

UNLV

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2013

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This
Way
UP





This Way Up

22 Four UNLV leaders on how we're advancing undergraduate education and engaging with the community to tackle our region's most critical problems. [Cover photo by Aaron Mayes]

In With the Mob

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Putting on a Show

The palo verde trees were popping with color this spring outside the Student Recreation and Wellness Center. UNLV's campus is a designated arboretum with 80 acres of mature plants, shrubs, and trees.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR »

VACCINES SAVE LIVES

A good friend, Mehdi Bouras, passed away in March due to bacterial meningitis¹. Mehdi contracted the illness and 24 hours after he showed symptoms, he was gone. He was only 24 years old.

Mehdi ('11 BSBA Management) aspired to be a great tennis player and had amazing talent. He played all four years on the men's tennis team and was always a proud supporter of the Rebels. I always heard about how the university team was doing. It is so devastating for me to believe that a good person could go like this, especially when it may have been prevented. It could have been me.

Bacterial meningitis has a vaccine, usually recommended for students living in college

dorms² due to its respiratory airborne contagiousness. I strongly urge you to read about meningitis and take the vaccine. It is one shot and can prevent a debilitating illness or death.

— VANIA KING

FROM THE UNLV NEWS CENTER, NEWS.UNLV.EDU »

On "The Back Story: The Xeric Garden." The site was proposed by former UNLV facilities manager, Dennis Swartzell, and later named for Donald Baepfer, a former UNLV president who championed its development.

Thank you for a great article. The Klinkhammer Bird Viewing Ramada was named after my father, Frank, and was designed by my sister, Lucy Klinkhammer, and Dennis Swartzell. A truly unique spot on the UNLV campus.

— CLIFFORD J. KLINKHAMMER, '78 MS EDUCATION
GLENEDEN BEACH, ORE.

On a story about student Mae Javier, who is working at Opportunity Village as part of the UNLV Engelstad Scholars program. It requires scholarship recipients to work in local nonprofits to better understand the area's social issues.

Volunteering opens our eyes wide and sharp. It grows our heart to become big and large. It also makes us more sensitive to others' needs and encourages us to share. Once you enjoy volunteering, you will never stop helping others. I wish you all the best, Mae Javier.

— ABDURRAHMAN SUPARNO REBORN
YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA

On "UNLV Report: Impact of Casino-Resort Development on Crime Rates In Toronto" about research by Kahlil S. Philander and Bo Bernhard of the UNLV International Gaming Institute

It is very common at some jurisdictions and cultures to try to stop or hold back casino-



Top Shot

This March 12 photo recently got the most thumbs-ups and shares on the official UNLV Facebook page. UNLV photographer Aaron Mayes captured the comet Panstarrs and a sliver of the moon above the Spring Mountain range west of Las Vegas shortly after sundown. Like the official UNLV Facebook page for more great images of the campus and our community.

resort projects using this argument. Several productive and feasible projects have been “closed in a drawer” forever as a result. I am happy that the city of Toronto decided to have this research done.

I would add that, most of the time, it is the result of politics, social bleeding hearts, and religion. We must not forget competition as an obstacle builder. Good study.

—ANIBAL GARCIA
SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

A very interesting piece of research and good to have some evidence that an increase in gambling venues does not have to mean an increase in social problems.

—ELIZABETH KARTER
LONDON

EXPERTS IN THE NEWS »

“The selection of Pope Francis represents a clear recognition that the center of gravity in the Catholic Church has moved south to the Third World ... He is in many ways a compromise candidate: an ethnic Italian who is a native of Argentina, an economic liberal but a theological conservative. There is something in this for everyone — except, perhaps, women.”



— UNLV professor Ted Jelen, an expert on religion and politics, in an article, “What Does Pope Francis’ Election Mean for Nevada Catholics?”³

“A decade ago about 80 to 85 percent of nightclub bartenders were men; today women represent about 60 percent of the club bartenders. ... Over the past decade major casinos have built mega-nightclubs in the casinos and leased their operations to management companies that have total control over the employment policies. Free of union contracts, the management companies hire for looks and sex appeal and often exclude men.”



