

UNLV

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2011

“IN AN IDEAL WORLD THOSE JOBS WILL GO TO NEVADA GRADUATES”



“I LEARNED HOW TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN”

“YOU CAN'T DESCRIBE THE IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN A SENTENCE”

“THERE'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE A NEED FOR ME”

“IF YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A GREAT COMMUNITY, THEN YOU NEED TO RAISE GREAT STUDENTS”

“OUR KIDS DON'T SPEAK IN TERMS OF *IF I GO TO COLLEGE*”

“I NEED THOUGHT LEADERS”

THE POWER OF HIGHER EDUCATION



Well Groomed

An Oran K. Gragson Elementary School student dons a Hey Reb! mustache during an assembly sponsored by UNLV's Adopt-A-School program. It encourages kids in at-risk schools to strive for a college education. Throughout the year, UNLV student-athletes, employees, and Hey Reb! himself conduct book drives and volunteer in the classroom. High-achieving kids also receive tickets to campus events. Read more about the duties of the mascot on page 33. [Photo by Aaron Mayes]



ON THE COVER:
.....

Kennedy Washington, daughter of Karla Washington, who is featured on page 23.

[Photo by Aaron Mayes]

The Power of Higher Education

22 A science teacher. A single mom. First-generation college graduates and business leaders. Read about how UNLV changed their lives and gave them value.

30 A Primer on UNLV's Impact

The Return of a Runnin' Rebel

16 Dave Rice, UNLV's new head basketball coach, shares his thoughts on the championship team he played on and the ones he hopes to lead now.

Shining a light on UNLV's Flashlight

18 Thirty years ago, UNLV's iconic sculpture traveled on a flatbed trailer to its home outside Ham Concert Hall.

- 2** FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 4** THE FLASHLIGHT
- 10** SPORTS
- 12** BOOKS
- 14** RESEARCH
- 16** MY THOUGHTS
- 20** PIXELS
- 32** CLASS NOTES

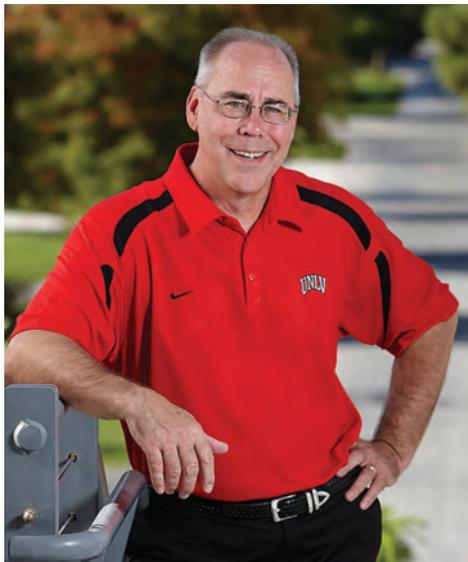
An Economic Engine

Sometime this year, UNLV will exceed 100,000 graduates — an exciting milestone for our university. By our estimate, about 65,000 of our alumni are living and working in Southern Nevada. This is an important figure. College graduates are employed at significantly higher levels than those without degrees. In fact, studies show that unemployment among college graduates is 6 percent, versus 17 percent for people who did not finish high school. Nevada, with one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, needs more college graduates.

College graduates form the backbone of workforce creation. They lead the way to a diversified economy, which can help Nevada rebound from current and future fiscal challenges. UNLV produces graduates who are leaders in the public and private businesses and organizations in Nevada. In the pages of this magazine, you will read about alumni who are making a difference in our state. However, only about 20 percent of Southern Nevada's population holds a college degree in contrast to nearly 40 percent in other comparable regions.

UNLV's primary function is to increase the number of college graduates in our region and state so we can help provide a more robust and diverse economy to benefit everyone who lives here. We graduate alumni who make a difference in health care, education, business, entertainment, tourism, law, science, and countless other professions that improve the quality of life in our community. UNLV has improved our academic success during the last few years, and we are doing better than ever in supporting our students — our future alumni — on their paths to graduation and great careers. Even in these difficult times, we are working hard to make a UNLV degree even more valuable in this marketplace and beyond.

UNLV is an engine for our economy. For every dollar that the state gives to UNLV, we generate \$5.80 in return. This is a \$1.15 billion-a-year economic impact in our region. UNLV attracts people from all 50 states and 77 countries to participate in our economy. Our faculty, staff, and students donate thousands of hours of services to the community. We bring nearly \$100 million a year in federal funds — grants and contracts — to our region. In addition we run a major entertainment venue, the Thomas & Mack Center, the top-grossing college arena in the country. UNLV



is an investment — an investment in Nevada for Nevadans.

Right now, more than at any other time in our history, UNLV needs our alumni and friends to stand up and be heard. The budget currently proposed before the state Legislature will mean we can serve fewer students, produce fewer alumni, and contribute less to our region's workforce needs. I think most of us envision a future in which our children and their children will be able to attend one of the best institutions in the world, right here in Las Vegas. A future in which we have a strong economy, a high quality of life, and prosperity.

Spread the word. Let your friends, neighbors, and elected officials know. While we cannot avoid budget cuts, we hope to minimize them. We've set up a website, go.unlv.edu/ambassadors, where you can share your story, be informed about the latest budget facts, and volunteer to help. Please share your stories about UNLV and help us ensure that the Nevada System of Higher Education gets the funding that it deserves and that Nevada gets the college graduates and the economic benefits that it so desperately needs.

Neal Smatresk
UNLV President

More: To learn more about the importance of UNLV and the issues it faces, read President Neal Smatresk's in-depth interview with Steve Green in VEGAS INC. www.vegascinc.com

EDITOR
Cate Weeks

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Diane Russell/Class Notes & Books
Shane Bevell/Sports

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Geri Kodey
Aaron Mayes
R. Marsh Starks

CONTRIBUTORS
Tony Allen
Afsha Bawany
Holly Ivy DeVore
Karyn Hollingsworth
Donna McAleer
Jerry Schefcik
Gegan Wingert

Graphic design by Ched Whitney

Vice President for Advancement:
Bill Boldt

Senior Director, UNLV Marketing &
Public Relations: Earnest Phillips

SUBSCRIPTION UPDATES

Update your address
and submit Class Notes
information at:

alumni.unlv.edu/update

COMMENTS AND LETTERS

UNLV Magazine welcome letters
from our readers. For the full letters
policy and submission form, visit:
magazine.unlv.edu

Reprint permission

Articles may be reprinted with
permission. Contact us at 702-895-
2626 or magazine@unlv.edu.

Postmaster

Please send address changes to
UNLV Magazine,
4505 S. Maryland Parkway, Box 1024,
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1024.

UNLV Magazine
is published by the
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Marketing & Public Relations Office
702-895-2626
www.unlv.edu

UNLV is an AA/EEO institution.



UNLV AMBASSADORS



Start Small. Think Big Make A Difference Today.

UNLV Ambassadors are alumni, donors, and friends who care about the future of this university.

They're passionate. Unwavering.

And believe in the power of higher education.

See what it's all about.

unlv.edu/ambassadors

UNLV

THE Flashlight



Wali Zaidi and fellow engineering students won the international Humanitarian Technology Challenge with their plan for bringing electricity to people in rural areas of the world.

Powered Up

By bringing electricity to the poor, engineering students tackle world peace

BY CATE WEEKS

Wali Zaidi walks into the room in a suit and red tie. He's here to talk serious business: his solution for peace in Pakistan and other developing nations.

He plans to tackle that challenge by bringing affordable electricity to rural areas. With electricity, access to health care and education can expand and economic development blossom. People will no longer live in the dark. A little electricity can create better living conditions, more peaceful living conditions.

To you, this might sound a bit lofty for an undergrad engineering major to accomplish in his off hours. The United Nations, however, has confidence in Zaidi and fellow engineering students Sammy Zaidi (Wali's brother) and Christopher Belcher.

The trio recently won the Humanitarian Technology Challenge, an international competition sponsored by the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the United Nations Foundation. The team had eight months to develop a prototype, define a pilot project location, and identify manufacturing and financing resources. They edged out finalists from universities in Germany and India with their idea of a solar-tracking power system.

The team envisions the system being

used for small-scale appliances, like a computer, household lights, or a refrigerator for storing vaccines in a medical clinic.

"An interesting example of usage I came across was a small rural restaurant that used electricity to power a TV set," Zaidi says. "This attracted a lot more customers to the restaurant to order food and watch TV. Basic things like that make a difference in the end."

The design is simple — a few solar panels and a manual system for tracking the sun across the sky. It's adaptable, scalable, and requires little maintenance. The team picked solar because it's a natural resource that is abundant in the test-target of Pakistan as well as many developing nations. Unfortunately, Zaidi says, there's also a big challenge inherent in solar. "It's always the money. The technology is still expensive."

And what good is an electricity-generating system if people well under the poverty level can never attain it?

NEWS FROM THE BRIGHT SPOTS ON CAMPUS

That's where Zaidi's finance minor was a big help. The team had to extensively research the economic feasibility of its solution and develop a full business plan. Each unit would cost about \$1,700 with installation. The team researched microcredit, which enables small loans (by Western

"I've invested so much time in this already that I have to see it through. Maybe, if all goes well, I'll be building a business here instead of just finding a job."

standards) to be made to individuals in developing countries. These loans, secured through private partnerships, aid groups, or the manufacturer, could be repaid with as little as \$28 per month.

"The ultimate aim is to use this power device in a way that allows the borrower to increase productivity, which in turn increases revenue," Zaidi says. "This increased revenue is used to pay off the loan within a short period of time, after which the

borrower becomes the owner of the device and can have greater economic stability."

With \$5,000 prize money and assistance from the contest, Zaidi is now setting up a site to demonstrate the system to potential investors and to secure a manufacturer.

For the next step in bringing an idea to market, he plans to don that suit and tie frequently. He graduates in May and is ready to pitch the idea as both a good business venture and a good thing to do.

"I've invested so much time in this already that I have to see it through," he says. "Maybe, if all goes well, I'll be building a business here instead of just finding a job."

I owe it all to you, Prof

I was featured in the article "Combating the Nursing Shortage" (Fall 2002) as a new graduate of the UNLV nursing program. I was also a recipient of the Lahr Foundation Scholarship.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for having the opportunity to receive my nursing education through UNLV. The nursing program faculty and staff were knowledgeable, professional, and approachable.

In my career as a nursing educator, I think about my experiences at UNLV and how much I grew as a person because of the nurse-educators who were such great role models.

I will be embarking on a new career as curriculum dean for the nursing program in my institution.

I wanted to share this success with my UNLV faculty who have inspired me to pursue my career in nursing education and to the Lahr family for helping support my education at UNLV.

RACHEL CHOUDHURY
'02 MSN

Write us: We know you're a diversely opinionated bunch. Let's hear it. To submit a letter, visit magazine.unlv.edu.

#GoodIdea: Twitter in the Classroom



Economics lecturer Ahmad Kader found the freshmen in his intro-level class reluctant to raise their hands and jump into discussions. So he had them whip out their phones instead.

This year Kader designated class Twitter days, so students could tweet topical, course-related questions in real time during class. His graduate assistant screened the questions and projected them onto a large video screen. Kader would answer the questions and invite further discussion.

The idea has worked. By the second week of using the social media platform, he noticed an increase in class participation. Each Twitter day, Kader received 10-20 questions via the social media service.

"Before, we had only one or two students asking questions," Kader says. "Students (also) were more aggressive."

Higher attendance on Twitter Days was a bonus, and he found live discussions on non-Twitter days improved as well. He still is studying the correlation between tweeting and academic performance, but it seems that "students who tweeted more performed better. Some students said they learned more after tweeting," he says.

Integrating this type of technology into the classroom can be more taxing than traditional teaching. "It was extra work, but worth it," he says.

The experiment was part of a Dean's Teaching Innovation Grant program in the College of Business. It encourages instructors to incorporate new ways to engage students in learning, spur innovation in teaching methods, and ease transition to the teaching of larger sections.

"I think this has some promise. The increase in student engagement alone is a good outcome," says Paul Jarley, dean of the college. "Using social media may be one way to encourage students to participate, even in larger class sections."

-KARYN S. HOLLINGSWORTH

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The Tool

iPhone 4, with an app developed by the UNLV Transportation Research Center

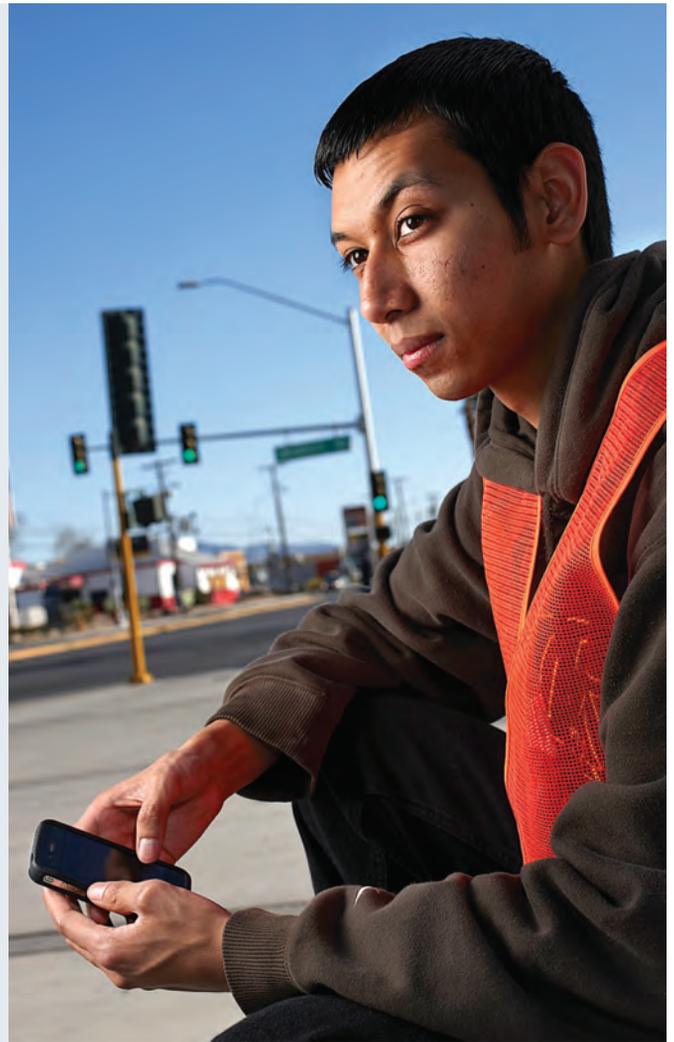
The User

Sergio Contreras, '10 BA Electrical Engineering and current graduate student working in the center

At the Transportation Research Center, the iPhone 4 lives up to its tagline, "This changes everything." When the sleek little smartphone — with its integrated gyroscope, dual cameras, GPS, and more — came out, researchers saw the potential to replace thousands of dollars worth of standalone equipment. They just needed the apps.

Contreras developed the first application to take advantage of the phone's video capabilities. It can record both the road ahead and what's going on inside a car. Other sensors simultaneously note the direction and speed you're traveling while the gyroscope collects data on the bumps in the road. The app is used during the center's "travel runs," which are crucial for studying traffic flow theory on arterials and at intersections.

Another app has helped the Nevada Department of Public Safety conduct its annual seat belt usage surveys. It has made collecting the data three times faster than previous methods. Because of the phone's Internet connection, all the data collected is instantly dumped into the center's vast databases.



BEST PLACE FOR TEEN SEX EDUCATION: CHURCH?

IF JUST SAYING "NO" WAS ALL IT TOOK, Nevada might not be leading the nation in teen pregnancies. To better equip teens to



respond to pressure, UNLV is heading the Southern Nevada Teen Pregnancy Prevention Project.

It targets African-American youth — a group disproportionately affected by teen pregnancy — with

a comprehensive sex education program. And it's reaching out to them through, of all places, their churches.

The church historically has been a hub for health promotion activities in African-American communities. But church leaders

have shied away from issues related to sexual health. "They're realizing now that, as much as they preach abstinence-only, there's a need for abstinence-plus programs; telling kids to say 'No' isn't enough," says **Melva Thompson-Robinson**, executive director of UNLV's Center for Health Disparities Research.

