a great draw. Hundreds of students would gather around outside the Moyer Student Union when The Fox was on campus. It was a great time for students to get together, to socialize, and to have some fun.”

What the Fox was to Oktoberfest,

Wet T-shirt contests, Best-Body Competitions, and Hot Legs Auditions were to the annual spring celebration known as Mardi Gras.

“Wet T-shirt contests were not the only activities that were offered during Mardi Gras,” recalls former student Carl Cook, now UNLV’s assistant director of alumni relations. “We had carnival rides in the parking lot outside the Moyer Student Union, and we had Lip-Synching and Pic-Eating Contests — and, of course, 25-cent beer.”

But not everyone was enjoying the party. Many female students and faculty members disliked the blatant sexism associated with Wet T-shirt Contests, and more than a few faculty members were put out when students chose 25-cent beer over attending class. And the administration was concerned that UNLV was quickly gaining the reputation as a party school in a party town.

As Vice President for Student Services Robert Ackerman explains, the administration saw the writing on the wall.

“It was difficult for us to go to the community for support of our strong academic programs when the prevailing picture from UNLV was of The Fox standing on his head drinking beer,” he says.

In 1988, the faculty and

administration decided to confront the alcohol issue head-on. A committee of UNLV faculty, students, and staff met to develop an alcohol policy for the campus. The resulting policy specified that persons serving alcohol on campus had to complete an alcohol awareness training program that would enable them to recognize when a person had had enough. In addition, the policy restricted the times and events at which alcohol could be served. By the end of the decade, UNLV had become a pretty dry place.

But drinking wasn’t the only source of amusement on campus during the late ’70s and early ’80s. For many students,



The Fox led students in the singing of bawdy songs and the drinking of beer during Oktoberfest.

regularly attending the games of the winning UNLV basketball team was a favorite tradition.

The success of the Runnin’ Rebels in 1977 led to the creation of a basketball alumni association — a group whose primary purpose was to raise money to help fifth-year basketball players (who had exhausted their eligibility) complete their degrees. To raise funds, the group decided to create a new tradition by sponsoring challenge games between former Rebel players and current players.

“This was a great idea at first. Former players rearranged their schedules so that they could come back and play, and there was a lot of interest,” Albrecht recalls. “But ultimately it became too costly. They were flying former players in from Miami or New York, and they started spending more money than they were making.”

Like the Sno Ball and the bonfire that went before them, the challenge games quietly disappeared. And, by the end of the ’80s most students seemed to have had their fill of hedonistic parties. It was time to have fun while making a difference.

1988-1997 The Socially Responsible Years

Learning to have fun without the use of alcohol was the challenge facing students as the university entered its fourth decade.

UNLV’s current student activities coordinator Sunny Martin describes the change in philosophy concerning student events as representative of a national trend.

“On a national level, many campuses adopted a dry-campus orientation in the late ’80s and early ’90s. The thinking was that universities should not be sponsoring events on campus that could lead to negative behavior.”

Oozeball, or volleyball played in a pit of mud, was one of the ways students found to have fun without the use of

alcohol. The game has grown in popularity in the eight years since its inception. In 1996, some 80 teams fought the ooze without booze.

“It’s the perfect fall event,” explains Cook, who brought the idea to campus and coordinates the games, along with Jeff Wells, UNLV’s campus recreation director. “I try to schedule the event on an away-game weekend. It really empties out the dorm rooms.”

Another event that evolved in the more socially responsible ’90s was Unityfest, a day-long celebration of diverse cultures, food, and traditions.

“In 1996, more than 30 different student organizations participated in the Unityfest, some of which did not have a specific cultural affiliation but just wanted to be involved,” Martin says. By 1990, Unityfest had formally replaced Oktoberfest as the big party event on campus.

Less noticeable was the gradual evolution of Mardi Gras into the Spring Fling. Gone were the beer and Wet T-shirt Contests. Today, students blow off steam with oversized boxing gloves and human bowling tournaments.

“Spring Fling is one of the four major events that the university sponsors each year,” explains Martin. “The other three are Unityfest, the Fall Welcome, and, of course, Homecoming.”

Homecoming is perhaps the only student activity that has survived unscathed over the years. UNLV still elects a Homecoming queen and king, fraternities and sororities still build floats, and alumni are still invited to attend tailgate parties. But there have been a few changes.

“When UNLV joined the Western Athletic Conference in 1996, we added some bleachers to the stadium, and this prevented us from driving the Homecoming floats onto the field,” Martin says, adding that since then, the floats have been displayed in the Moyer



Oozeball -- volleyball played in a mud pit -- became the campus activity of choice for many UNLV students during the last decade.

Student Union parking lot during the campus Homecoming festivities.

“But starting this year, the floats will be paraded through the Sam Boyd Stadium parking lot before the game. Also, we have decorated golf cart parades on campus down the academic mall, followed by a pep rally in the amphitheater to signal the start of Homecoming. But perhaps the biggest change has been the increasing participation of independent [non-Greek] students in the selection of the Homecoming royalty.”

Tailgate parties, one of the few events at which alcohol is still served, also continue to grow at UNLV.

“We started tailgating 15 years ago in the parking lot of the stadium. We would provide a barbecue pit, and families would bring the food they wanted to cook,” says Albrecht, adding that they later began offering food for those who didn’t want to bring their own. “Then, four years ago we built a park with trees and picnic benches. We’re working to make the tailgate parties fun and easy for families.”

Martin predicts that as UNLV continues to define itself in the future, student activities will evolve to reflect those changing definitions.

“UNLV is striving to become more purposeful in its planning,” Martin explains. “The point of student activities is to create a campus community where students feel they are a part of the campus. And there are many ways to do that.”