— Boyd School of Law professor Ann McGinley, in her essay, “What Happened in Vegas? Why Are Las Vegas Bartenders Now Mostly Women?”⁴

Want a UNLV expert to speak to your community group? Visit news.unlv.edu to search the Speakers & Experts Directory.

LET'S HEAR IT

We know you're a diversely opinionated bunch. Share your perspective with us. Visit news.unlv.edu to share your thoughts about our stories or UNLV in general or email newscenter@unlv.edu

1. See Obituaries, page 39. 2. The meningitis vaccine is a mandatory vaccine for UNLV freshmen living in the residence halls. 3. Vegas Seven magazine, March 14. 4. at Slate.com, March 26

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THE Flashlight

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The Tool

Macadamia nuts and club soda

The User

Michael Tylo, theatre professor and interim associate dean of the College of Fine Arts. His television credits include *Lonesome Dove*, *Murder She Wrote*, and 18 years on daytime television on *Guiding Light*, *All My Children*, *General Hospital*, and *The Young and Restless*. His many stage appearances include Broadway productions.

Prima donna celebrities and their elaborate contract demands have been fodder for gossip columns (Katy Perry is said to require fresh flower arrangements with absolutely no carnations). But Tylo's contract requests help ensure a strong voice. He used to do elaborate face and vocal exercises before performances. Then, one day he was running late and hungry. He grabbed a handful of macadamias off the catering table and started chomping. He realized the oversized nuts helped loosen his jaw but, unlike peanuts, didn't leave a residue or unsightly bits in his teeth. He soon left behind those funky exercises. He also always requests club soda for his dressing room. "When I was a kid, my mom would have me gargle that because of its sodium content," he said. "I figured if it was good enough for a sore throat, it'd work to keep my throat healthy too."



Coach With A Cause

UNLV Autism Center expands much-needed testing services, thanks to donation from Dave and Mindy Rice Foundation.

BY AFSHA BAWANY

LIKE MOST PARENTS, Dave and Mindy Rice describe their son, Dylan, with enthusiasm. He's a kid with a lot of hobbies, a smile for everyone, and a fascination with re-enacting Broadway musicals, said Dave Rice, head basketball coach for Runnin' Rebels.

But Dylan's personality didn't bloom as quickly as other children's. As a toddler, Dylan had reached some of his milestones early, but was struggling in ways his older brother, Travis, hadn't. After three years of tests and doctor visits, and after a nine-month wait to see a specialist, Dave and Mindy Rice thought they'd finally get an answer. A renowned doctor diagnosed then 6-year-old Dylan with autism. But, he stopped short of providing guidance on how to make things better for him. The Rices were left with a statement that still haunts them.

"He told us to start a trust fund for Dylan," Mindy said.

That was it.

Their reaction? "Devastated. Frustrated," Mindy said, trying to hold back the tears. Dave's reaction, Mindy said, was of a coach who knows his team can beat the odds. So the Rices created a new game plan.

They tapped into their network of friends and eventually found resources to help Dylan. They feel fortunate that they had the means to get their son extra help. Now they want to help families facing similar challenges.

UNLV CENTER EXPANDS SERVICES

In early 2012, the couple established the Dave Rice Foundation to fill in the gaps in existing local resources. Last year, the foundation donated \$100,000 to the UNLV Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders, allowing it to add comprehensive testing for children and adults to its community services.

Qualified resources for autism in the state are limited, said Shannon Crozier, director of the center. And testing and therapy can be expensive. The



UNLV men's basketball coach Dave Rice is joined by his wife, Mindy, during an interview Dec. 7 at the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

center provides its services based on income at a sliding scale, Crozier said.

The donation also expands the workshops that the center already offers to parents, healthcare providers, and professionals such as teachers.

"The longer children go without treatment, the worse their condition. By identifying ASDs early on, the likelihood of improved behavior, communication skills, academic skills, and behavior skills increases," Crozier said.