UNLV will train leaders at 15 local churches to conduct an eight-week program that helps teens understand risk factors associated with becoming sexually active. It is modeled after a successful HIV/AIDS prevention effort.

A major component helps teens develop skills to handle stressful situations that often lead to poor decisions. "These kids aren't having sex, let alone having babies, because they don't care about their future," Thompson-Robinson says. "In some cases, they don't

have access to contraception, but a lot has to do with what goes on in the homes."

Girls neglected at home often don't have the self-esteem and assertiveness skills to handle sexual pressure. "They're looking for love in the wrong places," she says. "And our young men think it's OK to prey on these girls for sexual activities, which are often done in an unsafe manner — i.e., without a condom."

Funding for the program comes from a five-year, \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Program partners include Education for Quality Living, Community Partners for Better Health, and First African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Center for Health Disparities Research is within the UNLV School of Community Health Sciences. It conducts academic and community-based research to improve health programs and public policy.

Stamping out tobacco use



Ever get annoyed when you see a cigarette butt smoldering alongside the flowers lining the academic malls? That may soon become a thing of the past. With funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the School of Nursing is leading efforts to extinguish tobacco use on Southern Nevada's higher education campuses. The UNLV effort — called Tobacco Free UNLV — is developing policies and programs here and at Nevada State College and the College of Southern Nevada.

Susan VanBeuge, program director and a nursing professor, is heading the initiative to make Southern Nevada campuses tobacco free by 2012. The first step was a survey to gauge the level of concern about the issue. "We had to identify if this is something our community really wanted," VanBeuge says. The survey confirmed that the majority of "students don't like smoke on campus. And they don't like having to walk through smoke on their campus."

About 73 percent of survey respondents expressed that university policy should protect them from secondhand smoke. Of the 16 percent who currently smoke, almost 60 percent say they hope to kick the habit before they graduate.

VanBeuge notes that making the campus smoke-free will prepare students for work in one of the many companies that now ban smoking. A strong policy also will promote healthy work environments and lifestyles.

More than 450 American campuses are now smoke-free. VanBeuge hopes UNLV's policy will be in place next year. The group is circulating a petition for policy change through its website (www.tobaccofreeunlv.com) and setting up booths periodically to heighten awareness of the issue. "Change is not easy," she says. "You have to put the idea out there."

Program funding comes from \$14.6 million of stimulus money the Southern Nevada Health District received to help residents stop using tobacco products and to limit secondhand smoke exposure. The group has partnered with the Nevada Cancer Institute and the American Lung Association to provide free smoking-cessation classes for faculty, staff, and students.

—GREGAN WINGERT

Low-cost testing helps struggling students of all ages

When a child is struggling in the classroom, learning turns from fun to frustrating for students and parents alike.

To help, psychology professor Michelle Carro and her team of doctoral students at the UNLV Psychological Assessment and Testing Clinic provide a much-needed, low-cost service to the community.

The clinic's team serves kindergarteners through adults by evaluating cognitive and academic skills such as reading, math, processing speed, problem solving, attention, and memory. Testing can help determine whether an individual has attention deficit disorder, autism spectrum disorder, or a learning disability. After the assessment, the clinic provides recommendations and referrals for addressing learning troubles.

For Children: Carro noted that local schools

do offer testing, but there can be a long wait. She encourages parents to talk to their child's teacher when considering an evaluation. "If teachers are saying that, compared to other children they've worked with, they see your child struggling, then be open to that feedback."

Parents should also follow their instincts. "If you think your child is putting in a lot of time but you are not seeing results, or you seem perplexed by your child's inability to learn — for example, you try to teach them something but they forget it the next day — then it's time to consider an evaluation."

For Adults: Community resources are even more limited for adults. Only a handful of local psychologists test for learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder, says Carro.

"There's nothing to be ashamed of," Carro says of adult learners. "Everybody has different learning needs. You could be a student who is going to class, taking notes, and being diligent about studying, but maybe you just can't 'get it.'"

—AFSHA BAWANY

BRIEFLY



Help for children with cerebral palsy

UNLV researchers are expanding their treatment program for patients with Parkinson's disease to help children with cerebral palsy.

The effort, led by students in UNLV's physical therapy and kinesiology programs, involves focused repetition of exaggerated motions. In Parkinson's patients, the therapy proved successful in making walking less taxing and improving overall mobility. Since children with cerebral palsy face similar mobility issues, the new program could offer an effective, low-cost therapy.

The program is part of a research study started this spring under the direction of Robbin Hickman, professor of physical therapy.



Commemorative magnets have added a fun keepsake to the disposable plastic cup.



The Bottoms Up dispenser “pours” beer upward through a hole in the bottom of the cup.



When the cup is lifted off the machine, the magnet falls into place, sealing the hole.



A Different Pour

BY SHANE BEVELL

Joe Carter isn't solving the world's most pressing problems, but he is making the beer-buying experience quite a spectacle.

The Bottoms Up beer dispensing system that the food and beverage director brought to the Thomas & Mack Center induced oohs and aahs during the Mountain West Conference Tournament. The sight sent fans reaching for their phones to upload the novel way to fill a cup.

Bartender Michael Harris says, “Customers wonder how it's going to work. It's fun to see the expressions on their faces. They'll even go get their friends and bring them back to prove what they saw.”

The system improved the speed of service — making for shorter lines and happier customers — and reduced spoilage by 80 percent, Carter says.

A BONUS FOR FANS

The Thomas & Mack Center was the first college arena to embrace Bottoms Up, but it almost didn't happen. Wary of the equipment cost, Carter was lukewarm when inventor Josh Springer of GrinOn Industries approached him. The dispenser that fills four beers at a time costs \$3,500 and the cups cost 45 cents compared to 10 cents for a regular cup.

Springer agreed to provide the Bottoms Up equipment, which Carter tested during the May 2009 Supercross event at Sam Boyd Stadium. He loved the system, but wondered if fans would keep paying more for beer in a fancy cup once the novelty wore off?



Then he thought of a way to cover the added cost of the cups while giving fans something worth the extra buck: a keepsake magnet.

Carter has sold six runs of advertising for a total of \$30,000 and has sold three more for events later this

year. Plus, UNLV has sold more than 138,000 beers in the special cup at a \$1 more per cup. Two of the more popular magnets commemorated this year's National Finals Rodeo events and the UNLV/Wisconsin football game, which featured Budweiser's logo.

“I was sold immediately after seeing the reactions of fans. It gave them something to smile about,” Carter says. “It has really taken off from there.”

The only “problem” is when patrons can't resist testing out the mechanics of the system. Every now and then, someone pokes a finger through the hole. (Hint: the magnet will lift up, spilling a little of your beer.)

NEWSMAKERS

Rising Star: **Cortney Warren** of psychology has been racking up awards this past year. She was selected for an American Psychological Association early career award for clinical psychologists. She also received the Award for Excellence in Addiction Research and Education from the Foundation for Recovery. Her research explores sociocultural factors related to eating disorders. One study on Latino teens grew out of an eating disorder prevention program at Valley High School. Among her findings: Generational status plays a role. Second- and third-generation Americans are more likely to abandon the traditional Hispanic cultural ideals of beauty that favor natural curves.

Fighting Fears: Denis Beller of mechanical engineering received the Landis Public Communication & Education Award at the American Nuclear Society. The award recognizes individuals who further public understanding of the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. In an interview for the ANS Nuclear Café website, Beller called the concept of “educating the public” an “insult,” adding, “Many in our field don’t understand that we need to communicate with people. We need to talk to the public and answer their fears.”

Watching the Land: Edward Weber of the School of Environmental and Public Affairs was appointed by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council. During his three-year term, he will advise the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on issues such as land-use plans and resource and ecosystem management.

Artistic Inspiration: **Mary Warner** of art received the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts. Her work is on display at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve through June 12. The exhibit, called “Kaleidoscope: Visual Inspiration,” features work by Warner and the students she has both inspired and been inspired by. She was selected for the award for her dedication to her artistic practice and her service as an educator, curator, and volunteer. Her work has been featured in 43 solo exhibitions internationally, and she has participated in more than 55 exhibitions across the state. She has had an influential and ongoing impact on the Las Vegas art scene. She has made her work accessible by exhibiting in nontraditional and emerging spaces as well as in well-established galleries and museums.

More info: Check out what your former professors have accomplished lately at go.unlv.edu/facultystaff



OVERHEARD

In the Student Union ...

Do you think eating Panda Express with chopsticks is pretentious? Or is it pretentious of me to think that that's pretentious?

In Student Union elevator ...

I have the funniest job. Today I had to find a tablecloth big enough to cover a rock.

At the silent auction before the Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame event ...

If he sees my bid, then he'll outbid me just to win.

During a field trip of fifth-graders to UNLV's Forever Earth research boat at Lake Mead ...

Aren't you going to get hot? // Nope, I'm weather resistant.

BRIEFLY
.....

Football Saturday on campus?

UNLV and Majestic Realty, one of the largest real estate development companies in the country, are exploring the possibility of building a master-planned development on campus.

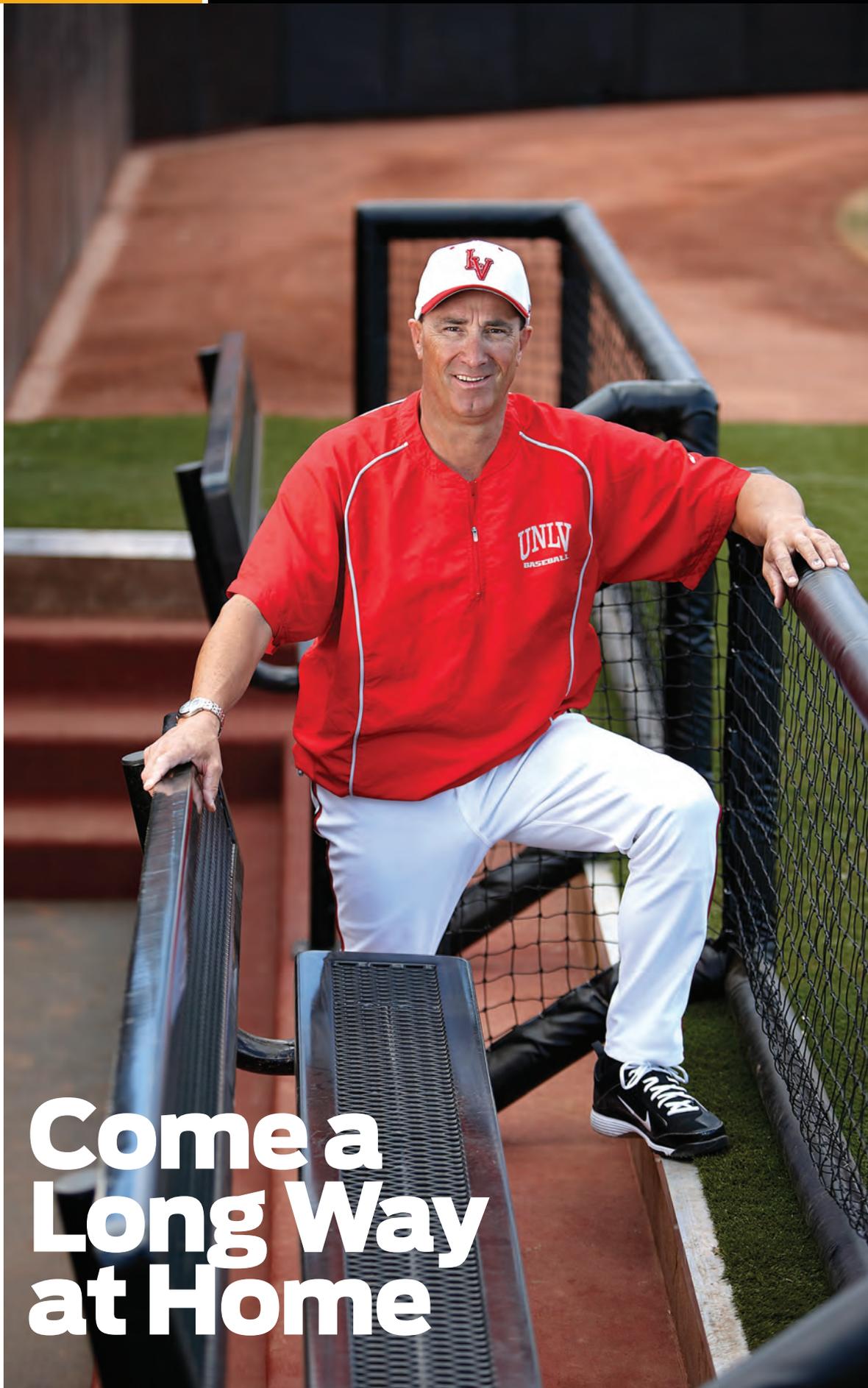
The feature attraction is a fully enclosed, multi-purpose event center for UNLV football, NCAA bowl games, and arena football. The project also would bring new retail, entertainment, and restaurant facilities to campus.

More: Follow updates on the events center project at www.unlvnow.com.

Summertime fun for kids

Get your kids out of the house this summer and bring them to campus for one of UNLV's many summer sports camps.

Whether it's basketball, soccer, or tennis, they enhance their skills in a fun environment under the watchful eye of Rebel coaches and athletes. See which camp is best for your child at unlvrebels.com.



**Come a
Long Way
at Home**

Tim Chambers works his way up the coaching ranks from local high school JV squad to Division I

BY SHANE BEVELL

A call out of the blue reminded Tim Chambers of just how far he'd come. In the months since being named UNLV's sixth baseball coach, Chambers fielded hundreds of calls of congratulations. Then one came from an old best friend. He was coming to Las Vegas to watch his kids play in a tournament. "He googled 'baseball complexes in Las Vegas' and the first reference was about me being named UNLV coach," says Chambers. "He calls me and says, 'I can't believe it really is you. I can't believe you went from the hood to being a Division I baseball coach.'"

Now one of Southern Nevada's most popular and successful coaches, Chambers proved himself to be a great recruiter and fundraiser at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). He was the only applicant — out of more than 100 applicants — that athletic director Jim Livengood brought to campus for an interview.

The hire already has exceeded expectations — the Rebels were 16-4 through 20 games this spring.

He revamped the team roster, bringing in 18 new players, including 11 from last year's 52-16 CSN team, to go with 14 returning student-athletes. His recruiting strategy (and team marketing strategy) targets the top-tier local talent. "For every local kid we get, we might get 20-30 fans to come watch," he says.

That will pay further dividends in donor support for the program. Recent donations allowed UNLV to gut the clubhouse, putting in new lockers, carpet, paint, and furniture. The press box and dugouts were upgraded and new pads were put on the backstop and outfield fences.

Having accomplished all he wanted at CSN — including a junior college national championship — Chambers says the timing was right to take over at UNLV. At all his coaching stops, Chambers has been extremely successful doing what he loves. However, life hasn't always been easy.

COMING FROM NOTHING

Headed by a single mother, Chambers' family struggled with poverty. He attended 13 grade schools by the time he was 12. "My mom worked three jobs to make sure me, my brother, and sister had clothes on our backs, shoes on our feet, food in

our bellies, and a roof over our heads. She crawled and scratched to provide."

When he was 14, an aunt invited Chambers' family to move from Southern California to Pleasant Grove, Utah. There he found stability and met baseball coach John Hoover, the man he calls dad. Under Hoover's guidance, Chambers grew to love the sport.

He played college baseball at three different schools, earning all-America honors at Dixie College. An arm injury led Chambers to realize that playing professional baseball wasn't in his future, but he wanted to be involved in the sport. He settled at Southern Utah University, studying physical education. He struggled academically and after three years had a 2.1 GPA.

Then he met his future wife, Kimberlie, an all-America volleyball player and straight-A student. "She wouldn't marry me unless I earned my degree so I busted my butt academically and ended up graduating with a 2.9 GPA," Chambers says.

"Getting a college degree and meeting my wife are the biggest accomplishments of my life," he says. "If I hadn't met my wife, I may not have gotten a degree, and without a degree I wouldn't be where I am today."

That is why wherever he coaches, whether it is UNLV, CSN, or Bishop Gorman High School, Chambers has three basic rules for his players: play hard, go to school every day, and be a good person.

CREATING A LEGACY

After college, Chambers and his wife moved to her hometown of Las Vegas. After working two jobs for nearly a year, he broke into coaching through a former teammate's father, who was the coach at Gorman High. He started with the junior varsity team and then took over as varsity coach from 1991-99. He led the program, which hadn't been to the playoffs in more than 35 years, to six straight division crowns.