Indeed. ■



HANGIN' AT THE GENERAL STORE... AND LISTENING CLOSELY

For 11 years, linguist Guy Bailey has been quietly recording and listening to the dialect of the residents of a small farming town in Texas in search of the origins of African-American Vernacular English. His findings may shed some light on a controversy that could affect how millions of children learn language skills in our schools.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

HANGIN' AROUND THE GENERAL store on a warm afternoon, sipping a Dr. Pepper, listening to the townsfolk tell jokes and talk about their lives.

Nice work if you can get it — and Guy Bailey has.

Bailey, dean of UNLV's College of Liberal Arts and a professor of English, has spent many days of the last 11 years at the general store of a small East-Central Texas town, just listening to the residents chat.

Well, OK, there's really more to it than that. Bailey, whose field is linguistics, not only listens to the residents; he and a colleague also tape record the conversations and later transcribe and analyze the recordings to find out what they reveal about African-American Vernacular English as it is spoken in this small farming community.

Why?

Bailey wants to help settle a long-standing dispute among linguistics experts concerning the origin of the African-American Vernacular English (AAVE) spoken today by some African-Americans. He is also interested in tracing how it has evolved.

And, he wants to be on hand to follow its further evolution as the types of communities where AAVE has

its

roots —

small farming

towns in the American

South — fade into history as

more and more of their residents move to cities in search of jobs.

His research has a practical application, too — one that is tied to the current controversy over Ebonics, a term recently coined to describe AAVE. The debate over Ebonics surrounds the issue of whether AAVE should be used in schools to aid in teaching students how to speak standard American English;

some believe it should even be acknowledged as a second language.

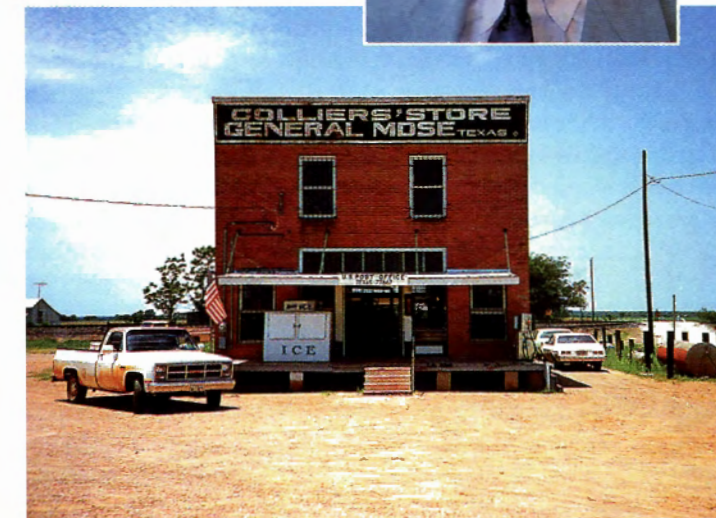
Regardless of one's stand on the Ebonics controversy, Bailey says information he and others are compiling about AAVE should be of help to America's teachers, many of whom have students in their classrooms who speak AAVE. The better such teachers understand AAVE, he says, the better they can help their students learn standard American English.

Bailey began his study of the speech of the people of the town he calls Springville in 1986 when he was an associate professor of English at Texas A&M University. Springville is a fictitious name he assigned the rural community for his research purposes. Because the scholarly articles he has written about his research include lengthy transcripts of actual conversations, giving the town a fictitious name was the only way to

preserve the residents' anonymity, he says. Otherwise, given the personal details often contained in the recorded conversations, the speakers would be too easily identifiable, he says.

Springville is a small enclave of about 125 people, located "on some of the best

cotton-farming land in Texas," Bailey says. It's what once would have been known as a "tenant farmer community," whose residents were sharecroppers who farmed a piece of someone else's land for a share of the proceeds. Because the sharecroppers were typically in debt to the landowner for money loaned to buy seed and for other



Above: Linguist Guy Bailey records and studies the African-American Vernacular English conversations of patrons of this general store in the small Texas farming community he calls Springville.

He notes that although most research on AAVE has been done in big American cities — where African-Americans began moving in large numbers during and following World War II — it was in towns such as Springville that AAVE, which was first heard among slaves on Southern plantations, persevered into the 20th century.

So it was one of these towns that Bailey felt he needed for his research. In effect, he was looking for a place where he could study an older form of AAVE than that spoken in large cities today. To do that, he needed to listen to the speech of people who never had moved to the city.

"Historically, AAVE was a rural Southern variety of speech. Until 1910, 90 percent of all African-Americans lived in the South, and 70 percent of them were in the rural South. By rural South, I mean communities of less than 2,500 people."

But finding such a town wasn't easy, Bailey says.

"Most of these old tenant communities have disappeared in the South. What led to their disappearance was the mechanization of agriculture. The mechanized farming didn't really hit the South until after World War II, but when that happened, there was really no need for laborers." As a result, many of the residents of the tenant farming communities began moving away to look for work.

After some searching for a town where he could find "the oldest, most conservative variety of AAVE," Bailey settled on Springville, a town wedged between two rivers. It has only one paved road and exactly two places of business — the general store and the beer joint. It also has a school serving grades one through eight. When Bailey first arrived in 1986, the school had 63 pupils, making it the smallest independent school district in Texas. Some of the adults work in nearby towns. Others farm on a small scale.

Bailey was lucky in his discovery of Springville. He happened to know the

daughter of the woman who owns the general store and all of the land in town. She made the initial introductions for him, and he eventually became friends with another woman who works at the post office, which is located inside the general store.

Bailey's colleague, Patricia Cukor-Avila, who joined his study in 1988 as a graduate student and who remains involved today as a professor at the University of North Texas, made friends with the woman who runs the general store. She, in turn, introduced them to her neighbors. Soon, the project was underway.

While many of the initial interviews were one-on-one with residents of the town, what Bailey really wanted was to listen to the townspeople talk among themselves. "One of the goals of this research is to study language that people use with each other rather than with outsiders. In other words, you're trying to look at natural linguistic interaction of residents of this community," Bailey says.