A PLATFORM

The Rices, both UNLV graduates, have considered UNLV and Las Vegas home for more than 20 years. Dave played on the Runnin' Rebels NCAA championship team in 1990 and then went on to become an assistant coach. He returned to UNLV in 2011 as head coach, a position that affords him a unique platform for influencing the community off the court, he said.

In personal appearances, he talks candidly about his son, and the challenges his family faces. Families shouldn't feel like the diagnosis brands them with a letter "A" for autism, as if it's a life sentence, he said.

"I think fathers particularly have trouble coming to grips when their son or daughter is diagnosed with autism and it doesn't have to be that way," Dave said. "And for me to stand up and say 'Hey, it's OK.' I think it's a positive message."

More: The UNLV Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders offers a number of resources to the public. Visit asdcenter.org or call 702-895-5836.

DON'T MISS IT

Season Lineups

UNLV's performing arts and lecture groups are readying their 2013-14 seasons. The Nevada Conservatory Theatre, the university's professional theatre training program, has already announced its fall lineup:

Dog Explosion — a dark comedy about a Missouri family's mishaps written by film studies professor Sean Clark. *September.*

Brighton Beach Memoirs — A bittersweet memoir about a struggling Jewish household by Neil Simon. *October.*

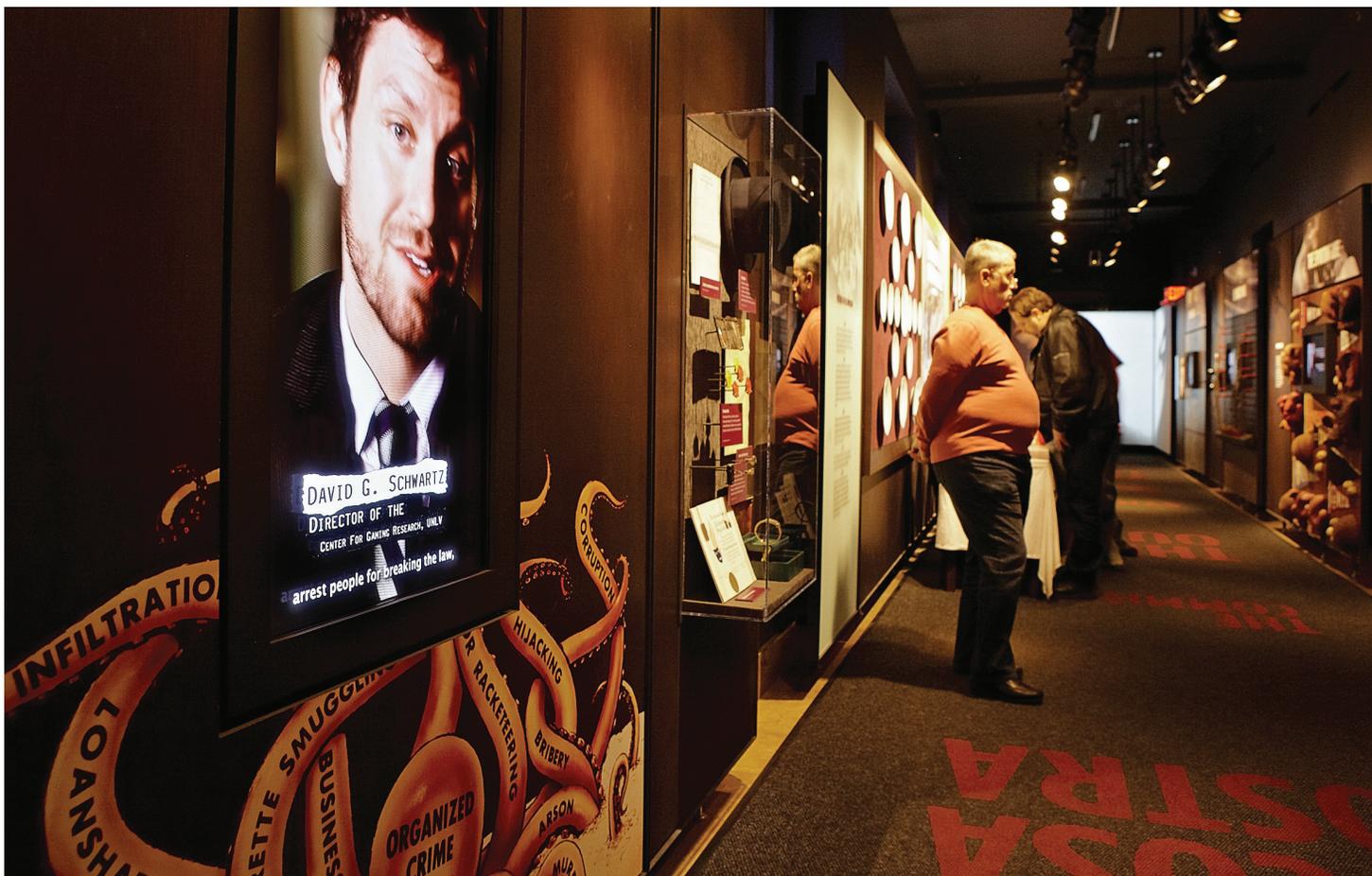
Line — A group of strangers lie, cheat, and wrestle their way to the lead spot in a line. Presented in collaboration with downtown Las Vegas' Cockroach Theatre. *November.*