Chambers then moved on to CSN, building the program from scratch. In 11 seasons, he was named conference coach of the year four times. He also won seven conference championships, three regional titles, two district crowns, and the 2003 Junior College World Series Championship. His CSN team last year, led by Bryce Harper, reached the national semifinals. Harper was Major League Baseball's top draft pick and Golden Spikes Award winner.

Chambers knows he made the right choice in coming to UNLV now. "It's not very often that a person gets to coach at the high school, junior college, and Division I level in the same town."

BRIEFLY

Success in the classroom

UNLV had 35 student-athletes named to the fall 2010 Academic All-Mountain West Conference. The women's soccer team led the way with 14 honorees, which ties the program's previous high number. Also making the list: 12 football players, five cross country competitors, and four volleyball athletes.

"Academic excellence is something we strive for as a team and work very hard at achieving," says women's soccer coach Jennifer Klein. "The girls have done a great job and continue to raise our team's standards on the field and in the classroom."

Tune in to RebelTV

Check out the Rebels through the lens of students. Local viewers with Cox Cable channel 636 can watch RebelTV, produced by students and athletics staff.

The monthly, hour-long segments include features about athletic and entertainment events at UNLV facilities. In May, RebelTV looks at the success of the women's tennis team.

It also features a special segment on new men's basketball coach Dave Rice. The piece profiles his first day on the job, including the introductory press conference and rally.

Note: Before his death in 2007, history professor Hal Rothman was known nationally for his prolific commentary on Las Vegas and the West. He died after a battle with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease, yet his voice continues. *The Making of Modern Nevada* is Rothman's third posthumously published book. This is a condensed version of the introduction by UNLV history professor David Wrobel. ▼



A roadside sign in Northeastern Nevada stands as a testament to the historic tensions between ranchers and the federal government.

The Legacy of Colonial Rule

State still contending with the history of tension between Nevadans and federal authorities

BY DAVID WROBEL

HAL ROTHMAN INTENDED *The Making of Modern Nevada* to be a comprehensive history of the state, organized around a forceful thesis: That, until very recently, Nevada was controlled by forces outside of the state. But his worsening medical condition prevented him from completing *The Making of Modern Nevada*. He wrote to the University of Nevada Press on Nov. 11, 2007: “I have become so sick so fast that I will not be able to finish the Nevada history. I am attaching eight chapters and an introduction. I would like you to find someone to finish the book.” He added, “I really wanted to finish this one.”

After much reflection and conversation, the publisher decided,

and rightly so, that asking someone to finish the manuscript would, while making it more complete in its coverage, have made it less clearly and definitively a testament to the bold arguments and strong narrative voice of its author. As it stands, *The Making of Modern Nevada* is Hal's unique interpretation of Nevada's history. It is one of the last pieces of writing by a historian and public intellectual whose work influenced many specialities within history — the history of the American West, of environmentalism, of national parks, and of Las Vegas history and the Silver State, the adopted home which he grew to care deeply about.

Hal's legacy is evident in *The Making of Modern Nevada*. Never one to mince words, he describes Nevada, at the tail end of the Comstock

era, as “the equivalent of a medieval fiefdom, where a few possessed not only wealth but power, and everyone else simply existed, many harboring grievances against the power structure.” His driving theme of the exploitation of Nevada finds particularly clear expression in the coverage of Hoover Dam: “[a]s did every previous venture in the state,” Rothman wrote, “the dam in Black Canyon benefited interests outside the state ahead of Nevada residents ... Boulder Dam was located primarily in Nevada, but it served California above all else.”

The dam, Hal is quick to point out, was built by six non-Nevada companies, but it was the federal government, he emphasizes, that really directed the fortunes and fate of the state, through the provision of work programs and other forms of federal assistance and through the purchase of silver. On the whole, New Deal colonialism benefited the state, Rothman suggests, even if, he wryly notes, its residents “had to swallow a little government assistance.” But when federal colonialism was less beneficial to the state, its residents revolted against colonial authority in organized and effective fashion, as evidenced in the now more than two-decade-long struggle against the plan to store the nation’s nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, adjacent to the Nevada Test Site, north of Las Vegas.

Northern Nevada gets the bulk of its coverage in the first half of the book; the second half belongs to Clark County, which for him was the future of the state, the nexus of its demographic growth, and increasingly the barometer of its national significance.

Rothman was a booster for Clark County and an ambassador for both the region’s normalcy and its exceptionalism. He worked hard to transform common national and international perceptions of Southern Nevada as the weirdest, most anomalous, most conspicuous center of capitalist consumer excess on earth. He preferred to view the region as a center of cultural innovation, the “last Detroit” — the last haven of opportunity for working-class Americans to secure their piece of the American dream. But he also contended that the region was becoming more like the rest of the United

States, in part because of its profound influence on the nation.

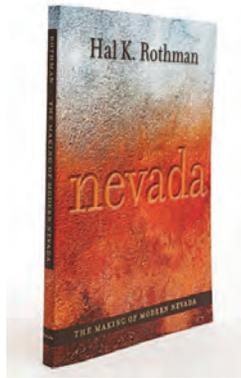
In *The Making of Modern Nevada*, we see the shift from colony to colonizer, from blank slate in the desert to postindustrial, postmodern pacesetter, not just for the nation, but for the globe. Only Rothman could have finished this book, and only the bravest of souls would seek to finish it for him.

Nonetheless, the occasional comments from members of the UNLV history community suggest that Rothman had his finger very squarely on the pulse of the Las Vegas metropolitan region, the state, and the nation in his last months of life. One doctoral student recalls Rothman advising him in spring 2006 to sell the condo he had purchased at the beginning of his studies, in the early 2000s, and avoid

the bust that would inevitably follow the remarkable housing boom. The real estate bust that followed has been quite astonishing, with many properties in Clark County by 2010 losing more than 50 percent of their peak value in early 2006.

Once again, the southern part of the Silver State has been at the cutting edge of national trends; once again Las Vegas dominates the national headlines as the recession focuses on the excesses of the real estate boom, the dangers of overbuilding of new housing subdivisions, shady mortgages, and enormous expectations. Long the national symbol of American consumer cultural excess, Las Vegas has now become the symbol of speculative excess that is not casino-related.

It would be good to have Hal’s perspective on today’s real estate bust and on the issue of whether a more reliable set of structures for generating state revenue might emerge from the current economic crisis that the state of Nevada is suffering from; and whether Clark County, Nevada which comes close to topping the nation in the unenviable area of unemployment rates at the end of 2000s will ever again regain its mantle as the “last Detroit.” We can only speculate on what Rothman would have to say were he still with us, and be grateful for the voluminous body of work that he left us, including *The Making of Modern Nevada*.



The Making of Modern Nevada

BY HAL ROTHMAN
WITH FORWARD BY
DAVID WROBEL
2010 University of
Nevada Press

Enron and Other Corporate Fiascos: The Corporate Scandal Reader

BY NANCY RAPAPORT, JEFFREY D. VAN NIEL AND BALA G. DHARAN
2010, University of Nevada Press

Boyd School of Law professor Rapaport and her co-authors explore the decisions that led to Enron’s robust growth and spectacular demise. Essays detail the complex web of partnerships and accounting tricks used to obscure bad news. The authors say the lesson for business and law professionals is that neither can choose deliberate ignorance of each other’s specialty. They write, “If we are to restore public trust in corporate governance and the market, then we must learn to take responsibility for more than our particular assignments — to take responsibility for solving problems, rather than merely answering questions.”

End of the Story

BY JOHN M. BOWERS
2010, Sunstone Press

The first novel from English professor Bowers could be described as a sequel to E. M. Forster’s landmark gay novel *Maurice*. But it is more than that. The saga begins on the eve of World War I, travels through the sexual revolution of the 1970s into the AIDS era, and ends with the destruction of the World Trade Center on 9/11. It features a rich cast of Hispanic characters, all woven together to form what might be called a history of emotional expression and social change. But most of all it becomes a happy-ending version of Edmund White’s *Farewell Symphony*, a story of devotion tested over time.

He worked hard to transform common national and international perceptions of Southern Nevada as the ... most conspicuous center of capitalist consumer excess on earth. He preferred to view the region as a center of cultural innovation, the “last Detroit” — the last haven of opportunity for working-class Americans ...

Nothing foolish about invisible gold

Geologists explain the mysterious origins of Nevada's unique gold deposits

BY TONY ALLEN

CARLIN-TYPE GOLD DEPOSITS — discovered just 50 years ago and found only in Nevada — have turned the Silver State into one of the world's top gold producers. In the short time since the rare gold deposits were unearthed, scientists have been stymied by questions of how they came to be.

Until now.

Geologists from UNLV and UNR developed what's being touted as the most comprehensive model to date to explain how the unique gold deposits formed. It's a case of perfect conditions, they say. The team contends that magmatic activity in the region roughly 40 million years ago combined with geologic processes already under way, to produce the deposits.

"There is no other place we know of at this time on the planet that contains this form of gold in this concentration," says UNLV geoscience professor Jean Cline, who has spent the better part of 20 years examining Carlin-type gold deposits. "This tells us that whatever was involved in forming these deposits here in Nevada was unusual and didn't happen in the geologic past in many, if any, other parts of the world."

Since mining for Carlin-type gold began in Nevada in 1961, more gold has been extracted from the deposits — more than \$225 billion worth at today's gold prices — than was ever mined during the California gold rush of the 1800s.

Named for the Nevada town near where it was first discovered, Carlin-type gold is invisible to the naked eye. It appears only at the atomic scale embedded within the mineral pyrite, better known as fool's gold. Unable to see the gold, early prospectors missed the vast Carlin-type deposits. That invisibility is also what makes Carlin-type gold so hard to find and even more difficult to analyze.

"Prior to the discovery of Carlin deposits, most major ore types were already described in textbooks, giving geologists a framework for how metal ore deposits form," says Adam Simon, UNLV geosciences assistant professor and member of the research team. "Then came the Carlin deposits and the tendency was to fit them into existing types. But this doesn't work, which led to controversy among geologists that still exists."

BACK TO THE FUTURE

So what makes Nevada so unique, geologically speaking?

Over the region's geologic history that spans hundreds of millions of years, mountains have been built, ocean levels have risen and fallen and — here's the important part for our story — Nevada's

rocky crust has been pulled apart slowly to uncover the terrain of the Great Basin.

"The formation of Carlin-type gold deposits in Nevada seems to be related to common geologic processes that uncommonly overprint one another to a remarkable degree only in Nevada," says Simon.

The formation model suggests that Carlin-type gold deposits formed when high-temperature fluids rose from deep within the earth's surface, carrying with them gold and other metals.

The source of the fluid has been debated, though the research team presents new evidence that links the age of the deposits to magma released during intense tectonic activity.

"The deposits formed at temperatures similar to gold deposits associated with volcanoes, but Carlin deposits are hosted not in volcanoes but in sedimentary rocks," says Simon. "Plus, the chemistry of the ore fluid is similar to that found in ore fluids formed in volcanic environments — not sedimentary rocks — which makes them more unique."

And harder to figure out.

A combination of low pressure and high temperatures as well as large geologic faults channeled the fluid toward the earth's surface. The fluid cooled and formed the ore fluid essential for depositing gold-rich pyrite into surrounding rocks.

"Carlin-type deposits represent a perfect storm of Nevada's ideal geology — a tectonic trigger and magmatic processes, resulting in extremely efficient transport and deposition of gold," says John Muntean, a research economic geologist with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology at the University of Nevada, Reno. "Understanding how these deposits formed is important because most of the deposits that cropped out at the surface have likely been found."

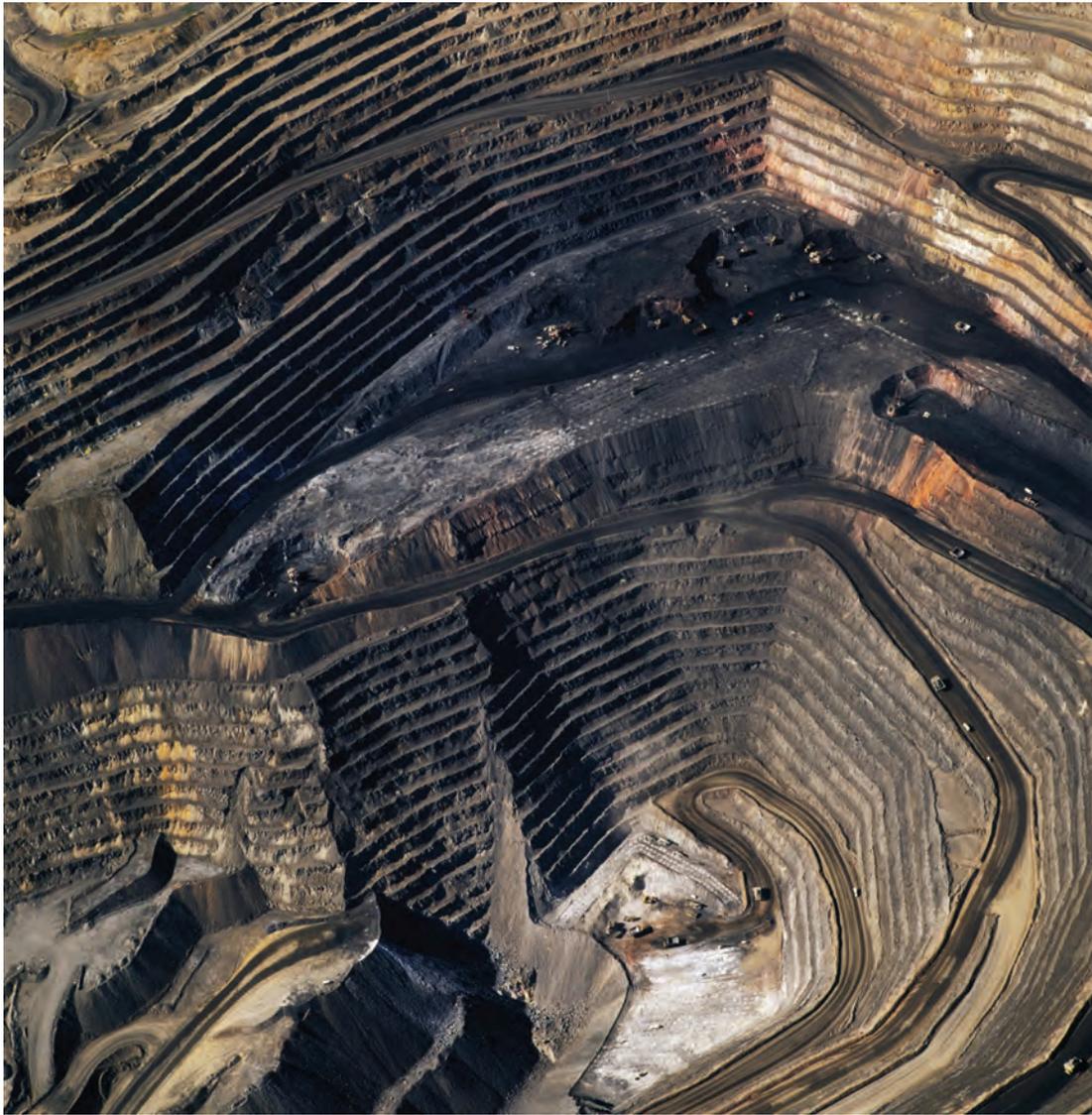
A NEW GOLD RUSH?

Geologic models are the blueprints that exploration geologists use to scour the globe in search of certain combinations of rocks, structures, and tectonic history that could lead to the next big discovery.

"Which model a geologist believes will determine where they spend their exploration dollars," says Cline. "What we can see in surface rocks or drill core is usually only the uppermost part of the ore system; the source of the fluid and the processes that generated them are miles below the surface, leading to ambiguous results and heightening the need for reliable models."

The newly published model may not directly result in new discoveries, researchers say, but formation models can lessen the risks associated with ongoing, costly exploration efforts. They also can lead both academia and industry to re-examine current exploration techniques and work together to turn new ideas into practice.

"Our model won't be the final word on Carlin-type deposits,"



Muntean says. “We hope it spurs new research in Nevada, especially by people who may not necessarily be ore deposit geologists.”