"There's something called 'the observer's paradox' in linguistics," explains Bailey, who earned a doctoral degree in English linguistics from the University of Tennessee. "The observer's paradox works like this: If you're a linguist, you want to know how people talk when they talk to each other, but the minute you interject yourself into the picture, they don't talk like they talk to each other. They talk like they talk to a stranger, or an English teacher or something."

Little by little, Bailey and Cukor-Avila, gained the trust of the towns-



Bailey, far right, chats with Springville residents.

people. The investigators and their tape recorders became an accepted part of the community.

"It got to the point that we could just go to the store and sit down and turn the tape recorder on, and people would come in and talk to us," he says, adding that what's even better is that they've also been able to make many tape recordings in which they are barely participants. "We're there — in and out — but we're not really major participants."

"Now that we've developed good relationships with these people, we're often invited into their homes for social gatherings," Bailey says. "For instance, one guy who we've interviewed almost every year since 1988 invited us after a few weeks to his house for a barbecue, and he invited one of his best friends. So we have some great linguistic interaction between those two men who have been friends for 60 years."

"We do very little talking. It's mostly them talking to each other and recounting old stories. That's the kind of thing we're ultimately trying to get."

Bailey says that although he initially explained his study to the Springville residents, he isn't sure how much of it they truly understand or how much they really care.

"The truth of the matter is, they're more than happy to talk to us, they got to like us, and they understood that we were doing some kind of study of

Springville. We were different and interesting and a diversion," he says, adding that being a diversion might have helped the team's success in Springville. "Not much happens there."

As for the researchers, Bailey says that over the years they've become interested in more than the residents' speech patterns.

"Actually, we became pretty interested in the content of what people had to say, because as you become more and more part of this community, you become interested in their day-to-day lives and how people are doing — whether somebody has kicked a cocaine habit or whether somebody's garden is working."

Between the research that has been done on modern-day AAVE in big cities and his own work on the older form of AAVE most often used in Springville, Bailey had data on AAVE as spoken during most of this century.

The problem he faced, however, was that there was little information on AAVE available before that time. "The question was: What did AAVE sound like in 1870 or 1900?"

"We don't really have much evidence on the language of the first African-Americans in the U.S. because, first of all, there were no tape recordings and, secondly, they were forbidden by law to read and write. Some of them learned anyway; there are a few things that were written by African-Americans in the 1800s, but we just don't have many texts."

That robs linguists of one of their most valuable tools.

"If we wanted to study white speech in the 1800s, we could go back and look at old letters — letters of people who didn't have much education — and we could make inferences about their language based on written documents," Bailey says.

But then Bailey discovered something

unexpected that helped him fill the void.

"It just so happens that there *were* some mechanical recordings done with former slaves. These people were born in the 1840s, '50s, and early '60s. The recordings were done in the 1930s and '40s as part of the WPA [Works Progress Administration] Slave Narrative Projects," Bailey says.

Although the recordings had since been transferred to reel-to-reel tape and had been stored at the Library of Congress for decades, linguists hadn't used them, he says.

"Basically, there are seven hours of about 11 or 12 people who were interviewed on tape. The sound quality of most of the tapes is pretty good. And it just so happens that several of these people were slaves on plantations not far from Springville."

The discovery of the recordings was a real boon, according to Bailey. Between the people on the recordings and the current residents of Springville, Bailey now has speech information on people born from the 1840s to the 1980s.

"So we have basically 140 years of African-American Vernacular English. That's a pretty good place to start off in making some inference about historical development."

The controversy over the origins and evolution of AAVE dates back decades, Bailey says, coinciding roughly with the integration of American schools in the 1950s and '60s. When integration began occurring on a widespread basis, for the first time large numbers of African-American children had white teachers, who for the first time found large numbers of African-American children in their classrooms, Bailey points out.

"Educators encountered speech patterns that they hadn't encountered before, and they were totally baffled. So sociolinguists — and that's what I am, a linguist who studies language in society — began working on African-

American English in an attempt to explain to educators how that language, how that dialect, works."

As for the origins of AAVE, two theories have persisted, Bailey says.

"Theory number one held that AAVE was derived from non-standard English dialects spoken by whites and that many of the non-standard features had disappeared in white speech but were preserved in black speech," he says.

"The second theory held that black speech, or AAVE, actually began as a kind of Creole language and what happened over the years was that it had become de-Creolized, so that it was very similar to American dialects but not identical to them."

A Creole language, Bailey explains, is a language that began as an amalgam of two languages — for instance, the English spoken by slave traders and the language spoken by the people living in western Africa when the slave traders arrived — but then evolved into a separate, more complex language.

After his years of research on AAVE, Bailey has come to believe that neither theory is entirely accurate — or entirely without merit.

"There is some evidence for that Creole hypothesis. In African-American Vernacular English the 'to be' verb can often be deleted. Somebody will say, 'She my sister,' or 'She a tall girl.' The 'is' is deleted. This deletion of 'to be' is probably a relic of this Creole history."

"However, many of the features [of the language] of young African-Americans that are commonly known are really pretty recent developments. For example, the use of the unconjugated 'be,' as in, 'They be working,' is something that linguists call 'habitual be.' That 'habitual be' does not appear in the speech of the oldest people," Bailey said. "It appears in the speech of people born after World War II. In fact, this is an innovation that took place in big cities after World War II when African-Americans moved there. It since has spread to small

continued on page 28

SEPTEMBER 1997

1-27 **Art Exhibit:** Michael McCollum, New Work. Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 895-3893.

3 **Intro to Re-entry Program:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month. 11:30am-12:30pm. Jean Nidetch Women's Center. 895-4475.

4 **Survivors of Violence Support Group:** 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month. 11am-noon. Jean Nidetch Women's Center. 895-4475.

4-14 **University Theatre:** *Silver Buckles on His Knee*. Sept. 4-6 & 10-13, 8pm; Sept. 7 & 14, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

5&7 **Soccer:** UNLV vs. Gonzaga. Sept. 5, 7pm. UNLV vs. Stanford. Sept. 7, noon. Johann Memorial Soccer Field. 895-3207.