A Christmas Carol — Do you really need a description of this holiday classic? *December (of course).*

White Rose Exhibit

An exhibit at Lied Library sheds light on White Rose, a student resistance group which used nonviolent tactics to oppose the Nazi regime during World War II. The exhibit includes 47 panels of photos, text, and biographies chronicling the individuals and actions of White Rose. When its activities were uncovered, members of the student group were executed in 1943. *Free. Runs through Aug. 22.*

More: For a full listing of cultural, entertainment, and networking events, check the UNLV master calendar at calendar.unlv.edu.



Downtown's National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement became a reality with UNLV's help.

In With the Mob

UNLV experts and the Libraries' unique resources help make The Mob Museum more than a novelty.

BY KATHERINE FERNELIUS

ALONG WITH THE LIKES OF AL CAPONE AND TONY SPILOTRO, The Mob Museum has immortalized David Schwartz and Claytee White. Their faces flash across film clips about this slice of American history. Their caricatures spin on the virtual reels of the museum's interactive slot machine.

Fortunately, these two didn't rise to prominence for illegal and violent activities. They've become local celebrities for their historical insights.

The museum, formally known as the

National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement, opened in an historic downtown Las Vegas building in 2012. It chronicles the history of syndicated crime and its impact on Las Vegas and the world. Curators began piecing together well-researched exhibits by drawing upon UNLV Libraries' extensive archive of photographs, newspaper clippings, documents, and oral histories.

"Going back to when The Mob Museum was just an idea, the initial group of city representatives went to UNLV right away," said Kathie Barrie, content developer and curator for the museum. "They had pulled letters and photos just to give people a taste of what could be in the museum." That taste sold them on the idea that the museum could be much more than a tourist attraction.

To add context to the documents, they tapped Schwartz, director of the UNLV Center for Gaming Research, and White, director of the Oral History Research Center. Both centers are housed in UNLV Libraries.

"It's so important (for UNLV) to be involved in things that are going to impact the bigger community," Schwartz said. "Putting your work and yourself out there is the best way to make the case to Southern Nevada and the rest of the world that what's happening here at UNLV is important and relevant. Being part of The Mob Museum is an extension of that."

SCHWARTZ: QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

Having grown up in Atlantic City, N.J., Schwartz was practically raised in casinos. He worked a few jobs in casinos, quickly learning the ins and outs of the operations. The more he learned, the more he wanted to know. "I had questions about why casinos were the way that they were that no one

Transition Advisors Help CSN Students Become Rebels

UNLV now has a permanent presence at the College of Southern Nevada to help aspiring Rebels. Two full-time UNLV advisors are housed at CSN to provide students with additional support as they move from the two-year college to the four-year university. The advisors will guide CSN students through the UNLV admissions process and can recommend courses that lead to a bachelor's degree.