The model won’t be the final word from the research team, either. They have targeted areas of Northern Nevada that may help unearth further details on the formation of Carlin-type gold deposits. The team also will evaluate other parts of the world, namely China, with a similar geologic history to see if similar gold deposits have formed.

“To finally add some of the pieces of the puzzle that I’ve been working on for more than 20 years to those that other geologists have discovered — and to construct a coherent and plausible story — is very exciting,” says Cline.

The formation model was published in the February issue of the journal *Nature Geoscience*. The work was funded by grants from the National Science Foundation, the United States Geological Survey, Placer Dome Exploration, and Barrick Gold.

IS MY FOOL’S GOLD WORTH SOMETHING?

Got some fool’s gold tucked away from a family vacation years ago? Wondering if it actually contains real gold? Not likely, says geologist Jean Cline. Pyrite is a mineral made up of relatively common elements — iron and sulfur. It forms under a wide range of conditions, so it’s found in a number of different types of ore deposits and other rocks. “Pyrite commonly accompanies gold,” Cline says, “but gold does not commonly accompany pyrite.” Bummer.

BRIEFLY

Battle Wound Recovery

Injured soldiers often are airlifted from battlefields to triage centers and then sometimes hospitals many hours away. This gets them faster treatment but also exposes their wounds to high altitudes and low oxygen levels. Those conditions may make recovery harder.

Nursing professor Barbara St. Pierre Schneider landed a \$2.26 million grant from the U.S. Air Force to investigate the body’s immune response during flight and what can be done to aid recovery.

When a muscle is crushed, the immune system triggers an inflammatory response that activates specialized cells, called leukocytes. The leukocytes clean up debris in the wound and help repair the damage. Air transport conditions, though, may lead to excessive inflammation and leukocyte production.

This three-year study will use a mouse model and simulate flight conditions to determine whether an exaggerated leukocyte response occurs. Then the team will test whether estrogen counteracts the inflammation. Previous research shows that estrogen diminishes the leukocyte response in injured muscles.

Dave Rice is the first former Runnin' Rebel to become head basketball coach. He was a reserve guard under Coach Jerry Tarkanian for the 1990 championship team and the '91 team that lost to Duke in the Final Four. His first coaching job was as an assistant at UNLV (1991-92 and 1994-04). He went on as an assistant at Utah State (2004-05), and Brigham Young (2005-11). He and his wife, Mindy Wright Rice ('94 Business Administration), have two sons, Travis, 13, and Dylan, 8.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Dave Rice, UNLV head basketball coach, '91 BA Political Science, '93 MBA

I have a picture of our team from '91 that I always hang in my office. It's a drawing of all of us and has a quote from Markum Edwin. It goes: "There is a destiny that makes us brothers."

I think what those of us on the team remember is the camaraderie. It set a standard for me as a coach. It's not about recruiting the best five players; it's the best five who can complement each other.

Yes, there's no doubt that, ultimately, our job comes down to wins — I don't ever forget that. But, one of the reasons I coach is because of the great experience I had at UNLV on the court and in the classroom and socially. You have to remember that after the game you're sending men out into the world, out into your community.

My last game — the Duke game — was hard. Maybe that's one reason I accepted Coach Tark's offer to coach. My competitive juices were still flowing and I needed some closure.

The last game of every season is the hardest, win or lose. The seniors you've gone to battle with will never come back. It's



bittersweet. Your next team might be better, but it will never be the same.

I think that managing a team is no different than managing a family. It's all about give and take for the good of the whole.

It's interesting the longer we've been married, the more competitive Mindy's become in terms of the teams I'm

coaching. I don't think she loves sports, but she loves watching her family compete.

[Coaching runs in the family. Rice's father coached high school basketball in California. Younger brother, Grant, played for the Rebels 1997-98 and is now the head coach at Bishop Gorman High School.]

I've watched Grant develop as a

coach. He's so good at developing players over time. We both like the up-tempo transition game. We're both really competitive and spend a lot of time just trying to figure out our players. Then a lot of what we do is just based on feel and experience.

I can remember being at my dad's practices when I was young and chasing balls that were way too big for me to lift. It was a way to spend time with my dad.

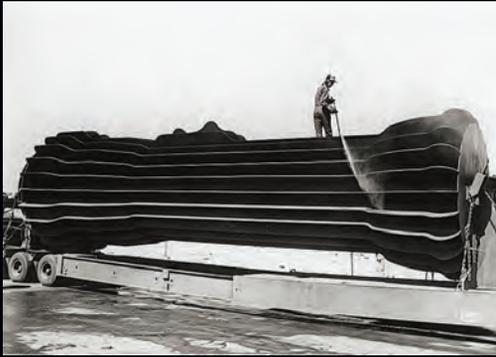
I love the movie *Field of Dreams* — the scene where the dad comes back toward the end and they play catch. It reflects the way I related to my dad when I was a kid.

My 13-year-old plays basketball and baseball. I love to just be his fan. It's not hard to take off my coach hat. I'm pretty calm there. It's funny to watch all the parents get wound up around me.

He comes to practice a lot. When we told him on Sunday that I'd received the job offer, he said, "Dad, I think it's time. I've made an awful lot of shots at the Marriott Center. It's time to make a bunch at the Thomas & Mack."



“It’s not natural, the coach-speak. You learn it over time. It’s important to be candid but there’s always details that won’t come through when you’re quoted. I hate to leave someone out.”



‘A Beacon Shining in the night’

BY JERRY SCHEFCIK

A giant lipstick on Caterpillar tracks. A huge trowel stuck in the ground. A split button the size of a swimming pool. Each is the making of Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen. They took the everyday and made it epic. **They gave UNLV its Flashlight.**

Oldenburg, with his wife and collaborator van Bruggen, pressed the boundaries of art with their art. Their monumental sculptures negated the function of commonplace objects with a change in scale and placement. Their work is collected by every major museum in the world, and their large-scale projects dot the globe in cities like New York City, Philadelphia, Houston, Miami, Rotterdam, Paris, Barcelona, and Frankfurt.

Las Vegas and UNLV made an unlikely home for a piece by these world-class artists. The story goes back to 1973, when an advisory committee recommended Oldenburg to fill a commission for a public sculpture to be placed on the plaza between Artemus Ham Concert Hall and Judy Bayley Theatre.

Oldenburg first declined, so the university looked to another artist to fill the commission. When those negotiations fell through, the invitation to Oldenburg was renewed. He accepted this time with enthusiasm and returned with a proposal for a flashlight sculpture.

A flashlight? Las Vegas is long associated with gambling and casinos whose facades feature shiny, glimmering, pulsating light-filled bulbs and tubes that hold back the night. Oldenburg envisioned a “beacon shining in the night,” and that beacon could be a flashlight.

The original design called for the Flashlight to rest on end with its light shining upward into the sky. Campus lore sometimes attributes its downward light to objections from nearby McCarran Airport. But it was actually van Bruggen who turned the Flashlight upside down. She felt that an upward shooting beam was too mechanical looking, too clichéd.

So the Flashlight was turned lens down, offering a point of intrigue and controversy ever since. Turning it upside down subdues the light, in sharp contrast to the outlandishness of the lights on the Strip. And it reverses the object’s purpose — always an Oldenburg goal.

At the same time it references the sculpture’s particular location outside performing arts venues, where ushers routinely use a flashlight to guide individuals to their seats. And UNLV often has referred to the sculpture, and to itself, as a beacon of light and knowledge. There are a number of interpretations that can be posited, and each is valid.

In March 1981, the Flashlight traveled on the flatbed trailer of an 18-wheeler from the Connecticut studio where it was fabricated to its new home in Las Vegas. Its fluted design suggests desert cactus, the light switch echoes the profile of Sunrise and Frenchman mountains to the east of campus. The intense black paint serves to extend the night into the day. The installation was a major local event and made national news.

Thirty years later, the Flashlight has moved beyond some initial controversy to become a treasured part of the university landscape. It continues to challenge our assumptions of art, inviting study and critical conversation. In such a role, it has become an icon of pop culture. It acts as a talisman and meeting point on campus — Have you ever said, “Meet me at the Flashlight”? It truly is remarkable that an Oldenburg/van Bruggen sculpture sits on our campus. I am, and I hope subsequent generations of Rebels are, ever grateful for the foresight and perseverance of the administrators who brought it here.

Schefcik is director of UNLV’s Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery. Peter Michel, director of special collections, also contributed to this piece.



Artists:

Claes Oldenburg and
Coosje van Bruggen

Fabricator:

Lippincott, Inc.,
New Haven, Conn.

Height: 38.5 feet

Weight:

74,000 pounds

Fins: 24 total,
made of Cor-Ten steel,
0.75-inches thick,
welded at 15-degree
intervals

Cylinder base:

0.5-inch thick
Cor-Ten steel, 5 feet in
diameter

Paint: Nonreflective
polyurethane enamel

Base: 24 fluorescent
tubes in a well below
base level covered
with frosted plastic

Original cost:

\$70,000+

Funding: National
Endowment for the
Arts with matching
donation from the
estate of Robert
Z. Hawkins. When
production delays
caused cost overruns,
Oldenburg sold an
original model and
drawings of the
Flashlight to raise
enough money
to complete the
installation. In the
grant proposal,
campus architect
James McDaniels
wrote that a
sculpture would
"amplify the vision"
of the Performing
Arts Center "as a
noble architectural
statement standing as
a constant example
for all students each
day of the Performing
Arts, sometimes
man's greatest
achievement."



Finishing Touch

The poached Bosc pear with coconut-almond feuilletine and spiced chocolate sauce was the impressive final dish at the Harrah Hotel College Chef Artist Dinner this spring. The event helps students apply the theoretical principals of restaurant operations while working under the tutelage of Las Vegas' top culinary professionals.

The latest event featured Executive Chef Sean Griffin from Chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten's Prime Steakhouse at the Bellagio. Griffin worked with the students to create a four-course fundraising dinner for more than 100 guests. The event also raised money to fund student scholarships and helped pay for the training and professional development of food and beverage professors.

[Photo by Geri Kodey]



We've got to catch up.

O

ur college-educated population pales in comparison to our more prosperous neighbors. In Denver, 37 percent of the citizenry has a college degree. Salt Lake City, 30. In Southern Nevada? A paltry 19 percent. *

This is one reason other states are weathering the economic crisis better than Nevada. They are tapping into their human capital to fuel recovery, spur innovation, and attract entrepreneurs and fast-growing companies.

But there's a larger story to tell, and these UNLV graduates and students are here to tell it.

They believe the power of higher education is its ability to create opportunity. A way to break through the glass ceiling. To escape an hourly job and the cycle of layoffs their parents experienced.

To fulfill their desire to serve.

They'll say that education gave them value. But it also makes them invaluable to our state.

Web extra: The six people featured on these pages also were featured in video testimonials under the UNLV Ambassador program. Dozens of other students, alumni, and community members have shared their UNLV stories online. We'd love to hear yours too. go.unlv.edu/ambassadors



See Pages 30-31

Karla Washington

Junior, Meetings and Events Management Presidential Student Ambassador · President of the National Society of Minorities in Hospitality · CSUN Senator · Student worker in the Office of Civic Engagement & Diversity

Poor, black, high school dropout — Washington didn't have a great start in life. She languished in a series of low-wage, no-benefit jobs. Then a pregnancy test woke her up.

Education has changed everything that I am.

When you've grown up and been told for so long that you are nothing — and you were told by a very important person, like your mom — that just counts you out for who you are as a person.

Think about being in a box and not knowing really how to get out of it. Education shows you: you can carve a little door here, a little window right there. You can move around now and step outside of that box.

I went to community college at 36 years old. I had given birth to Kennedy and wanted to do something different because I was disabled. I ended up being an honors student. It's the biggest shock, seeing my transcript say dean's list.

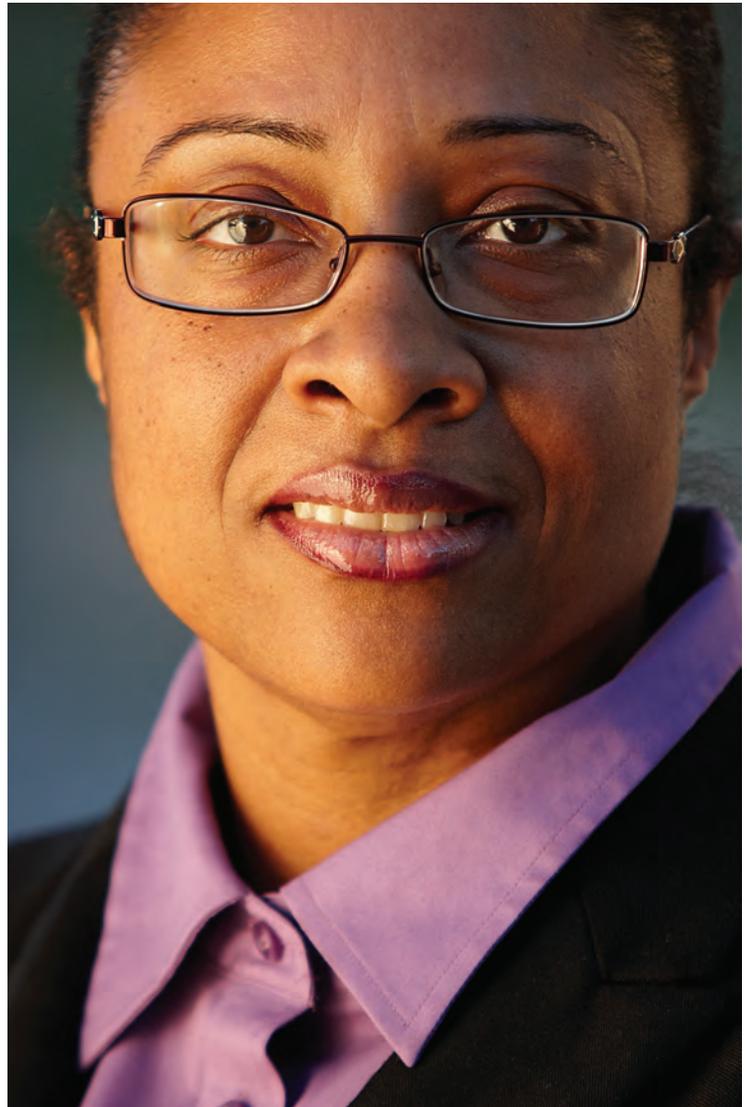
My schedule, for the most part, Monday through Friday is U-N-L-V. (My daughter) Kennedy goes to the preschool here. It's hard, yes, but everyone here has made it so easy. UNLV is the village for me.

One day, my daughter may be the president of the United States, but she's not going to be that without an education. Now I know how to make sure she gets that.

Education allows you to grow. It teaches you that there is something more and that you can participate in making things better.

With just a little bit of scholarship funding, I turned my life around. I'm a person who believes that if you've been helped, you have to go out and help other people.

I'm not here to make changes; I'm just here to make a difference.



Web extra: Watch Karla Washington's video at goo.gl/GtqmN

Rick Darnold

85 BS Accounting Vice president of strategic sourcing, Boyd Gaming • Las Vegas native • Board member with Huntridge Teen Clinic • Involved with Teach for America, United Way, and UNLV Foundation • UNLV advisory board member, donor, and guest lecturer

Darnold had a rocky start in college, thanks to too much skiing and too little studying. He came back to Las Vegas, where his dad worked in a casino and his mom taught fourth grade. Soon, though, he had the epiphany that led him back to college. He's now something of a fix-it guy. He has touched many aspects of Boyd Gaming's operations, including finance, tax, insurance, and treasury management. He currently oversees the increasingly complicated processes for buying more than \$500 million worth of goods and services.

I remember the day like it was yesterday. I was out running a crew, building a swimming pool, and it was 110 degrees. I decided that I had to do something different — I had to get an education.

UNLV was the obvious choice. I wanted to get a quality education from the best university that I could. My mom was one of UNLV's first graduates, and my family was entrenched in the community. I really didn't want to go out of state.

At Boyd Gaming, we've had to rethink how we're doing business. We see how a university supports our growth. A decade ago, if you were a good shopper, very cost-conscious and interested in procurement, you could work your way into a position as a buyer.

Now we need people who can do market analysis and performance measurements, and work as part of a team. I'm interviewing and hiring people with MBAs. I need thought leaders.