9 **Peer Education Training:** Sexual Assault Prevention. Jean Nidetch Women's Center. 1-3pm. 895-4475.

11 **Alumni Event:** Dinner & Theatre. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

12 **Music Department:** Virko Baley Recital. 7:30pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

13 **Alumni Event:** Oozeball Tournament. 7am. Intramural fields. 895-3621.

16 **Soccer:** UNLV vs. Seattle Pacific. 7pm. Johann Memorial Soccer Field. 895-3207.

Welcome Week: Open house & art exhibit. 11am-1pm. Jean Nidetch Women's Center. 895-4475.

16 **Workshop:** Self-esteem, Positive Attitude & Assertiveness. 6-7:30pm. Jean Nidetch Women's Center. 895-4475.

17 **Alumni Event:** Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

19&21 **Soccer:** UNLV vs. Kentucky. Sept. 19, 7pm. UNLV vs. Michigan State. Sept. 21, noon. Johann Memorial Soccer Field. 895-3207.

20 **Music Department:** Men's & Women's Honor Chorus. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

20 **Alumni Event:** Pre-Game Tailgate. 5pm. Alumni Park/Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3621.

Football: UNLV vs. Hawaii. 7:05pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3900.

24 **Alumni Event:** Homecoming Golf Tournament. Desert Pines Golf Course. 895-3621.

26 **Alumni Event:** Homecoming Reunion Celebration. 6:30pm. Tiberti Grand Hall, Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

26 **Soccer:** UNLV vs. Cal State San Bernardino. 7pm. Johann Memorial Soccer Field. 895-3207.

27 **Continuing Education:** Personal Development & Creative Life Decisions. Barry Bortnick. 9am-4pm. 895-3394.

Alumni Event: Pre-Game Tailgate. 5pm. Alumni Park/Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3621.

Homecoming Game: UNLV vs. Illinois State. 7:05pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3900.

Continuing Education: "For The Mind, The Ears, The Heart — This Time Around." 7pm. Alta Ham Fine Arts 147. 895-3394.

29 **Barrick Lecture:** Former U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

30 **Hughes Corp. Distinguished Speaker Series:** Tony Deering, Rouse Corp. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

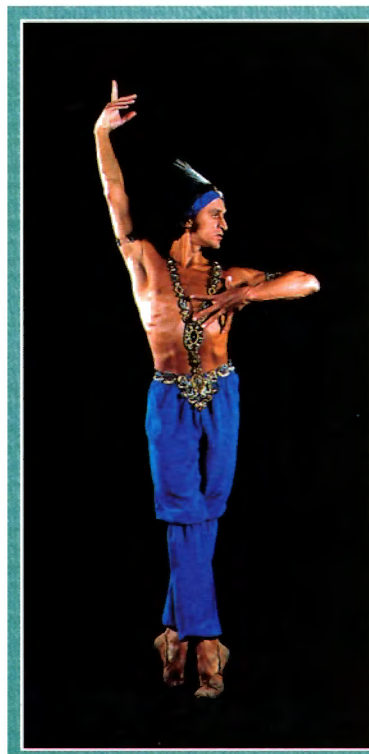
OCTOBER 1997

2 **Alumni Event:** Dinner & Theatre. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

2-12 **University Theatre:** *"The Brother's Silence."* Oct. 2-4 & 8-11, 8pm; Oct. 5 & 12, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

6-30 **Art Exhibit:** Ellen Brooks, Photographs. Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 895-3893.

7 **Take Back the Night:** March, Candlelight Vigil & Exhibits. 5:30pm. Moyer Student Union Alcove & Pida Plaza. 895-4475.



Kirov Ballet
October 17 & 18



7&9 **Sexual Assault Awareness:** Street Smarts & Crisis Mind-set. Call for times. Moyer Student Union 202. 895-4475.

9 **Music Department:** Wind Symphony. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

11 **Alumni Event:** Pre-Game Tailgate. 11am. Alumni Park/Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3621.

Football: UNLV vs. Texas Christian. 1:05pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3900.

11 **Rape Prevention:** Self-defense & Physical Techniques. 11am-2pm. McDermott Physical Education Complex 506. 895-4475.

12 **Music Department:** UNLV Orchestra I. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

13 **Master Series:** Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

14 **Music Department:** Jazz Combo Concert. 8pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

Workshop: Dynamics of Goal Setting. 6-7:30pm. Classroom Building Complex C222. 895-4475.

15 **Alumni Event:** Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

16-26 **University Theatre:** *"Uncommon Women."* Oct. 16-18 & 22-25, 8pm; Oct. 19 & 26, 2pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

17 **Performing Arts Center World Dance Series:** Stars of the Kirov Ballet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

18 **Women's Finances I:** Preparing and Keeping Financial Records. 8:30am-12:30pm. Classroom Building Complex A106. 895-4475.

Master Series: Stars of the Kirov Ballet. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

19 **Soccer:** UNLV vs. San Diego State. Noon. Johann Memorial Soccer Field. 895-3207.

Music Department: Jazz Ensemble I. 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

22 **Basketball:** NBA Pre-Season Game. Time TBA. Lakers vs. Wizards. 895-3900.

24&25 **University Dance:** Dance Arts Concert I. Both days, 8pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

24&26 **Soccer:** UNLV vs. San Jose State. Oct. 24, 7pm. UNLV vs. Fresno State. Oct. 26, noon. Johann Memorial Soccer Field. 895-3207.

25 **Women's Finances II:** Money Management, Banking & Credit. 8:30am-12:30pm. Classroom Building Complex A106. 895-4475.

28 **Workshop:** Leadership & Interpersonal Relationships. 6-7:30pm. Classroom Building Complex C222. 895-4475.

29 **Ceremony:** Jean Nidetch Scholarship Awards Ceremony & Reception. 5:30pm. Barrick Museum of Natural History. 895-4475.