"Navigating the transition from community college to university can be difficult, and the transfer office will provide significant assistance for students planning that transition," said John White, UNLV executive vice president and provost. "We also hope it will inspire (students) whose goals did not include a four-year degree to think bigger."

could answer, so I started looking for the answers myself."

Schwartz went back to school, eventually earning his doctorate from UCLA. His dissertation focused on the historical development of casinos in the United States.

Since coming to UNLV in 2001, he has written three books on the history of casinos and gambling (including a recent new edition of *Roll the Bones: The History of Gambling*), has co-edited a collection of essays about gaming, and become the gaming and hospitality editor of *Vegas Seven* magazine.

"David knows more about the history of gambling and gaming in Las Vegas than anyone, anywhere," Barrie said. "He brings not only that perspective throughout time but also throughout the world."

WHITE: THE PEOPLE SIDE OF HISTORY

White came to Las Vegas in 1992. Her life's path wasn't exactly clear, so she started her master's degree in history at UNLV. She happened upon an oral history class and fell in love with that approach to chronicling history. "It's the people side of history," she said.

The UNLV Oral History Research Center, officially established in 2003, grew out of one of White's first projects on the Las Vegas Rotary Club. She was already known for her collaboration on the Women in Gaming and Entertainment oral history project, undertaken by fellow students and led by women's history professor Joanne Goodwin. Topics included the histories of female owners and managers, showgirls, and performers.

White collected interviews of African American women who worked "back-of-the-house" as maids.

The center since has done projects on Early Las Vegas, jazz musicians, African Americans in Las Vegas, the history of early health care, and the history of UNLV.

"Claytee has this oral history expertise and knows all these marvelous little stories, many of which don't make it into a history book but are just so interesting," Barrie said. "She opened the door for us to talk to so many other people who she knew had insight into the mob in Las Vegas and could talk about the early days in the city."

While both Schwartz and White were flattered to be part of The Mob Museum and understand the importance of UNLV's involvement in the community, Barrie and the rest of the research team couldn't have been more appreciative to them and UNLV in general.

"We do projects in a variety of places, and it's always interesting to see what local resources there are and aren't," Barrie said. "UNLV had a marvelous collection and amazing experts for us to tap into. I don't know where we would have been without them."

More: UNLV Libraries is the only research library in Southern Nevada and is open to the public. Its special collections department houses unique, rare, and specialized research material on the history, culture, and physical environment of Southern Nevada, the gaming industry, and the university. Take a peek at its unique collection at digital.library.unlv.edu.

QUOTED — MARK YOSELOFF, former chairman and chief executive officer of SHFL Entertainment



"Gaming companies want more input from employees who understand the intersection of gaming with math, psychology, business, and sociology, as it's these employees who will shape the future of the industry with an infusion of solid new ideas."

... on the new Dr. Mark Yoseloff Gaming Innovation Program at UNLV. Students in the program will receive mentoring from top industry experts and learn about the design of games for casinos, the patent process, and business strategy development. A competition each semester will challenge students to develop an invention or idea. The Yoseloff gift will fund cash prizes for the winners, and students with the most successful projects will get marketing and legal guidance to help them develop their products for the mainstream market.

U.S. News & World Report — 2013

RANKING IT

Every year, various websites and publications roll out their annual rankings of top colleges and then break down the lists into all manner of categories. Understanding the true meaning of the stats takes a little work. A #130, for example, might not seem noteworthy until you realize there are more than 3,000 accredited colleges and universities in the United States. On the other hand, an ultra-high ranking may not seem as notable when you examine the criteria as an academic researcher would. So our love-hate relationship with rankings systems continues. But even so, the fact is, UNLV is climbing, and we want you all to be proud.

LAW



#68

The **Boyd School of Law** is among the top 100 law schools for seven consecutive years and this year achieved its highest-ever ranking. The school, just 15 years old, moved up eight spots to 68th. It also ranked third in legal writing, 11th in dispute resolution, and 24th among part-time law programs.