We look for people who learned, like I did at UNLV, to approach problems differently, to see solutions, and to bring innovation and creativity to the process.

As I get older, I view the importance of what the university does for the community much differently. In the past, the university was just a mechanism for me to get a degree and a job.

I've come to learn the value the university plays in making the community better — attracting the right businesses, building an educated workforce, and keeping our best students here. Being involved with a variety of organizations, I see it's all about building a stronger community in Southern Nevada.



Web extra: Watch Rick Darnold's video at goo.gl/GtqmN

Photo: Aaron Mayes

Pat Mulroy

'75 BA, '77 MA German Literature General manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority and the Las Vegas Valley Water District · Las Vegas for 35 years · Chair of the UNLV Math and Science Advisory Board and frequent guest lecturer on campus

It's a pretty safe assumption that no other natural resource agency is headed with someone like Pat Mulroy. She's a woman, a rarity among the powerbrokers of water. She majored in German literature; her counterparts generally worked their way up through science and engineering. Looking back, Mulroy credits UNLV with providing just the right opportunities for her to seize. Now, 35 years later, she hopes those opportunities don't dry up for the generation of Nevadans just beginning their careers.

I think we're struggling right now in the community with a commitment to higher education. We're angry. We're hurt. We're scared because of the economic downturn. It's sapped everybody's energy and made people think very small.

At some point we have to get over the reaction phase and begin to carve out a new vision and new opportunities. We have all the seeds here. All we need is the will — the will of the people to make that investment.

Education isn't a quick-fix solution. It will allow us to diversify our economy. But that won't happen if we permit the brain drain, if we take UNLV back to 1980, and have to start all over again.

The issues of education are important to me personally, but also in my job. We employ a large number of engineers, scientists, accountants as well as humanists — everything is well represented in our organization. In an ideal world, those jobs will go to Nevada graduates.

There's a lot of up-front investment employers make in new hires. We've brought employees in from back East. It takes them a good year, year-and-a-half, to learn how different the West Coast is.

The ability to hire people locally with that base understanding moves you forward as an organization. It allows you to get more value from that employee from the minute he or she walks through the door. And you can believe that matters a lot in economic diversification.

My hope for UNLV is that it will be an institution that the people of Southern Nevada are incredibly proud of. I would like to see this be their first choice, where they won't want to leave the state.



Tony Sanchez

'88 BA Political Science Senior VP of government and community strategy at NV Energy • Las Vegas native • First-generation college graduate • Board member for Nevada Partners, Nevada Tourism Alliance, and Latin Chamber of Commerce Foundation • Serves on numerous UNLV advisory boards

Elaine Sanchez

'95 BA Criminal Justice Public affairs and marketing manager at McCarran International Airport • Los Angeles native • First-generation college graduate • Volunteer with Las Vegas-Clark County Las Vegas Library District and Clark County School District

Both Tony and Elaine Sanchez tout the invaluable resource that UNLV provides to their companies. They have found UNLV to be a pipeline for providing the engineers, accountants, legal experts, and service professionals that keeps NV Energy and McCarran International Airport progressing. But the real value of UNLV, they say, comes from the university's role in the community.

Tony: My mom was almost apologetic that we didn't have the money for me to go to Harvard or Stanford. But she said a university is what you make of it. By that standard, I think both my wife and I have done very well for ourselves with the foundation that UNLV gave us.

Elaine: You can't describe the importance of higher education in one sentence. It's not just the resources it provides in terms of helping people get jobs. It helps you make connections. With professors who become genuine leaders, mentors to you. With other classmates. It makes it so easy to put down roots here.

Tony: This is where we've chosen to raise our children. We both have had the opportunity to live elsewhere and always gravitated back to Southern Nevada. When we talk to our kids about higher education, they don't speak in terms of *if I go to college*, it's *when I go to college*, and hopefully *when I go to UNLV*.

Elaine: UNLV is one of the central forces of the community. Having a degree has opened the door in more ways than I could ever imagine. It's been exciting and sometimes scary, but I am so thankful.

Tony: Now I'm proud to be involved with UNLV through my company. We invest our time and our dollars because we know our future workforce comes from UNLV, especially in the southern part of the state.

While it's a young university, comparatively speaking, UNLV has made rapid advancements to get where it is today. For example, the Brookings Institution, a world-renowned center, chose UNLV to be its second home outside of our nation's capital.

Elaine: Every graduate makes a change for the positive. Las Vegas is lucky when they stay here because (keeping our best people here) is how we're really going to make our community better.

Tony: UNLV is going to be a main resource for Southern Nevada in dealing with the economic downturn that it's had. That's what a good university does for its community.



Photo: R. Marsh Starks

THE POWER OF HIGHER EDUCATION



“My mom was almost apologetic that we didn’t have the money for me to go to Harvard or Stanford. But she said a university is what you make of it. By that standard, I think both my wife and I have done very well for ourselves with the foundation that UNLV gave us.”

Sarah Bagnoli VanderMeer

'09 BA Secondary Education Science teacher at Cimarron-Memorial High School • Graduate student • Las Vegas native • Millennium Scholar • First-generation college graduate • Volunteer for Hope House and Key Club service program

VanderMeer is proof that one teacher can change a person's life. Hers changed in a geography class. She had planned to become a social studies teacher but discovered a passion for science in that class. Now she shares that enthusiasm with students like herself — students who have to be told they can, indeed, go to college.

That teacher gave me a new path in life. There were a lot of challenging and scary times because I wasn't at the top of my class in high school. In a lot of ways, I was like my students now. I needed encouragement, and this guy didn't even know he did that.

Every day I devote my life to 220 students, and they're why I'm now getting my master's. I'm trying to learn more about how to help my students realize they *have* to get an education.

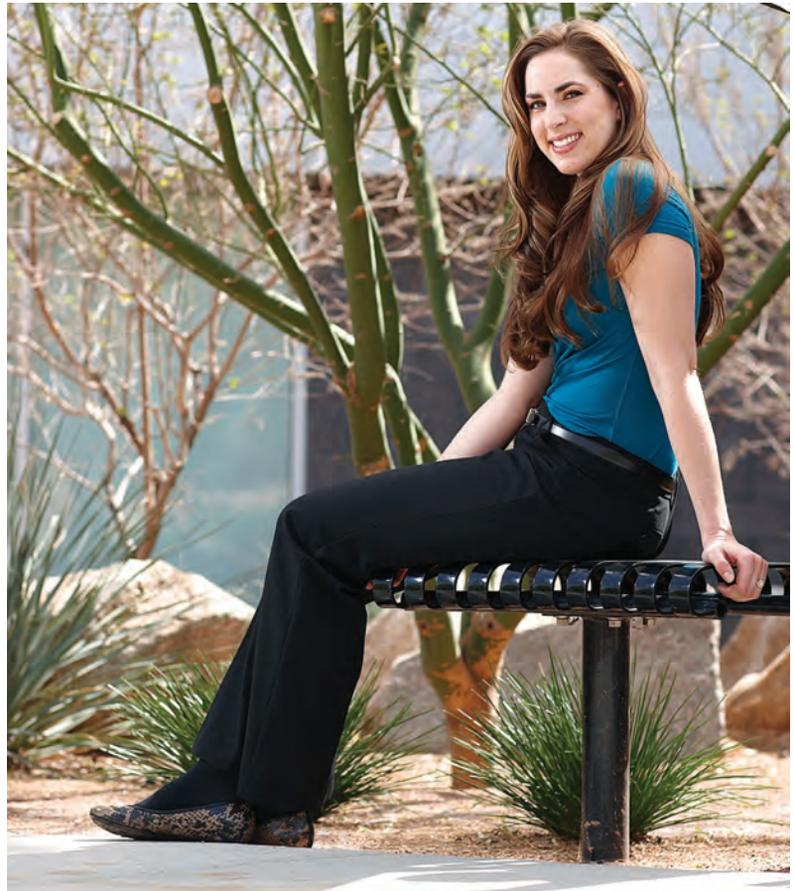
I'm excited to be chaperoning at the high school robotics competition that UNLV sponsors. It's great that they're going to be cheering for academics. I hope they'll see (UNLV) as a place of opportunity. As citizens with degrees, they can have a positive effect. They can do things like build reservoirs to help with floods.

I was lucky enough to be chosen to hang out with our Title I kids every day after school. It's a federal program for kids who basically are considered homeless. They're able to get food and school supplies and help with homework. We have real conversations.

I guess the one thing that I do for society is I provide relationships to people. I'm there for people. I don't have money. I do acts of service instead.

Many of my students wish that they had the ability to go to college but the task seems too overwhelming. The Millennium Scholarship releases some of that burden. It was the *only* reason I was able to get through college. But more than just that, there were these standards. You had to keep your grades up. You had to take so many classes. That really did help me learn the appropriate behaviors in school and how to take responsibility.

If you want to live in a great community then you need to raise great students. They learn how to be better through higher education. They learn how to be good citizens.



Beatríz Alcalá

'06 BS Kinesiology, '10 Doctor of Physical Therapy Physical therapist • Las Vegas native • Millennium Scholar •
First-generation graduate

Like most parents, Alcalá's wanted better for their daughter. Neither of them graduated high school; they had to help support their younger siblings. They've worked decades now as a maid and cook, weathering the layoffs and furloughs that came with the vagaries of our tourism economy. Beatríz was a good student — maybe she'd go to college someday. That notion seemed impossible to her. Then UNLV and the Millennium Scholarship came along.

I grew up on 28th and Stewart, where there's a lot of gang violence. Where we used to live, I would hear gunshots going off. A lot of my classmates needed to be told there's something else other than the gangs.

UNLV's Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach came to our middle school and started following us around and helping with study skills and time management. They helped with college applications. They told me about the Millennium Scholarship — it was the push I needed through the door to college.

My college experience was work. I went to school Monday through Friday. I parked in the free parking lot. Then I worked every day from 2 to 8 p.m. Then I went home to study. I was focused.

Higher education is so important. It lets you become something better right here in Nevada. [The state] is not going to get anywhere if it doesn't start with the core of its residents. You have to invest in them.

It's comforting to know I don't have to rely on tourism. There's always going to be a need for me, for what I do.

The physical therapy program here really focuses on us staying here after graduation. As part of the program you work in underserved areas, really rural areas. They told us how Nevada needs us to make this state better.

I couldn't have gone on to physical therapy school if UNLV wasn't here for me. In Las Vegas, there are few PTs who see children, and families have a very tough time seeking treatment for their children.

My patients will say, "Wow, you went to UNLV, and you stayed here?" I'm like, "Yeah. I wouldn't imagine going anywhere else now."



A PRIMER ON UNLV'S IMPACT

Funding for higher education yields big dividends in jobs creation, workforce development, and economic expansion

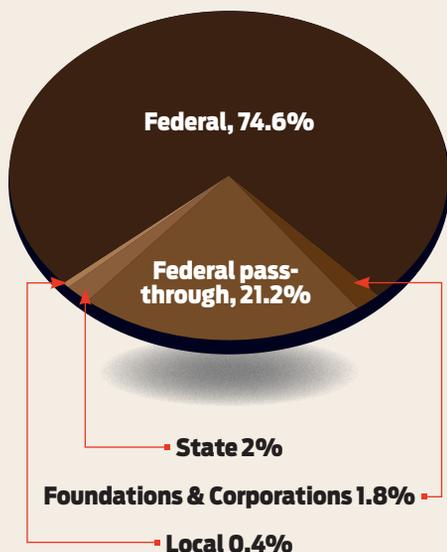
A REVENUE GENERATOR: UNLV's budget comes from many sources, including tuition and fees, grants, donations, and sales through such entities as the Thomas & Mack Center. About 42 percent comes from state appropriations. The university pays that back exponentially. For every dollar Nevada currently invests in UNLV, the university generates an additional \$5.80 in economic activity in Southern Nevada.

In 2009, UNLV's direct economic impact — from wages and spending by the university, students, and visitors — was nearly \$525 million. The spinoff effect of those dollars creates more economic activity in Southern Nevada, to the tune of \$1.15 billion.

Last year, UNLV attracted \$96 million in externally funded grants and contracts, primarily from the federal government. These programs fund research and outreach jobs, graduate assistant positions, and equipment purchases. Losing employees will cut into our ability to bring these grants and contracts to Nevada.

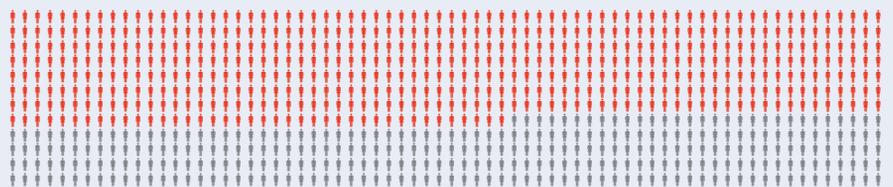


WHERE THE GRANTS AND CONTRACTS MONEY COMES FROM:



PRODUCT EXPORTER: UNLV's international reputation attracts more than **5,200 nonresident students** from **all 50 states** and **77 countries**. They infuse \$240 million a year into the state's economy as they set up households and pay out-of-state tuition.

MAJOR EMPLOYER: Eliminating one job in the state's higher education system results in the loss of 1.58 jobs in the community. **UNLV has lost 540 positions** since 2007. If the currently proposed budget cuts go through, UNLV projects that **another 300+ employees** will lose their jobs.



WHAT'S THE VALUE OF A UNLV EDUCATION?

Lifetime earnings of 5,403 grads from Class of 2010:

\$2.369 billion

Cost to UNLV to deliver those educations:

\$270 million

(Using a 4 percent real discount rate and accounting for the opportunity cost of student time, this is the net present value of the increased income that results from the education provided by UNLV in 2009-10)

Sources: UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research, UNLV Institutional Analysis, UNLV White Paper, NV 2.0 Conference, Brookings Mountain West, NSHE, Nevada Vision Stakeholder Group. For detailed reports, visit go.unlv.edu/budget and nv20.unlv.edu.



Just minutes from the Las Vegas Strip, UNLV helps fuel economic development and diversify the state's economy. No urban area in the country is prospering without a productive research university supporting it.

A COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE: Our neighboring cities are recovering faster from the economic recession. One reason: They are drawing on a stronger base of "human capital" to generate jobs across diverse business sectors. Las Vegas has the least educated workforce (by far) among the big cities of the Mountain West.

PERCENT OF POPULATION WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE:

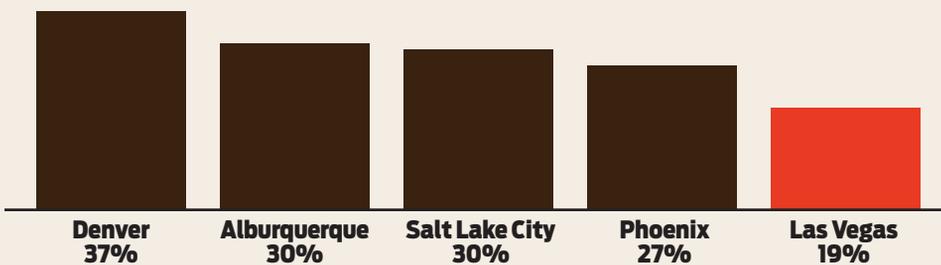


Photo: Aaron Mayes



NEVADA MUST INCREASE DEGREE PRODUCTION: Nationally, job growth will be in high-paying industries such as health care, business services, and natural resources management.

- 54% of Nevada's jobs will require at least some postsecondary education by 2018.
- Only 2.3% of jobs in Nevada are in high-tech industries. That's half the U.S. average.
- Nevada ranks last in clean energy jobs as a share of total employment.

UNLV can't meet the demand for an educated workforce if it is hobbled by huge budget cuts that shrink the faculty and decrease student enrollment.

HOME-SCHOOLED: Two-thirds of UNLV's 90,000 graduates chose to stay in Southern Nevada. That includes 10,000 K-12 teachers, 9,000 hotel and tourism professionals, and the thousands of health care professionals who take care of you.

BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL STUDENT: The Nevada Small Business Development Center at UNLV has advised more than 2,000 local business owners. And the Educational Outreach Division serves more than 60,000 people with its professional certificate and personal development programs. It partners with organizations, such as Chevron, United Way, and National Security Technologies, to deliver critical training programs.