30&31 **Nevada Dance Theatre:** *"Dracula."* Call for times. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801. (thru Nov. 2)

NOVEMBER 1997

1 **Women's Finances III:** Risk Management, Insurance, Death & Divorce. 8:30am-12:30pm. Classroom Building Complex A106. 895-4475.

Alumni Event: Pre-Game Tailgate. 11am. Alumni Park/Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3621.

Football: UNLV vs. Colorado State. 1:05pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3900.

University Theatre: Theatre Atlantic — David Mamet's 50th Birthday Celebration. 8pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

5 **Master Series:** Deutsches Symphonie Berlin. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

7-9 **Music Department:** *The Merry Widow*. 7:30pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

8 **Women's Finances IV:** Investing for Retirement. 8:30am-12:30pm. Classroom Building Complex A106. 895-4475.

9 **Soccer:** UNLV vs. Tulsa. Noon. Johann Memorial Soccer Field. 895-3207.

Music Department: 76 Trombones + 4. 2pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

10-28 **Art Exhibit:** The Bungalow Suite, Robert Zakanitch. Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 895-3893. (thru Dec. 12)

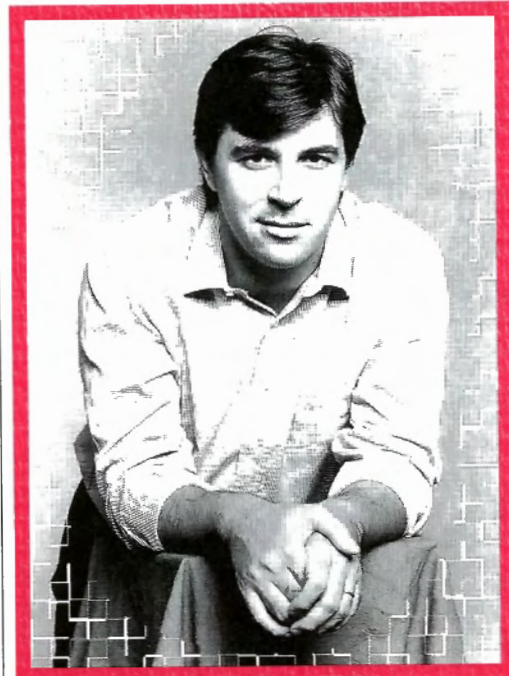
12 **Music Department:** Las Vegas Brass Band & UNLV Community Concert Band. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

13 **Women's Center:** Survivors of Violence Support Group. 11am-noon. Jean Nidetch Women's Center 255. 895-4475.



The Nutcracker
Nevada Dance Theatre
December 13-28

CALENDAR



Royal Philharmonic
October 13
Daniele Gatti, conductor

13-23 University Theatre: *A Strange Growing Season*. Nov. 13-15 & 19-22, 8pm; Nov. 16 & 23, 2pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

19 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

22 Music Department: University Chorus. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

Alumni Event: Pre-Game Tailgate. 11am. Alumni Park/Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3621.

Football: UNLV vs. San Jose State. 1:05pm. Sam Boyd Stadium. 895-3900.

23 Music Department: UNLV Orchestra. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

25 Music Department: Wind Symphony Concert. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

30 Music Department: Musical Arts Orchestra & Chorus. 3pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

DECEMBER 1997

3-9 University Theatre: *Falsettos*. Dec. 3-6 & 8-9, 8pm; Dec. 6 & 7, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

4-6 Music Department: Schubert Festival. Call for times & locations. 895-3801.

5-14 National Finals Rodeo: Call for times. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.

13-28 Nevada Dance Theatre: *The Nutcracker*. Call for times. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

17 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

20 Basketball: Las Vegas Shoot Out. Times TBA. Thomas & Mack Center. 895-3900.

JANUARY 1998

2-11 University Theatre: Winterfest Fight Workshop. All day. Black Box Theatre & Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

10 Continuing Education: Center for Lifelong Learning (EXCELL) Convocation. 10am. Alta Ham Fine Arts Lobby. 895-3394.

11-30 Art Exhibit: Crayola Dream Maker. Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 895-3893.

21 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

22 Music Department: Wind Symphony Pops Concert. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

22&23 Meeting: UCCSN Board of Regents. UNLV.

28 Master Series: Walter Naumburg Winner. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

29-31 University Theatre: *Hedda Gabler*. Jan. 29-31 & Feb. 4-7, 8pm; Feb. 1 & 8, 2pm. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801. (thru Feb. 8)

31 University Theatre: High School Theatre Festival. Noon-8pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

FEBRUARY 1998

5 Performing Arts Center: Evelyn Glennie. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

9-28 Art Exhibit: 4-Way Stop. Weekdays, 9am-5pm. Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. 895-3893. (thru March 6)

12-15 Nevada Dance Theatre: *Hansel & Gretel*. Call for times. Judy Bayley Theatre. 895-3801.

12-22 University Theatre: *My Sister in This House*. Feb. 12-14 & Feb. 18-21, 8pm; Feb. 15 & 22, 2pm. Black Box Theatre. 895-3801.

14 Music Department: Invitational Choral Festival. 8am-8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

15 Performing Arts Center World Dance Series: Ballet du Capitole de Toulouse. 8pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

18 Alumni Event: Board Meeting. 6pm. Richard Tam Alumni Center. 895-3621.

27&28 Music Department: *Così Fan Tutti*. 7:30pm. Artemus Ham Concert Hall. 895-3801.

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

* Events are subject to change/cancellation.