NURSING



#18

The **UNLV Master of Science** in Nursing program ranked 18th out of 101 programs that offer the curriculum entirely online. The program was evaluated on its admissions selectivity, faculty credentials and training, student engagement, graduate accreditation, and student services technology.

BUSINESS



#79

Lee Business School's part-time MBA program is ranked in the top 28 percent of business graduate programs — up considerably from the previous year's ranking at 34 percent. *U.S. News* ranked the Lee part-time MBA program 79 out of the 282 programs nationwide that met the qualifying criteria.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- #89
- #93
- #94
- #113
- #113
- #114
- #121
- #121
- #130

Graduate programs across campus ranked in the top 150: Earth Sciences, 89; Fine Arts, 93; Sociology, 94; English, 113; Physics, 113; Clinical Psychology, 114; Public Affairs, 121; Physical Therapy, 121; and Social Work, 130.

“His remarkable career exemplifies the leadership role scientists must take in helping us to better understand and protect the biodiversity of our planet.”

REMARKABLE SCIENTIST

Emeritus professor James Deacon of environmental and public affairs received the first E.O. Wilson Award for Outstanding Science in Biodiversity Conservation. The award is given by the national Center for Biological Diversity. Over the course of a 52-year career, he contributed to the protection of several threatened and endangered aquatic species, helped secure water rights for Death Valley and Zion national parks, and helped create Ash Meadows and Moapa national wildlife refuges in Nevada. “His remarkable career exemplifies the leadership role scientists must take in helping us to better understand and protect the biodiversity of our planet,” said Kieran Suckling, the center’s executive director.



SAVVY FINANCIERS

UNLV business students won the CFA Institute Research Challenge-Americas, an annual international investment competition among 350 teams from across North, Central and South America. As the Americas champions, they competed in the Global Final in London with three other teams from around the world. UNLV team members include, from left in picture: **Warren Stender**, a recent management graduate, and **Elias Shliyan, Sean Skinner**, and **Jeffery Zemp**, all finance seniors. They conducted a financial analysis of the restaurant chain Kona Grill; developed a comprehensive equity research report; and presented to a panel of global financial experts their recommendations to buy, sell, or hold company shares. Points were awarded on the basis of their investment case, their poise, and their ability to answer the judges’ questions. The students spent more than 200 hours sharpening their analytical, valuation, and presentation skills. They were



mentored by adjunct finance professor Jagdish Mehta and Dominic Rodrigues, chief investment officer of Las Vegas-based Integress Financial.

STAR STUDENTS

The American Film Institute has accepted Stephanie Perez, Brian Merrick, Craig Boydston, and Constanza Castro, all recent graduates of film studies, for fall 2013. This, along with last year’s acceptances, makes the UNLV film program the most represented American undergraduate program at AFI. Perez and Merrick will be editing fellows. Boydston will be a cinematography fellow, while Castro will be a producing fellow.



NO HUSHING THIS

Patricia Iannuzzi, dean of UNLV Libraries, was named the 2013 Academic/Research Librarian of the Year by the Association of College and Research Libraries. Iannuzzi has advocated for information literacy and student learning in higher education throughout her career. She chaired the task force that recently updated the organization’s standards for libraries in higher education and has been influential in establishing a framework for library assessment and instruction. Her work focusing on learning outcomes positions UNLV as a model for other academic and research libraries across the country.



Rendering of the Jerry Tarkanian sculpture that the UNLV Alumni Association is bringing to campus.

The Ghost Chair

BY CHED WHITNEY

It was called the “Ghost Chair.” No one ever sat in the Ghost Chair.

Until March 3, 1992.

This was to be coach Jerry Tarkanian’s last game as the Runnin’ Rebels basketball coach. The coach wasn’t given to on-court histrionics during games. There was no Bob Knight-style chair throwing. And Tark’s baggy, hounddog eyes certainly were incapable of duplicating the Mike Krzyzewski stare.