PLUS THE INTANGIBLES: The hundreds of cultural and athletic events. The many outreach programs with the public schools and social service agencies. The inexpensive counseling, law, and dental clinics. And all the research studies that reach into every facet of the community. As a center of learning, UNLV raises the quality of life for all Nevadans.



The artist, with his creation

AN HONOR FOR AN ICON

Las Vegas artist Mike Miller, the man behind UNLV's mascot, Hey Reb!

BY GREGAN WINGERT

UNLV's mascot, Hey Reb!, has been worth millions in licensing over the years, but in 1982 artist Mike Miller charged the university just a dollar for the design. Now, 29 years later, the UNLV Alumni Association

has honored Miller for creating an icon.

"It seemed at the time the right thing to do," Miller says of giving the university exclusive rights to use the character. "I was trying to be a good community citizen and a friend of the university."

The history of Hey Reb! is just as eyebrow-raising as its price tag. It goes back to 1955 when the school, known then as Nevada Southern University, sought to break away from the University of Nevada, Reno. Its student government organization, the Confederated Students of Nevada South-

ern, selected the first official mascot, Beauregard. The cartoon wolf wore a Southern Civil War uniform and his sly smirk contrasted with UNR's ferocious wolf mascot.

As race discrimination issues dominated national events, community members voiced concerns that Beauregard glorified the Confederacy and had little to do with the community's history. In the early 1970s, students voted to banish Beauregard but retained the Rebels name (rejecting alternatives such as Big Horn Rams, Nuggets, A-Bombs, and Sand Burners). Replacing Beau was a musket-toting Minuteman, but that Revolutionary War figure didn't resonate in the West either. So UNLV essentially went without an official mascot.

In 1982, Miller was a partner in a local advertising firm and headed the UNLV account. When he heard of UNLV's search for a fitting symbol, he offered to sketch some ideas. He brainstormed about the kind of character that could embody the spirit of

a Rebel while representing the community's history. His inspiration came from the mountain men of the 1800s.

"Pathfinders were severely independent people who went all around the West looking for new trails, agriculture, gold mining, and everything," Miller says. These rugged men ventured into uncharted Nevada, mapping trails, discovering new resources, and building new communities. "I don't think anyone really understands this until you look at the streets downtown," says Miller, before naming off Carson, Ogden, Bonnevillle, Lewis and Clark, all streets named after famous frontiersmen.

Fred Albrecht, executive director of alumni relations at the time, remembers the character finally resonating with the campus community. "We wanted to have our own identity... [to] come out of the shadows of UNR," he says. And Hey Reb! fit the university many thought of as "young, rambunctious [and] kind of wild."

While the Minuteman figure was universally uninspiring, some graduates, like Bill Terry, suggested bringing back Beauregard. "UNLV didn't have a tremendous amount of tradition back then," Terry says. But the controversy over the Confederate symbolism still stood in the way. The students ultimately voted to adopt Miller's design and welcomed Hey Reb! as the university's official mascot. Terry, then president of the alumni association, was glad to finally have a mascot that aroused spirit from the entire community and the association stepped in to fund construction of the costume.

Hey Reb! made his debut at a UNLV-UNR basketball game Dec. 9, 1982. Miller had included the name on his initial sketches to encourage people to call out to the mascot at games. Gail Lehtinen, a costumer in the theatre department, made the first suit and had the cheer embroidered on the back.

Over the years, Hey Reb! has had a few image tweaks. The original was armed with a rifle and later held a pistol. When UNLV decided to ditch the firearms, Hey Reb! got some beefy muscles and a bigger mustache to maintain his bravado. "He's all cut and strong like a UFC fighter now," Miller says.

Hey Reb! enjoyed a popularity boom in the early 1990s, as the Runnin' Rebels were nationally ranked with the 1990 National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball

Sweating It Out

What's it like inside the suit?
"Hot," says the communications major behind the mustache. "None of my friends are ever allowed to complain about the Las Vegas heat. When I get out, it's like I was in the middle of a hurricane because I'm drenched."

It takes about 20 minutes for Hey Reb! to get his Reb on. There are 18 pieces to the suit and the head is the heaviest part, weighing more than 10 pounds. So stamina is obviously a must, but doing the job also takes the right attitude.

"The mascot is kind of a middleman between the fans and the athletes," he says. "The fans may not know a good play from a great play, so they feed off whether Hey Reb! goes crazy."

Landing the Hey Reb! gig took a combination of e-mails, phone calls, face-to-face meetings, and tryouts with the cheer coach. And the current man in the suit could boast of plenty of experience. "I've been 27 mascots in seven years," he says. "Hey Reb! is my favorite. He's a stud. He's got the dance moves that can out-dance anybody. He's got the muscles that nobody wants to mess with."

As a high school sophomore, he noticed his school's Viking mascot didn't go to soccer games. He donned a Viking helmet, painted his face and took to the field. Soon after he got a job working for a South Jersey minor league baseball organization. He's been Sparky, the Arizona State University Sun Devil, and Zippy, the University of Akron kangaroo. Filling in at other schools and earning money at conventions has put him in the suits of a great white shark, a fish, and a panther.

"It's just a lot more fun than sitting behind a desk from nine to five," he says.

But it's still a job. He attends dance classes with the Rebel Girls and studies the gameday video of other mascots. But there is no signature Hey Reb! move. "He's a free-style dancer," he says. "He's just sexy naturally."

Hey Reb! makes at least 100 appearances a semester. His calendar recently included Candlelighters' 5K Walk, the Santa Run and relay Relay for Life charity events, and numerous service events such as Rebel Reading Challenge at local elementary schools. On three occasions, he's been asked to unite couples in holy matrimony, but turned the offers down. "It's just Hey Reb! doesn't talk."

He may not be able to preside over weddings, but he will be your friend on Facebook. Currently about 2,100 people "like" him on the social networking site. Fans post comments declaring their love for the mustached mountainman. One recent post: "Hey Reb! is the best mascot in the WORLD! :) Whoever's behind that costume is amazinggg!!! :) LOVE his movesss!!!"

Those moves do work up a sweat, and makes one wonder about the smell. "Girls don't like that... but Febreze usually does the trick."



NOTES

1960s

Jon Cobain, '64 BS Business Administration, UNLV's first graduate, is chairman of Fomento Ltd. He has spent 35 years as a merger and acquisition specialist, focusing in the middle market, nominally \$10-\$100 million, with engagements in more than 200 industries. The fluent Spanish speaker has experience in 33 states and eight countries. He is a serious tennis player and traveler who enjoys charitable and theatrical events. He has two grown children, Leif, and Erika. His wife is the author J.A. Flynn. The couple lives in Henderson.

1970s

Gary Paquette, '71 BS Hotel Administration, owns Royal Crown Resort Travel Planners. He has worked in the hospitality industry in Las Vegas since 1968. His hobby is "golf, golf, and more golf." He is married and has four grandchildren.

Nicholas Boggioni, '72 BA History, '74 MA History, is chief deputy clerk of the court for Lucas County (Ohio) Juvenile Court. He lives in Sylvania Township.

Robert Selmer, '72 BS Hotel Administration, retired in August. He is working on a website for sales training and seminars. His hobbies are writing, music, and farming. He lives in Princeton, Texas.

Jose Cardenas, '74 BA Political Science, participated in a Brookings Mountain West conference at UNLV dealing with the "Political Demography and Geography of the Intermountain West." He was a member of the panel "The Immigration Issue: Nevada, Arizona, and the Nation." He is senior vice president and general counsel at Arizona State University. Over the years he has been recognized for his many community activities. In 2000 he was the recipient of the Mexican government's Ohtli Award, which is given to U.S. residents of Mexican descent for their service to Mexican communities in the U.S.

Earl Sheehy, '74 BS Hotel Administration, is CEO of Dr. John Warner Hospital. He lives in Clinton, Ill.

Catherine Buckley Hoffman, '76 Nursing, is self-employed in the medical sales/human resources field. She has spent 15 years in outside surgical equipment sales and four years in clinical laboratory sales. Her prior experience includes inpatient care, outpatient oncology, and human resources. She also owned a floral shop for seven years. Her hobbies include community service, flower arranging, cooking, golf, and cattle ranching. She and her husband divide their time between Las Vegas and their ranch in Norwood, Colo.

Shakun Hariela, '78 BA French, works in the hospitality industry and in education. Her hobbies are yoga, personal fitness, travel, and reading. She lives in Singapore.

tournament win and a Final Four appearance the following year. In 1991 alone, UNLV athletics earned \$5 million in Hey Reb! licensing fees.

"It just caught on and took off," says Brad Rothermel, UNLV athletic director from 1981 to 1991. "Miller's design has stood the test of time."

In 2004, Hey Reb! came in second in the Capital One Mascot of the Year competitions. No stranger to national television, Hey Reb! has also appeared in two memorable ESPN SportsCenter commercials. To celebrate UNLV's 50th anniversary, alumni Helen and Chip Johnson donated a full-size bronze of Hey Reb!. The statue sits in the courtyard of Tam Alumni Center and has become a favorite photo location for students and visitors.

"Outside of the letters 'U-N-L-V,' the mascot is the most recognizable symbol of the university," Chip Johnson, '71 BS Business Administration, said when the statue was dedicated. "People don't really associate UNLV with a particular building, but they know Hey Reb!."

'JUST A JOB'

Miller has gone on to create more characters reflective of Southern Nevada. He worked at the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* for 10 years as an artist and 25 years before that as a consultant. His work for the paper has included drawing the Sir Oscar parody cartoons.

He continues to write and illustrate the *Tomás* children's books published by Stephens Press. The publishing company wanted a book about Southern Nevada written for Southern Nevada kids, Miller says. So he created animal characters indigenous to the desert, such as the desert tortoise. Tomás lives in a burrow in Red Rock Canyon.

His family, especially his wife Barbara, has supported him throughout his career. "You just have a job that you do whether you're an artist or you drive a truck," Miller says. "It's just a job you do."

Before moving to Las Vegas in 1962, Miller worked at Walt Disney Studios on the movies *101 Dalmatians* and *Sleeping Beauty*. He painted scenery for

EVOLUTION OF A MARK



1968-73



1974-75, 1977-82



1976



1983-96



1997-2005



2006-

NBC television and Metro Goldwyn Mayer (MGM) Studios. In Las Vegas, he painted scenery for several shows at the Stardust and Tropicana hotels before starting an advertising agency.

In the 1960s, '70s, and '80s Miller worked a lot with the hottest stars, handling marketing and advertisements for the likes of Wayne Newton and the king of rock 'n' roll. "I spent a weekend with Elvis Presley, doing private marketing for him and his karate interests," Miller says.

When he created Hey Reb!, Miller was also a bronze sculptor, most notably making mountain men statues. "Mike is a renaissance man," says former coworker Terry Shonkwiler, now owner of Shonkwiler Partners Advertising. "He is one of the most creative people this town has ever seen."

The UNLV Alumni Association honored Miller during halftime of the Feb. 26 basketball game.

"He'd never been officially thanked," says Jim Ratigan, executive director of the alumni association. "That was something that had to be corrected."

He received a lifetime membership into the association and an autographed Runnin' Rebels' basketball. A commemorative photo of Miller alongside Hey Reb! will hang inside the Thomas & Mack.

Miller didn't attend UNLV, but there are Rebels in his family. Daughter Shelly graduated in 1982 and son Donald in 1984, both with bachelor's degrees in communications. In 2008, grandchildren Matthew Harris and Emily Miller both graduated. Grandson Anthony Miller is a current freshman. (Granddaughter Allison Miller is a bit of a rogue, having chosen UNR.)

Miller's family is proud of his Hey Reb! contributions, but also give him a hard time. "The kids laugh at me for being so stupid. My grandkids really rag me for donating it for \$1," Miller says.

More info: Visit mikemillerart.com.

MEET THE REGENTS

This is the **second in a series** of articles to introduce Nevada readers to their elected higher education officials. For more information, visit nevada.edu.



Mark Alden, District 4, since 1994

As the first in his Italian-American family to graduate from high school, much less college, Alden felt he long had known the worth of education. But after joining the Board of Regents, he realized

just how crucial higher education is in particular.

"If we had a more educated workforce, we (the state) wouldn't be in the financial situation we are now," he says, noting that only 20 percent of Southern Nevadans have college degrees.

Alden says there are two accomplishments for which he would like to be remembered at the end of his current term:

- Helping create Nevada State College. "We needed it desperately. We were the last state to go to a three-tiered higher education system."
- Helping make Neal Smatresk president of UNLV. "UNLV truly is on the right track."

Before leaving the board, he would like to see the community colleges placed under "local rule by county," leaving the regents over the two universities, the state college, and the Desert Research Institute.

A graduate of UNR, he is a forensic accountant specializing in white-collar crime investigations. As a CPA, "I bring a financial perspective to the board and am very familiar with budget processes."



Andrea Anderson, District 12, since 2009

Her 26 years as a community college administrator gives her a unique perspective as a regent, Anderson says. "While I certainly value the academics, I also find equal value and importance

in career education and training. We need both for a healthy education system and state."

Anderson worked at the College of Southern Nevada from 1991 until 2009. Before that, she

worked at the College of Idaho in Caldwell and at Idaho's Boise State University.

Since joining the board, she has acquired "greater knowledge of the importance and uniqueness of each individual institution," she says. "Each serves a unique student body and has an equally important function in the state system."

To meet the current budget challenge, "We need to increase revenue and I believe we need a broader tax base. Education is the key to economic growth and gutting our system will not help the state grow. I am hoping we can stop the bleeding. We need to keep the system whole as much as possible. I think we just do the best we can to preserve the core of each institution."

Anderson received a doctor of education degree from UNLV, an MBA from Boise State, and a bachelor's degree from Northern Arizona University.

Mark Doubrava, District 7, since 2010



Having graduated from both of Nevada's universities "gives me a balanced perspective," says Doubrava, who received a BA in liberal studies from UNLV and his medical degree from the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

In his short time on the board, his view of higher education has not changed. "In view of the current budget crisis, it is important for us to at least stand up and tell the governor and the Legislature, 'We think you are making a mistake if you think you can decrease higher education funding and at the same time say you support diversifying the economy.'"

Unfortunately, the budget situation means that students enrolled in Nevada's higher education institutions recently have seen double-digit increases in tuition — with more to come. The increases will put tuition here in line with what is charged by other states in the region, he predicts. Doubrava says that as a physician, he is especially interested in the health care education component of higher education in Nevada.

Asked what mark he hopes to leave as a regent, the ophthalmologist says, "I hope to continue the trajectory of improving the quality and the reputation of the institutions that make up the system. I think we have good institutions now, but, as in medicine, they can always be better."

NOTES

Sonny Le Jeune, '78 BS Physical Education, is a teacher and coach in the Chattahoochee (Alabama) School System. His career has included 16 years teaching, 17 years in sales, and four years in the U.S. Air Force. His hobbies are hunting and fishing. He and his wife, Janet, live in Millbrook.

1980s

Luis Gomez, '81 BS Hotel Administration, manages a regional company of four hotels in Peru, including the upscale Country Club Lima Hotel. He spent 15 years with Sheraton hotels in Latin America. He plays golf with an eight handicap. He and his wife, Janine Ward, have three grown children. They live in Lima.

Dennis Luppens, '81 BS Education, is special districts administrator for the city of Santa Clarita, Calif. While at UNLV he lettered in football two years. He has two adult children.

William Howard, '82 BS Geology, is a geoscientist II for Nye County. He lives in Pahrump.

Sheila Trexler, '82 BS Nursing, is a senior trial attorney with Neil, Dymott, Frank, McFall & Trexler in San Diego and specializes in medical malpractice defense. She is an adjunct faculty member at California Western School of Law. Her honors include "Top 50 Women Litigators in California" by the Los Angeles *Daily Journal*, San Diego's "Top 25 Women" by the Super Lawyers for Southern California, and San Diego's Professional Malpractice Lawyer of the Year for 2011 by Best Lawyers. She enjoys traveling, golf, and spending time with her dogs. She and her husband, Don Rowe, live in San Diego and in Palm Desert.

Melissa Lester Wright, '83 BS Business Administration, is principal analyst for the Clark County department of finance/parks and recreation. She lives in Henderson.