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Mu	13 1/8	-1/8	Mitel g	5 1/8	-1/4	PacGulf	21 1/4	
mti	15	12	38 1/2	-1/2	Mobil	19	17	138	-1	PacT pfT	24 1/4	
le	19	14	17 1/2	+1 1/2	MolBio	9 1/4	+1	PacifCp	12	12	19 1/4	
El	31	23	32 1/8	+3/8	Monsan	30	24	45	+3/8	PainWeb	10	12	35 1/4	
Mc	14	15	64 1/2	-3/8	MonPw	11	11	22 3/4	+1/8	PakisInv	5 1/4	
orp	16	12	53 1/2	-5/8	MontryR n	15	13	16	-1/8	PallCp	20	17	23 1/4	
nt	44	21	31 1/2	...	Moore	15	15	22 1/8	+1/8	PanaBev s	24	19	29 1/4	
yR n	23 3/4	-1/8	MorgGr	10 1/8	-1/8	PanEnergy	18	17	46 1/4	
Clk s	21	19	54 3/4	-1 1/2	MorgnP	...	10	8 1/4	-1/8	Paracels n	...	9	4 1/4	
Wd	10	10	38	+1/4	MSAfrica	16 1/8	-1/8	ParagTr	10	8	15 1/4	
/	18	15	19 1/8	...	MS Asia	10 1/8	+1/8	ParagPar	9	18	34 1/4	
htR s	13	19	43 1/8	...	MorSEm	u16 1/4	...	ParkDri	...	23	9 1/4	
In	17 1/8	-1/4	MS EMD	13 1/8	-1/4	ParkHan	16	13	u52 1/2	
s	38	29	u53 1/8	+1 1/8	MorgSt	10	12	67 1/4	+1/8	PartnerRe	7	7	32	
7	17 1/8	+1/8	MS India	11 1/4	-1/8	PatrAH s	20	...	21 1/4	
aEic	16 3/4	+3/8	Morgan	14	13	103 1/8	-1 1/8	PayCsh	3	...	1 1/4	
a	12 1/8	-1/4	MorrKnud	...	19	12 1/8	-1/8	PayfSh	16	14	45 1/4	
er s	19	15	26	-3/8	MortnInt n	...	17	32	-7/8	PennTr	6 1/4	
m	21	15	28 1/8	...	MortnRst	49	12	16 1/2	+3/8	PenncFn	...	13	10	34 1/4
ear	1 1/8	...	Motorola	37	22	66 1/2	+1 1/2	Penney	23	14	51 1/4	
ntl	25	19	23 1/8	+5/8	MuellerInd	13	11	41 1/8	+1/8	Pennzoll	19	16	53 1/4	
E	15	13	22 1/8	-3/8	Multicre	23	19	u24 1/8	+1	PepBoy	19	15	31 1/4	
Ry	11	...	u5 1/2	+1/8	MuIT	9 1/8	-1/8	PepsiCo	38	23	37 1/4	
gg	43	28	u45 1/2	+2 1/4	MuIT2	9 1/8	-1/8	PerkEl	40	23	77 1/2	
Prp	15	...	17 1/8	...	MuniFd	11	...	PersGp	24	17	u29 3/4	
	12	14	13 1/8	-1/8	Muniv2	13 1/8	+1/8	PetriGeo	17	...	43 1/4	

'70s

Renee Brown, '78 BS Physical Education, '81 Master of Education, has been named director of player personnel for the Women's National Basketball Association. She oversees player recruitment and scouting, and she helps develop and administer player-related policies and programs. Previously, Brown served as an assistant coach for the USA Basketball Women's National Team in Colorado Springs, Colo. She was with the team in a staff support position when it won the gold medal at the 1996 Summer Olympics. She has also worked as an assistant coach at the University of Kansas and at Stanford and San Jose State universities. She lives in South Orange, N.J.



William Buckmaster, '78

William S. Buckmaster, '78 Master of Education, is an anchor and producer with KUAT-TV, the PBS affiliate in Tucson, Ariz. He hosts *Arizona Illustrated*, a nightly news magazine that is the highest-rated locally produced news/public affairs program among PBS affiliates. When he lived in Las Vegas in the 1970s he was news director at KORK radio. He has also worked in San Francisco; Visalia, Calif.; and Sierra Vista, Ariz. He lives in Tucson.

'80s

Howie L. Basuk, '80 BS Business Administration, started his own scrap metal recycling company in 1990. His firm is called Barry Metals Co. in memory of his late brother, Barry. He lives in Phoenix.

Bruce E. Snyder, '81 BA Chemistry, received a medical degree from Boston University. He is currently in an ophthalmology residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center in New York. He lives in Yonkers.

David Bloom, '82 BS Hotel Administration, is chief operating officer of Falcon Ventures Ltd. and owns the franchise development rights and is a franchisee of Quizno's Classic Subs in parts of Texas, Colorado, and Illinois. He is married to Sheri Woodward Bloom, '81 BS Hotel Administration. She is a sales director for Mary Kay Cosmetics. They live in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

John S. Hamilton, '82 BS Hotel Administration, '83 BS Business Administration, is senior vice president of development/acquisitions for Carnival Hotels & Resorts, the nation's second-largest hotel management company. He lives in Coral Gables, Fla.



John Hamilton, '82

Randall McGuire, '83 BA Communication Studies, owns and operates his own advertising agency, Advantage Media Services. The company specializes in direct-response advertising, media buying, and television ad production.

Cheryl J. Walker, '84 BS Hotel Administration, completed her master's degree in business from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She is now the staff accountant for Albertsons Distribution Center in Katy, Texas. Previously, she spent five years with ITT Sheraton as food and beverage controller and banquet manager. She lives in Houston.

Rick Darnold, '85 BS Business Administration, is a certified public accountant who serves as vice president of tax and financial administration for Boyd Gaming Corp. He is a board member of the Nevada Resort Association and serves on its legislative committee. He was recently appointed to the Federal Information Reporting Advisory Committee, which will work with the U.S. Treasury Department and the IRS on updating federal gaming regulations. He is also a committee member of the Tax and Finance Task Force of the American Gaming Association.

Dawn M. Fislser, '86 BS Biological Sciences, has her own insurance company. The Fislser Agency, which handles American National insurance, was established in 1988.