But he had his peccadilloes. And plenty of pent-up game time anxiety. And he didn’t like anyone sitting next to him on the Rebels’ bench. That empty seat became known as the Ghost Chair.

Tark’s last UNLV squad was another good one. Led by Isaiah “J.R.” Rider, the Rebels were 25-2 and ranked in The Associated Press Top 10 as they entered their season finale against Utah State.

The Rebels, Final Four participants in the previous two seasons, were on NCAA probation and barred from tournament play.

Brad Rothermel was the athletics director at UNLV from 1981-90. Prior to the game, Rothermel got a call from his friend. Tark wanted him at the Thomas & Mack.

“I told him, ‘That’s a wonderful offer, but where will I sit?’” recalled Rothermel. Today he is a special adviser to the athletic director. “Tark said, ‘I want you to sit in The Ghost Chair.’”

Brian Hanlon knows his basketball legends. He is the official sculptor for the national Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and a fan of the game. Tarkanian’s was such an iconic figure that Hanlon wanted to do a sculpture whether the coach was accepted into the hall or not. “I got this idea after doing my homework on Jerry Tarkanian,” Hanlon said. “You look at his numbers and wonder why he’s not in the hall.”

The Sculpture

A mold is made from a clay model Hanlon spent weeks creating. Wax then is poured into the mold and covered with a ceramic shell. The wax is melted away and bronze is poured into the shell.

200

Hours Hanlon estimates he spent creating the sculpture's clay model

600

Pounds of clay used in the mold

2,000

Pounds of bronze forming the statue

8,000

Weight, in pounds, of the granite panels

On game days, Larry Chin was in charge of the famous towels. Chin has spent 39 years at UNLV, first as a student and then as the athletics department's equipment manager.

At UNLV, "we downplayed the importance of the towels, though, because people would steal them," Chin said. Aside from Tarkanian, Chin is the only person to witness all four Final Four teams as a member of the athletics staff. "During my 18 years with him, the towels went missing only one time."

Tarkanian's towel habit originated early in his career, during a tight high school game in Southern California. "They played in an older-style gym in the '60s," Chin explained. "The only water fountain wasn't near the gym." So Tark sucked on a soaked towel to keep hydrated. The team won and Tarkanian kept a stack of wet towels handy for every game after that.

"To coach, they were his safety blanket," Chin said. "He had a bad habit of biting his nails, so it was saving his fingernails, too."

By all accounts, Tarkanian was a superstitious basketball coach. He never wanted anyone to sit next to him during basketball games. And he took no opponents lightly. "Never underestimate the power of your adversary," he was fond of saying.

Utah State came into that March 1992 game with a mediocre 14-10 record, so the Aggies didn't pose a big threat to the Rebels in Las Vegas. But the game was close in the late going.

Rothermel was watching from the Ghost

Social Push

Three years ago, Scott Gulbransen, '95 BA Communication Studies, moved with his family to Kansas City, where he is director of social media for H&R Block. Kansas City is also home to the College Basketball Hall of Fame.

Just as he had been ignored by the national Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Jerry Tarkanian's name was nowhere to be found in the college hall. So Gulbransen did what he does for a living: He got on Facebook.

He created the "Elect Jerry Tarkanian - Naismith Hall of Fame" page after discussing Tarkanian's omission with *Las Vegas Review-Journal* sportswriter Steve Carp.

Gulbransen said he didn't really have a strategy initially. At the beginning of the year, with the coach's health declining, Gulbransen decided to ramp up his efforts.

He reached out to fellow class of '95 communication studies graduates Sean DeFrank, associate editor at *Vegas Seven*; and Paul Gutierrez, a reporter at Comcast SportsNet in the San Francisco Bay area. Then the page got a boost when it was mentioned by broadcasters Greg Anthony, '91 BA Political Science, and Kenny Mayne, '82 BA Communication Studies.

Of course, Tarkanian's long-overdue honor finally came. He will be inducted into the national Hall of Fame Sept. 8. Back in Kansas City, Gulbransen, who is head of the UNLV alumni club, is celebrating. "Without Tark," Gulbransen, a San Diego native, said, "I never would have gone to UNLV."