Carolyn Gerst Hanneman, '84 BA Communication Studies, is a committee volunteer for the Parents Association at the Phoenix Country Day School and at All Saints Episcopal Day School in Phoenix. Her hobbies include "driving many miles to many kids' activities," creative writing, travel, and tennis. She and her husband, LeRoy, are raising three children, Lauren, Katharine, and Andrew, in Paradise Valley.

Mark Holmes, '84 BS Hotel Administration, is a partner in B2B CFO, a firm providing CFO advisory services to middle-market companies. Also a CPA, he has worked in accounting and finance for various companies. He lives in Elmhurst.

Lisa Ransom, '86 BA English, is self-employed in the import/export business.

Ruth Devlin, '88 BA Elementary Education, '96 MS Curriculum & Instruction, is a teacher at Paradise Elementary School. She recently teamed up with UNLV art student Valerie Thatcher on the publication of a children's book, *Monsters on the*

NOTES
.....

Bus: A Halloween Song. Devlin wrote the book, while Thatcher illustrated it.

David Hensey, '88 BS Business Administration, is a member of the U.S. Marine Corps reserves who has been on active duty since 2007. From 1989 until 1997, the lieutenant colonel was a member of the active duty Marine Corps. He previously worked as an insurance agent. He is married and has four daughters. Hobbies include reading, studying history, and politics.

Tami Friedman, '89 BS Hotel Administration, is an account manager with Lundbeck. She lives in Northbrook, Ill.

Lorene Thom Malis, '89 BA Communication Studies, is general sales manager for Kemp Broadcasting's radio stations KVEG, KVGQ, and KMZQ. Previously, she was general sales manager at CBS Radio's KLUC, KXTE, and KYDZ radio stations. Married with two young children, she says her hobbies include spending time with family, cooking and entertaining, and getting away to the mountains whenever possible.

1990s

Kimberly Stubbs Roll, '90 BS Elementary Education, is a group exercise instructor with Riverside Health System. She lives in Newport News, Va.

Dennis Gradillas, '91 BS Hotel Administration, has been promoted to general manager of the Platinum Hotel & Spa. Previously, he served as director of operations at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. He is the father of three children, Preston, Peyton, and Madison.

Martha Stephens, '91 BS Accounting, is a CPA with Stephens & Associates.

David Chavez, '92 BS Business Administration, is CEO of Assured Strategies. He coaches CEOs and executive teams in the seven layers of strategy every business needs to consider as it grows. His company also consults businesses on strategic execution, sales development, and financial structure. He lives in Henderson.

Philip Luizzo, '92 BS Business Administration, is vice president of First Advantage. Racing is his hobby. He lives in New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

Kenneth Tiscornia, '92 BS Hotel Administration, is sales director of Health Monitor Network. He lives in Chatham, N.J.

Tony Illia, '93 English, received the 2010 Award of Distinction from the Western Mountain Region of the American Institute of Architects. He was the only Nevadan to receive an award this year in the region. He serves on UNLV Construction Management Industry Advisory Board. A journalist, his work has appeared in *Architectural Record* and *Urban Land Magazine*.

Nellie Coren Symons, '93 MS Accounting, is a principal accountant for Clark County.



Brett Ottolenghi

'08 BS Hotel Administration
Owner of Artisanal Foods

BY CATE WEEKS

Brett Ottolenghi's chef-clients want beans. Special ones. Heirloom varieties that haven't been genetically modified to grow faster or bigger or more uniformly. Beans that taste better than those on your grocery store shelves.

And Ottolenghi wants to sell them to those chefs, who make magic happen in the kitchens of Las Vegas' top restaurants. He spent hours researching farmers, tasting their products, and learning their growing techniques. He found the perfect provider in Napa, Calif., where a company specializes in foods native to the New World.

But here's the hitch: The owner doesn't want to sell to Ottolenghi. He wants to preserve his tradition of selling directly to chefs and to people at farmer's markets. And he already has some customers in Las Vegas. Why go through a middleman?

Ottolenghi has faced this situation before. "The

reason my company is called Artisanal Foods is because the people making these products are, in many ways, artists. They can be quite temperamental," he says. It took him two years to convince master vinegar maker Albert Katz to sell through Ottolenghi and to repackage his products in larger quantities for professional kitchens. (Katz's Gravenstein apple cider vinegar is one of Ottolenghi's favorite products.)

And so he persists with the bean farmer.

Beans are heavy, he explains. Trucking a pallet for Artisanal Foods to distribute rather than sending directly will cut the customer's shipping costs by 20 percent. Plus, Las Vegas chefs can get same-day delivery of the prized pintos. Lower costs means more restaurants can choose the superior beans. More people will be exposed to foods prepared with these "real" ingredients. That's something that both the bean grower — or the vinegar producer or the chocolate maker — and Ottolenghi want. People to appreciate their art.

IN 1998, WHEN HE WAS JUST 13, Ottolenghi launched The Truffle Market along with his father, Arturo. Truffle hunting was a family pastime when



they visited Italy, where the elder Ottolenghi spent his childhood. Brett studied truffles from every angle and eventually created a website to sell the treasured morsels and related products.

When it was time to go to college in 2004, he chose UNLV and started knocking on swinging kitchen doors along the Strip. The chefs liked “the truffle kid” and started asking him about other hard-to-find ingredients. Ottolenghi had learned all he could about truffles; it was time to expand.

He researches every product — the prosciutto di Parma, the Spanish saffron, the honey from Pahrump — thoroughly before adding it to his offerings. First priority, of course, is taste. Then Ottolenghi considers the environmental impact of the product, the processing techniques used by the producers, how the animals are treated. He investigates the packaging. Bottles can become slippery and take up too much space — is the producer willing to box the olive oil so it’s easier for chefs to use? He visits potential suppliers in person, snapping pictures on his iPhone to show his chefs later.

In February, he visited chicken farms. In industrial farms in the United States, the live chickens are hung on conveyor belts and killed by cutting their heads off. “My French chefs hate that because all the blood runs out and with it, all the moisture.”

Ottolenghi found a California farm that will dispatch the chickens through carbon dioxide asphyxiation, a common practice in Europe. It’s a more humane way to die — the chicken simply doesn’t wake up — and the flavor is improved. “When an animal is stressed out, the hormones it releases can change the flavor of the meat. And if the muscles are tense when they die, they stay that way,” Ottolenghi explains.

Now he’s researching caviar and traveling to sturgeon farms in California, Florida, and Spain. “Caviar is so fascinating. It’s like mankind has been on a mission to make this fish extinct.”

Farm-raising can bring back the sturgeons, and he believes the industry has the same potential that producers saw in California wines 30 years ago. The Pacific white sturgeon is commonly raised in the U.S. “But the green sturgeon,” he says, rattling off its scientific name, “is native to the U.S. and produces an egg bigger than the beluga. I’m hoping to find a farm willing to try them.”

In Nevada, he’s searching for farmers who want to try escargot. Oddly, a federal law prevents transporting snails across state lines so they are imported from other countries. He’s looking for a species native to Nevada that is both large and has the right taste profile. “I don’t know how many snails our city could use, but it should be enough to support one small farm.”

NOW WITH FOUR EMPLOYEES, Artisanal Foods opened a storefront last year across from McCarran Airport. The store’s demonstration area gives Ottolenghi space to share his knowledge about every product on the shelves. The navigation on Artisanal Foods’ website notably includes “Learn” to connect customers with Ottolenghi’s blog. “My aim is to demystify one ingredient or subject at a time,” he writes in the introduction.

Ottolenghi also shares his knowledge with children — Artisanal Foods was the first sponsor of the Tonopah Community Garden in North Las Vegas — and with legislators. He’s part of a group lobbying to legalize raw milk in the state.

“There’s such a disconnect between people and their food,” he says. “I wish people would learn to cook again so instead of buying individually frozen chicken breasts, they’d try breaking down a whole chicken. There’d be so much less waste.”

And the cost of quality ingredients would come down, giving more people better access to those heirloom beans and vinegars.

“When the recession hit, there was a point where things were starting to get bad and I thought I might have to do cheaper products. But then I realized that wasn’t the answer for me. I’d rather not be in the food industry if I had to sell on price alone.”

NOTES

Tyra Bell-Holland, '94 BS Hotel Administration, is a certified hospitality educator and instructor at the International School of Hospitality and founder of the Art of Concierge program. A member of Les Clefs d'Or since 2002 and past president of the Southern Nevada Hotel Concierge Association, she is chef concierge at the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas.

Thomas Campbell, '94 BA History, earned a master's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin in 1996. He works as a transportation resource manager for Hopelink and lives in Renton, Wash.

Joseph Grsic, '94 Master of Education, is a school counselor at Bonanza High School.

Stephen “Dud” Doherty Jr., '95 BA English, is with the U.S. Army in a company intelligence support team. He recently was deployed to Iraq. Previously, he worked as a copy editor and as a hotel sales manager. Hobbies include theater acting, baseball, swimming, and writing. He lives in New Bedford, Mass.

Scott Gulbransen, '95 BA Communication Studies, joined Applebee's last year as its first director of social media & digital marketing. Previously he worked at Intuit and at Sony Online Entertainment. He lives in Olathe, Kan.

Allen Klevens, '95 BA Music, is founder and CEO of Prescriptive Music. The company specializes in creating custom music play lists for hotels, casinos, restaurants, retail companies, and many other public spaces. He has a daughter and a son and lives Woodland Hills, Calif.

Jon Longoria, '95 BA Criminal Justice, works with problem gamblers as a counselor with Pathways. He also serves as chairman of the Mohave County Substance Treatment Education and Prevention Partnership. He lives in Kingman, Ariz.

Lee Browning, '96 Bachelor of Music, '98 Master of Music, was named by the Muscular Dystrophy Association as the Nevada recipient of the 2010 Robert Ross Personal Achievement Award. He was selected for his work on behalf of others with disabilities and his own accomplishments despite daunting physical challenges. He has Friedrich's ataxia, which causes loss of balance and coordination. He played both piano and drums early in life. When his symptoms progressed, he switched his major to composition. He is a member of the board of directors for the Fine Arts Chapter of the UNLV Alumni Association and the Nevada Adaptive Sports Club. He plays quad rugby for the nationally ranked Sin City Skulls.

Ronald Cummings, '97 BS Hotel Administration, is a self-employed financial hotel consultant. He previously worked for Hilton Hotels, Wyndham Hotels, the Yellowstone National Park lodges, and Xanterra Parks & Resorts. He lives in El Paso, Texas.

Angie Paglinawan, '97 BS Business Administration, is a senior business analyst with NV Energy.

NOTES
.....

Doa Meade Gregory, '98 BS Civil Engineering, is an engineering services manager for the Las Vegas Valley Water District. She manages a technical division that reviews engineering plans for proposed development. Her staff coordinates projects with other utilities, public agencies, contractors, and engineers. She began her career with internships with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Mirage Dolphin Habitat. She enjoys traveling, Bikram yoga, and spending time with her family.

Jun Seok Hwang, '98 BS Hotel Administration, is director of AIT Consulting. She lives in Seoul, Korea.

Valerie Miller, '98 BA Communication Studies, recently won four awards from the Nevada Press Association. A reporter for the *Las Vegas Business Press*, she won first place in the Best Business News Story category for the story "Dead in the Water." Written with fellow reporter Hubble Smith, the story was about foreclosures and strategic defaults. In the same category, she took an honorable mention for "Boulder Dam Hotel Faces Closure." She also won a second-place award in the Best Explanatory Journalism category and a third-place award in the Best Business Feature Story category.

Chad Randash, '98 BS Construction Engineering, is president of Randash Auto Center. He and his wife, Rachel, have one son, Ethan. The family lives in Bozeman, Mont.

Alesia Hayes Romanov, '98 BA Education, is an educator with the Clark County School District.

Jason Roth, '98 BA Communication Studies, is the director of marketing at the University of Southern Nevada.

David Coelho, '99 BA Communication Studies, is employed by Westwood One as a producer on *The Dennis Miller Show*. He lives in Los Angeles.

Sarah Harmon, '99 BS Business Administration, was promoted to partner with the law firm of Bailey Kennedy. She has worked at the firm five years and practices complex civil litigation, including disputes in class actions, product defects, tobacco litigation, business torts, and commercial and corporate law. Previously, she was an associate with Lionel Sawyer & Collins. She serves on the editorial staff of the Nevada Civil Practice Manual. She earned her law degree with cum laude and Order of the Coif distinctions from the University of San Diego.

Scott Harrison, '99 BS Hotel Administration, is a professional red carpet, celebrity, special event, music, and model photographer. His photos are published worldwide through agencies in New York and London. He has been covering celebrities and concerts in Las Vegas for 16 years.

Richard Kimbrough, '99 BA Communication Studies, was named chief philanthropy officer for the Mayo Health System in Mankato, Minn. He lives in Eagan.

Kathy Preston, '99 BS Management Information Systems, is a technical editor for SAIC. She lives in North Las Vegas.

Eric Sorensen, '99 BS Hotel Administration, is general manager of Badda Bing Gentlemen's Club.

Matthew Souther, '99 BA English, has been a lawyer with Neil, Dymott, Frank, McFall & Trexler since 2004. His practice includes professional liability defense, elder abuse defense, and family law. His hobbies include skiing, cycling, mountain biking, golfing, and surfing. He lives in San Diego.

2000s

Cher Chang, '00 BS Biology, owns Affordable Dentures.

Dawn Dialon, '00 MS Counseling, is a licensed marriage and family therapist with Crossroads Counseling. She works with couples, individuals, and families. She uses cognitive behavioral therapy, hypnosis, and spiritual values in working with clients to facilitate change.

Sauna Lederman, '01 BS Hotel Administration, is director of catering at Aliante Station. She has worked for Station Casinos for nine years, previously serving as director of catering and as catering manager at Santa Fe Station. She is the fundraising co-chair for the Las Vegas chapter of the National Association of Catering Executives. She has been granted certified professional catering executive status by the association.

Jeffrey McIntire-Strasburg, '01 Ph.D. English, is founder and editor of sustainblog.org. In 2009, his blog launched the Green Choices product comparison engine, which allows consumers to find, compare, and buy green and energy-efficient products.

Brian Miller, '01 BS Architecture and BA Art, joined Carpenter Sellers Del Gatto Architects. He has more than eight years of architectural experience in all phases of design, production, and construction management. His project experience includes education, public works, casinos, aviation, bars, and restaurants.

Vincent Palrose, '01 BS Mechanical Engineering, is a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. A member of the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC), he serves as resident officer in charge of construction. CEC officers are professional engineers and architects, acquisitions specialists, and Seabee combat warfare officers. They are responsible for the planning, design, acquisition, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Navy's shore facilities. His hobbies include Muay Thai, Brazilian jiu jitsu, snowboarding, and

reading. He lives in Yuma, Ariz.

James Plonowski, '01 BA Psychology, is an adjudicator for the U.S. Social Security Administration. His hobbies include flyfishing, hiking, camping, and the outdoors. He lives in Seattle.

Marco Benvenuti, '02 BS Hotel Administration, is the founder of Duetto Consulting. He brings cutting-edge principles to companies throughout the gaming and hospitality industries. The company may expand its scope to include solving persistent problems faced by owners of other types of companies, including multifamily housing, self-storage facilities, theaters, and amusement parks. Previously, he founded the enterprise strategy team at Wynn Resorts and worked for Four Seasons, Expedia, and Harrah's.

Kendra Bowers, '02 BS Hotel Administration, is sales manager for the Four Seasons Hotel. She lives in Henderson.

Jason Feger, '02 BS Hotel Administration, is assistant general manager of the Hacienda Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport. His home is Tempe, Ariz.

Morgan Hudson, '02 BA Interdisciplinary Studies, works in human resources management for Home Depot, but will be switching this spring to a career in law enforcement, working as a probation officer. She also volunteers with the American Diabetes Association. She lives in Pensacola, Fla.

Adam Lopez, '02 BS Hotel Administration, is a marketing project manager for Bally Technologies. He travels both domestically and internationally to trade shows, organizing logistics and presenting the latest software and products. He enjoys spending time with his wife, traveling, working out, running, and taking his dog to the park.

Jared Mintz, '02 BS Hotel Administration, is entertainment and corporate sales manager for the Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas.

Pristeen Torres Perreira, '02 BA Psychology, is an accountant at Waimea Middle School. She enjoys dancing hula, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. She and her husband live in Kapaau, Hawaii.