Vicki Tucker, '87 BS Hotel Administration, is the general manager of the Hawthorn Suites-Las Vegas. She oversaw the conversion of the Hawthorn Suites, which opened in May, from an apartment complex to a 284-suite hotel. Previously, she worked as the general manager of the Embassy Suites-Houston and held management posts with The Hotel Group in Edmonds, Wash., the Plaza Hotel-Kuwait, Embassy Suites-Napa in

California, and the Thunderbird Hotel in Las Vegas.



Vicki Tucker, '87

Catherine A. Watlet Dare, '89 BS Business Administration, received her master's degree in taxation from Golden Gate University in 1995. She now works as an international tax manager for KPMG Peat Marwick in Century City, Calif. She lives in Santa Monica.

Mark Schrecengost, '89 BS Hotel Administration, joined Trump Hotels Casino Resorts as director of casino marketing for Trump Casino Chicago. He lives in Cresthill, Ill.

'90s

Deborah Hall, '90 Bachelor of Liberal Studies, received a medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco in 1995. She is now completing a family practice residency at Ventura County Medical Center in California. She lives in Ventura.

Vena J. Santana Sanders, '90 BA Political Science, graduated from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1996. Currently, she is an associate attorney with the law offices of Michael Ashe in Virginia Beach, Va.

Juli Shapiro Rousseau, '91 BS Education, '96 Master of Education, is a resource room teacher at Green Valley High School. She works with learning disabled students.

Kristin Wohlrab Finley, '92 BS Athletic Training, works as an athletic trainer at Health South Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation in Newark, Del. She also provides medical coverage for area high schools. She is married to John Finley, '92 Master of Education. He works as an athletic trainer for the Wilmington Blue Rocks, a minor-league affiliate of the Kansas City Royals baseball team. They live in Newark.

Brian Graf, '92 MA Political Science, is an economist in the U.S. Department of Labor's Division of International Technical Assistance in Washington, D.C. Previously, he served two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Guinea, West Africa.

David S. Reid, '92 BS Business Administration, graduated from the

law school at the University of Arizona in 1995. He is currently a corporate/securities attorney for Snell & Wilmer. He lives in Phoenix.

Carmen Gunnels Rizzo, '92 BS Business Administration, is the business manager of Take One Inc., a television production company in Las Vegas.

Michelle Conway, '94 BS Business Administration, is an account coordinator at Shonkwiler/Marcoux Advertising and Marketing. Previously, she worked as an account coordinator at



Michelle Conway, '94

Ballard Communications and as a public relations coordinator at Bertolini's Restaurant.

Scott Gulbransen, '95 BA Communication Studies, is the coordinator of promotions and publicity for UNLV's athletic department. Previously, he spent one year as an operations assistant and two years as a sports information assistant at UNLV.

Robert N. Morgan, '95 Master of Education, is a teacher at the Shckou International School in the People's Republic of China. He was a 1995 nominee for the Clark County Teachers' Hall of Fame.

Attention Alumni — The UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of social and cultural activities. For more information or to join the association, call 895-3621.

In Memory



John LaBounty, '74

John LaBounty, a former member of the UNLV Alumni Association's board of directors, died April 15. LaBounty, who graduated in 1974 with a bachelor of fine arts degree, was 49. A carpenter, LaBounty contributed several of his own hand-carved wood pieces to the Richard Tam Alumni Center, including the building's front doors, the large conference room table, and the speaker's podium. A valued member of the board, he was also instrumental in establishing scholarships for art students.

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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 black and white photograph of yourself to accompany your Class Notes entry.

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Career or Personal Information _____

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Listening Closely

continued from page 21

communities like Springville.

"At the same time, there are also some older features of white dialects that were preserved in black speech, for instance, the pronunciation of 'ax' for 'ask.' That occurred in many varieties of white English and was borrowed into black speech," Bailey says.

"What we found out is AAVE has a really complex history, and you can't understand that history unless you understand the kind of Creole origins, but at the same time also understand the more contemporary innovations," he says. "It's not as if it were a Creole language that's just becoming more like other varieties of American English. It's a language that has its own independent trajectory and development. To some extent it's influenced by other varieties of English, and to some extent it goes its own way.

"AAVE is not becoming white speech, it's not being lost, and it's not becoming more like white speech; it's developing in its own merry way."

Bailey says he thinks one of the most important goals of those people arguing today about Ebonics should be to find "a way of helping school teachers have more respect for the language that the kids bring to school."

"The kids aren't bringing broken English to school. They're bringing a systematic variety of English that's developed just like any other variety of English," Bailey says, noting that AAVE, or Ebonics, has its own set of complex rules as does any dialect. "I think it's helpful for teachers to understand exactly how that language operates and where it comes from.

"It's just like teaching a foreign language. You can teach people a foreign language better if you understand how that language differs from their language. If I understand exactly how Spanish differs from English, and I can point out those differences, then it becomes much

easier for you to learn Spanish," he says. "By the same token if I can sit down with an African-American kid and explain exactly where the differences are between standard English and his speech, it really makes the task of teaching standard English easier.

"The real point here is trying to use the most successful techniques for teaching kids standard English."

To listen to Bailey discuss linguistics in general and his work in Springville in particular is to listen to a man talk about a pursuit he obviously relishes.

Yet, he ended up as a social linguist as many people end up in their careers — through a series of chance events. Majoring in English at the University of Alabama because it was an easy subject for the avid reader, Bailey took a linguistics course from James McMillan, one of the premier linguists of his generation. Soon Bailey was hooked.

McMillan's classes, coupled with Bailey's own experience with the English language, set him on his career path.

"I grew up in a part of the country where outside of that area the language is not highly respected," says Bailey, whose speech still reflects more than a trace of his Alabama roots. Throughout his life he has heard comments from non-Southerners indicating — or sometimes stating outright — that anyone with a Southern accent must be stupid.

"I think probably the thing that first attracted me to language was the fact that it carries social consequences, and I was on the negative end of some of those social consequences," Bailey says. "For me, it became an interesting thing to study.

"I used to tell my classes that the only thing I'd rather do than linguistics, if I could have had my choice of professions, would have been to play professional baseball. On the other hand, shoot, I'd be retired by now and looking for work," Bailey says with a laugh.

According to Bailey, his work in Springville is the ultimate in fun — next to playing center field for the Atlanta Braves. "That's the way I take vacations. I'll go back to Springville and spend a couple of days doing field work.

"Doing the research, writing the articles — there's no work to it at all, really. It's a lot of fun. That's why I can still do it as dean, because I enjoy doing it," says Bailey, who came to UNLV from the University of Memphis in 1995 to head the College of Liberal Arts. "It's something that whether I get a reward for it is irrelevant now.

"There's a kind of real excitement and fun about creating knowledge. And, basically, when you do research, that's what you're doing. You're in the process of creating knowledge."

And, as far as Bailey is concerned, there is more knowledge yet to be created in Springville.

Initially, he thought that the town was on the decline and that his study might be brought to a forcible end when most of the residents either moved away to find work or died.

But then things started happening in Springville. For one, oil was discovered in 1994. While that directly profited only one person — the woman who owns the general store and all the land in town — it brought a variety of new people into town on a regular basis.

Another change occurred at the school. Because the Springville school was viewed as safer than the school in the county seat, a number of parents from the county seat began bringing their children out to the Springville school. With 120 students now enrolled, the school district is building a new school.

How these changes will affect language in Springville, Bailey isn't sure. But one thing is clear: he's eager to find out.

"In spite of the fact that we thought the community would die, it's kind of gotten a second lease on life," Bailey says. "It will be interesting to see what happens." ■

REBELS WITH A CAUSE



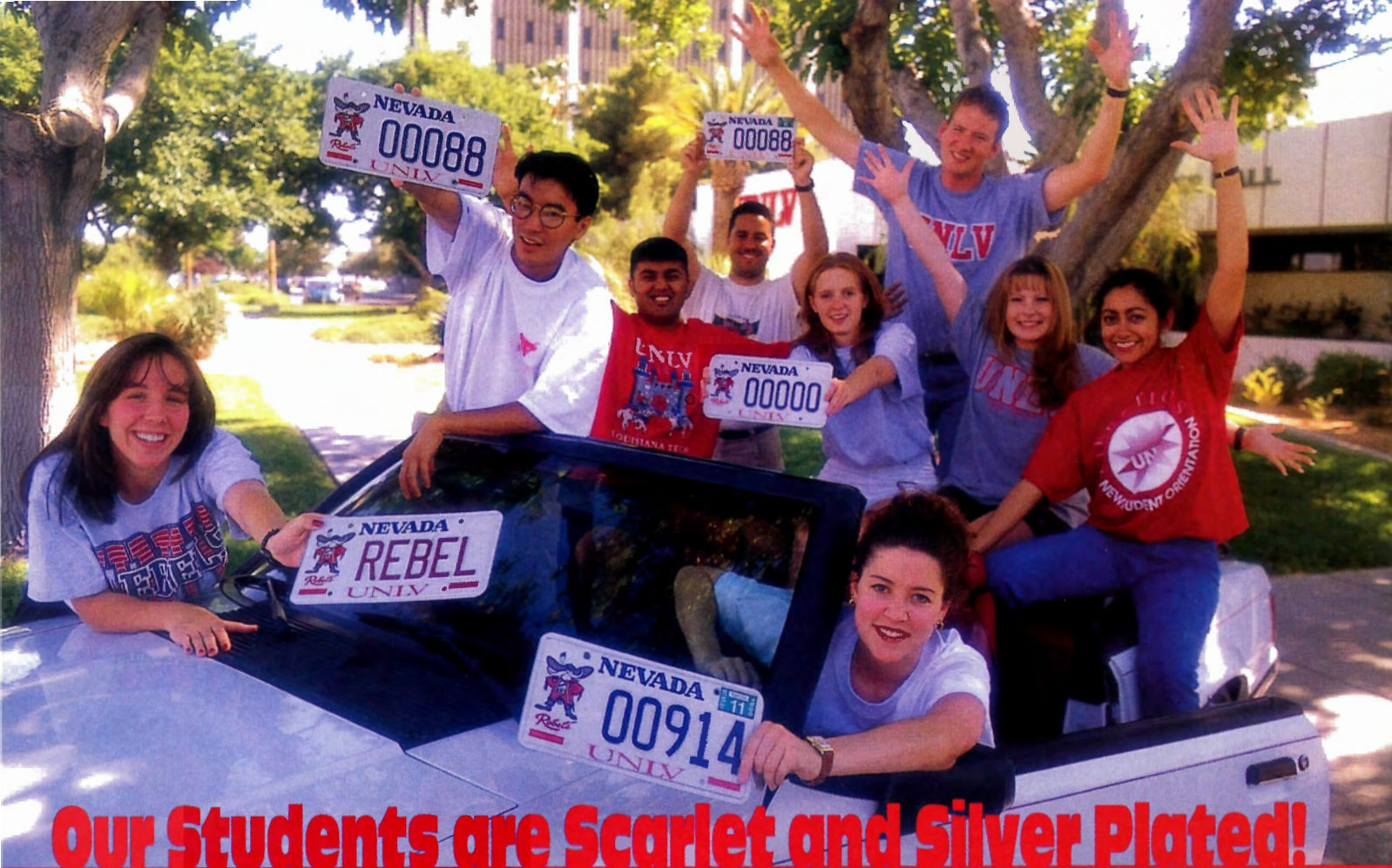
No bobby socks and poodle skirts for this group of rebels! As UNLV reaches its 40th anniversary, these students have their shirt sleeves rolled up and are ready to rock ... over the phone. The Rebel Ring Phonathon is underway, and these "Rebel Ringers" will be calling you.

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