Phillip Thompson, '02 BS Architecture, is operations and development manager for SBS Development.

Megan McCoy Krier, '03 BA Environmental Studies, is a teacher with the Clark County School District.

Michelle Perl, '03 BS Biology, is a chiropractor with Southwest Neck and Back Clinic.

Tracy Metrovich Pettit, '03 BS Business Administration, '08 MS Accounting, is the controller for Sunburst Shuttles. She works in the corporate office, which serves 35 stores in North America. She has been with Sunburst since 2005. Previously, she worked for the certified public accounting firm of



MORE THAN 7,000 UNLV GRADUATES can thank the late Gov. Kenny Guinn for the start of their careers.

Since 2000, the Guinn Millennium Scholarship has opened access to higher education for Nevada high school graduates and encouraged them to stay in state. More than 6,500 students attended UNLV this spring with Millennium funding.

To honor Guinn and highlight the importance of the program, UNLV installed a display in the Student Union. The display includes history of the program, a biography of Guinn, and lists all UNLV alumni who received the scholarship.

A bronze relief of Guinn will be placed on UNLV's Pioneer Wall later this year. Located at the entrance to campus, the wall also honors UNLV notables Maude Frazier, James Dickenson, and Donald C. Moyer.

Before serving two terms as governor, Guinn was superintendent of the Clark County School District and a prominent business leader. He was UNLV's interim president in 1994, taking a salary of just \$1. He orchestrated self-sustaining programs in the performing arts, invigorated athletic leadership, and readied the institution for its incoming president.

With millions of dollars expected from the national tobacco settlement agreement in 1999, Guinn saw an opportunity to encourage college attendance without using taxpayer dollars. The fund provides Nevada's top high students with up to \$10,000 for attending a state college or university.

What's your Millennium Scholarship story? Tell us how the scholarship has made a difference in your life. go.unlv.edu/ambassadors

Swarts & Swarts. She is married with four teenage daughters, one of whom is a freshman at UNLV. Her hobbies are keeping up with her teenagers and attending UNLV events with her Rebel.

Joel Searles, '03 BS Computer Science, is a software engineer III for Bally Technologies.

Christina Cazares, '04 BS Civil Engineering, is a project manager for Acciona Solar Power.

Brent Denison, '04 Master of Fine Arts, recently celebrated five years of service with the College of the Canyons as the box office and patron services manager for the Santa Clarita (Calif.) Performing Arts Center. He also is the production stage manager for the Santa Clarita Regional Theatre main stage productions. He participates on occasion as an actor or stage manager for productions in the college's theatre department. His hobbies are attending theatrical productions and traveling throughout the United States. He lives in Canyon Country.

Nicole DeLaGarza Fehring, '04 BS Business Administration, '08 MBA, is a marketing associate with McCarthy Building Companies.

Kelly Miceli, '04 BS Comprehensive Medical Imaging, is a sonographer with Pueblo Medical Imaging. She is a registered ultrasound technologist with specialties in both abdominal and vascular ultrasound. She also has taught ultrasound at UNLV on a part-time basis. She enjoys spending time with family, hiking, camping, and music.

Ricci Shiplett, '04 BS Hotel Administration, joined the sales team at the Hofbrauhaus Las Vegas in 2009 as event sales manager. She works to create memorable experiences for corporate and social groups at the only licensed replica of the Original Hofbrauhaus Munchen in Munich, Germany.

Erin Kneesel, '05 BS Hotel Administration, is the product development manager at Baskow & Associates, one of the top destination management companies in Las Vegas. She has worked for the company for more than five years.

Fred Meyer III, '05 BA Criminal Justice, '10 MA Criminal Justice, is a corrections sergeant with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. He and his wife, Tracy, have a daughter, Caitlyn, and a son, Ethan. He lists his hobbies as raising the children and playing golf.

Shayne Scott, '05 Master of Public Administration, recently was named city manager of Parowan, Utah. He and his wife, Daisy Reeder Scott, have four daughters.

Cremson Turfley, '05 BA Psychology, is an office administrator for Caring Nurses. She lives in Henderson.

Christina Bolin-Wong, '07 BA Elementary Education, is a medical student at the University of North Texas Health Science Center-Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. She taught fifth-grade science for one year before deciding to pursue her lifelong dream of becoming a doctor. When not studying, she enjoys spending time with her family and reading nonfiction. She and her husband, Steve Wong, are the parents of one daughter. The family lives in Lantana.



OBITUARIES

Jerry Bussell, executive director of operations for the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center within UNLV's Division of Educational Outreach, died Oct. 18. Since joining the division in 2006, he had provided leadership and expertise to researchers engaged in the development of a blended-learning approach to improve the combat life saving curriculum and instructional methods used by the military in training soldiers how to treat battlefield injuries. A recipient of a 2010 Distinguished Nevadan Award from the Nevada System of Higher Education, he is survived by his wife, Pat Lundvall.

Sylvia Campbell, '90 BS Business Administration, died Nov. 3. She was president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Southern Nevada, a position she had held since 1995. She was a member of the UNLV Alumni Association and an ardent Rebels fan. Survivors include her sons, Rodger and Mark; three grandchildren; and a sister.

Paul Harris Jr., emeritus professor of theatre, died Oct. 1. The founding faculty member of the theatre arts department, he was at UNLV for 30 years before retiring in 1989. During that time he served as chairman of the Humanities & Fine Arts Division, dean of the College of Fine Arts, chairman of the theatre arts department, and member of the Faculty Senate. The theater in the Ham Fine Arts Building is named in his honor. He is survived by children Paul C. Harris III, Victoria Harris Serio, and Amy Wills and three grandchildren.

Michel Hugo, professor of film, died Oct. 12. A member of the American Society of Cinematographers, he joined the faculty in 2002. He had worked in Hollywood for decades, including on the movies The April Fools, Bless the Beasts and Children, and Ode to Billy Joe and the television shows Mission: Impossible, The Streets of San Francisco, and Dynasty. He is survived by his wife, Gloria; daughter, Debbie Walsh; son, Peter Hugo; adopted son, Father Danny Ferrindiz; and two grandchildren.

John Tryon, emeritus professor of engineering, died Jan. 9. He joined the faculty in 1975 and helped launch what is now the department of electrical engineering. He also was instrumental in developing an advising program for engineering students. Professor Evangelos Yfantis recalled his colleague as someone who loved working with and mentoring students. "He dedicated a big part of his life to making UNLV what it is today," Yfantis said. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and two sons.

Jordan Komoto, '08 Master of Education, is human resources manager for Adaptive Materials. He lives in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Brumby McLeod, '08 Ph.D. Hotel Administration, is an assistant professor in the School of Business at the College of Charleston. His teaching and research focus on the commercial accommodation sector. Previously, he taught at the University of South Carolina's School of Hotel, Restaurant, & Tourism Management in Columbia. While studying at UNLV, he worked at the Four Seasons. He and his wife, Jarmye, have three children, Abigail, Madeline, and Weldon.

Nicholas Moreno, '08 BS Hotel Administration, is executive casino host at Wynn Resorts. He has worked for the company since 2005. When he has time off from his 24-hour-a-day job, he volunteers for the Nevada Diabetes Association, hikes, wakeboards, snowboards, swims, and hangs out with friends.

C. Alejandra Morin, '08 BS Hotel Administration, has her own business, the Marshmallow Studio, which creates custom marshmallow designs for all occasions. The business has been featured in Special Events magazine and soon will appear in issues of Meetings and Conventions and Candy Industry and Retail Confectioners magazines. The company ships its creations across the nation. She, her husband, and son live in San Diego.

Jennifer Olsen, '08 MS Accounting, is an auditor for Lynda R. Keeton CPA. She is a certified public accountant.

Megan Selnick, '08 BS Hotel Administration, is owner and event planner of Megan Selnick Events and Design as well as Luxe Rentals and Design. Before launching those companies, she worked as catering coordinator for Thompson Hospitality at Procter & Gamble general offices in Cincinnati. She is involved in philanthropies, including Starfire and the Freestore Foodbank, Cincinnati.

Jennifer Smith, '08 Bachelor of University Studies, works in the business strategy and development group of Chesapeake Energy, one of the largest natural gas producers in the nation. She is working on her MBA at the University of Oklahoma. She enjoys OU football, Thunder basketball, and making occasional trips to Dallas. She lives in Oklahoma City.

Michelle Storto, '08 Master of Public Health, is a regional performance manager for CareMore Health Plan. She lives in Phoenix.

Adi Ahsaid, '09 BS Business Administration, wrote the novel, Somewhere Over the Sun. It was published in November.

Alyssa Bucchianeri, '09 BS Hotel Administration, is an event assistant

at Trentadue Winery. She is responsible for marketing and selling the winery event space, signing contracts, and coordinating events and weddings. Since joining the winery in April 2009, she has booked, coordinated, and executed 22 events. Her hobbies include photography, wine tasting, cooking, exercising, knitting, and decorating. She lives in her hometown of Santa Rosa, Calif.

Kris Buchanan, '09 BS Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering, is an electrical engineer at the Adelphi Army Research Laboratory and is a graduate student at Texas A&M University. He lives in Bryan, Texas.

Justin Dacek, '09 Bachelor of University Studies, works in video production at the Thomas & Mack Center.

M. Delight Dee, '09 BA Art, owns her own business, Veronica Sweet Arts & Entertainment. She also is the current artist-in-residence at the American Cement Building. She specializes in monochromatic landscapes and visual textures in a variety of artistic media. She is active in a number of nonprofit and culturally based organizations. She lives in Los Angeles.

Katie Dennison, '09 BS Special Education, '10 Master of Education, teaches autistic students at Desert Oasis High School.

Donna Freeman, '09 BA Journalism & Media Studies, is marketing director at Kurmin Associates. After owning her own public relations and marketing business in Las Vegas, she accepted a job at an architectural firm that allowed her to move home to Alaska. Her hobbies include hiking, biking, kayaking, and camping. She lives in Anchorage.

Muhammad Hasan, '09 Ph.D. Engineering, is an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Taibah University in Saudi Arabia. His hobbies are photography, travel, and reading.

Kumiko-Katie Moore, '09 MS Public Administration, is a corrections lieutenant with the North Las Vegas Police Department.

Rachel Nelson, '09 BS Hotel Administration, is a catering sales manager at the Mirage. She received the promotion in August after having joined the hotel staff in March 2010 as a catering coordinator. She is part of a small team focused on building the wedding business at the Mirage.

Lori Whitelaw, '09 BS Hotel Administration, is a wedding and event coordinator with Simply Weddings by Brit Bertino. The company specializes in full wedding coordination services as well as day-of-wedding coordination services.

Richard Wolfert, '09 BS Physical Education, is a manager at New Balance. He lives in Mount Laurel, N.J.

NOTES

2010s

Ayo Akinsete, '10 BS Hotel Administration, is the inventory manager for the new Gansevoort Park Hotel that recently opened in the midtown Manhattan area of New York City. He also is a manager in training at the front desk. He was part of the pre-opening team for the 249-room boutique hotel.

Michael Amato-von Hemert, '10 BS Hotel Administration, recently joined Station Casinos as an operations analyst.

Kathaleeya Garcia, '10 BS Kinesiology, is a server at Aria.

Joseph Griego, '10 BA Psychology, is education director at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas.

Christopher Harrington, '10 Bachelor of University Studies, is a chaplain in the Salvation Army. He lives in Austin, Texas.

Jonathan Jones, '10 BA Landscape Architecture, is a designer with ULTRYX.

Miranda Kitterlin, '10 Ph.D. Hotel Administration, is an assistant professor in the School of Hospitality, Sport and Recreation Management at James Madison University. Her dissertation was titled "Illegal Substance Abuse in the Full-Service Restaurant Industry: An Evaluation of Pre-Employment Drug Testing." She lives in Harrisonburg, Va.

Reshma Koganti, '10 MS Computer Science, is an analyst/programmer with SemanticBits. She lives in Herndon, Va.

Michael Pius, '10 MS Sport and Leisure Service Management, is a community income development specialist with the American Cancer Society. He helps run Relay for Life events at Susquehanna, Bucknell, and Lock Haven universities as well as at Lycoming College and in Sullivan County, Penn. He also is in charge of the society's Pennsylvania Golf Pass. He enjoys golfing, running, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. His wife is Marie Walsh Pius, '09 Master of Education. The couple, who married in June 2009, live in Lewisburg.

Anna Shurova, '10 BA Communication Studies, is studying at Cooley Law School. She expects to earn her degree in 2013. She lives in Lansing, Mich.

Stephanie Tabbah, '10 BS Hotel Administration, works as social catering manager at Crowne Plaza in Houston near Reliant Park. Previously, she worked for Four Seasons Houston and was part of the opening team for the Mandarin Oriental, Las Vegas.

Ryan Ellis, '07 BS Business Administration, joined the law firm of Howard & Howard. He concentrates his practice in the areas of business and corporate, family, gaming, and real estate law. He earned his law degree from Whittier Law School with magna cum laude honors and a concentration in business law in 2010. While attending law school, he received the dean's scholarship for academic achievement and was a member of the law review and of the Trial Advocacy Honors Board.

Matthew Kaplan, '07 MBA and MS Hotel Administration, is a revenue analyst at the Sahara Hotel and Casino.

Manuel Mandapat, '07 BS Public Administration, is co-owner of Rustic Living. He lives in Henderson.

Robert Neal, '07 BS Business Administration, is the manager of charter planning for Allegiant Air.

Christopher Parker-Swain, '07 BA Criminal Justice, is a public safety dispatcher for the Napa (Calif.) Police Department. He lives in Rohnert Park.

Mary Pattison, '07 BA Anthropology, is pursuing a master's degree in

archaeology. She currently is writing her thesis. She lives in Prescott, Ariz.

Lisa Sarmicanic, '07 Ph.D. Sociology, is a full-time mother to her infant son, Rice Bartholomew Thompson. She enjoys watching her son discover new things about the world, writing poetry, cooking, and spending time with her cats. She, her husband, and son live in Shoreline, Wash.

Daehyun Selapack, '07 BS Hotel Administration, is a front desk clerk and guest service operator at the Hyatt Regency Incheon in Korea. Photography is his hobby.

Yolanda Tuttle-Williams, '07 BS Hotel Administration, is pursuing a master's degree at George Washington University. Last fall she was awarded a scholarship from Tourism Cares that allowed her to attend the 2010 National Tour Association Convention "Experience the Industry" student program. She received the award for her dedication to her higher education in the travel, tourism, and hospitality industry. She lives in Athens, Ga.

Regina De Rosa, '08 BS Social Work, is a social worker with the Nevada Division of Aging. She lives in Henderson.

[THE BACK STORY]



Masked Treasures

A hundred faces stare out with unblinking eyes and extravagant smiles as Aurore Giguet locks up at night.

The curator of the Marjorie Barrick Museum oversees its collection of more than 400 masks from Mexico and the Guatemalan highlands. Her favorites are the red devils with big horns: "I love their boldness. For me, the simpler the mask, the better."

But she appreciates the details in all the masks. There's a *bruja*, a witch, with braided hair made from hemp (**pictured**). And a black devil baring cow teeth in its mangled grin.

The mask collection includes rare pieces from the 1940s and '50s as well as contemporary examples by well-known carvers. They are part of the Mannetta and Michael Braunstein collection. The couple began buying the objects as tourists in 1974, when the primitive art was seen as, well, too primitive to be worth collecting. Mannetta left nursing and returned to school to learn more about her passion. She earned an anthropology degree from UNLV in 1993.

The Barrick now houses thousands of their pre-Columbian and modern Latin American objects as well as an extensive library of related books. It has become a vibrant resource for teachers and researchers across campus.

Go: The Barrick Museum is open Monday-Saturday.
barrickmuseum.unlv.edu

Get More Out of Being a **REBEL** *with a UNLV License Plate*

Bring 'Hey Reb' along for the ride,
show your Rebel Pride and support student scholarships all at the same time.



For more information on the UNLV License Plate program visit
<http://alumni.unlv.edu/events/license-plate.html>



Join, Renew or Upgrade your membership in the
UNLV Alumni Association today at
alumni.unlv.edu

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
UNLV Magazine
4505 Maryland Parkway, Box 451024
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-1024

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bolingbrook, IL
Permit No. 374



We can be a *little* dramatic



Check out the new events calendar
go.unlv.edu/calendar

UNLV