Chair. "There were three or four minutes to go, and we were up by only 6," Rothermel recalled. "Tark leaned over and asked me to leave."

The Rebels won the game, 65-53. And the Ghost Chair closed out a hall-of-fame run for UNLV's greatest coach.

More info: The Jerry Tarkanian Legacy Project was established by a committee of former Runnin' Rebel players, former and current university employees, and the UNLV Alumni Association. The fund will allow a statue of the coach to be built on campus and will establish a scholarship in his name. Visit www.OneForTark.com for information.

Lofty numbers, indeed: 509 wins in 19 years at UNLV, four Final Fours, and, of course, the national title in 1990.

A chance meeting with a member of the Tarkanian clan (Hanlon doesn't remember the young man's name) led him to a phone call with Jodie Tarkanian, the coach's daughter. "Fast forward, I'm in Solana Beach (in Southern California, near Del Mar, a Tarkanian summer getaway) talking to Tark and his wife over breakfast about doing a sculpture," Hanlon said.

Time was a factor; as he put it delicately: He was worried about Tarkanian's health. So with no contract and no guarantees, Hanlon got to work on the sculpture almost immediately.

He started designing and the UNLV Alumni Association stepped in to underwrite the project. The finished sculpture will be part of the UNLV Alumni Association's Jerry Tarkanian Legacy Project. The association also is raising funds to start a scholarship in the coach's name.

It's obvious Hanlon's work with UNLV is a labor of love. He spoke passionately about basketball, art, and family as he watched a recent sunset from his New Jersey porch. It was sculpture that forged his bond with his wife. They were both track and field athletes in college. He made a bronze sculpture of her. "Once you bronze a girl," Hanlon said, "you have to marry her. That's in the rulebook."

Hanlon has worked with the Hall of Fame for 10 years and believes he's playing a part in righting a wrong "and giving a good man his due."

After he started the project, news came that Tarkanian had been elected to the Hall of Fame's 2013 class. The coach will be enshrined on Sept. 8 in Springfield, Mass.

The bronze statue will be accompanied by granite panels created by Chad Beene, '01 BA Communication Studies, a graphic artist who has been working closely with Hanlon for five years. Beene also did the original rendering.

Hanlon hopes to display his UNLV project in late summer. The statue will reside outside the Thomas & Mack Center — essentially a building Tarkanian built — and will feature a familiar pose: the coach, on the bench, sitting next to an empty chair, and chomping on a towel.

Of course: the towel.



Thelma Todd in a still from 1931's *The Maltese Falcon*.

Mystery solved

Murdered by a mobster? A surprising suicide? Alumnus says the truth behind Thelma Todd's death wouldn't make a dramatic movie ending.

BY DIANE RUSSELL

It's like the old potato chip commercial: Once he gets started, he just can't stop. William Donati reads one article and then another. He gets a tip on yet another source to interview. That call leads to another when something is mentioned that gives him another idea for yet another story. Maybe that would make a good book, too, he thinks.

One thing author Donati never seems to be at a loss for is ideas. There are worse problems a writer can wrestle with.

Donati, '06 Ph.D. English, so far has published four books. His latest, *The Life and Death of Thelma Todd* (McFarland, 2012), focuses on the beautiful blonde film star of the 1920s and '30s. Her death under mysterious circumstances at age 29 still has not been resolved to some people's satisfaction. (More about Donati's conclusions later.)

His earlier books were *Lucky Luciano: The Rise and Fall of a Mob Boss*, *Ida Lupino: A Biography*, and *My Days with Errol Flynn: The Autobiography of Stuntman Buster Wiles*, which he co-wrote with Wiles.

"When researching Todd, I started writing *Luciano*," he said. "I got deeper and deeper into these mysteries and couldn't get out."

RESEARCH IS KEY

The writing comes only after meticulous research. During a life that has included stints managing a law firm and a fine dining

restaurant (not at the same time), he has earned four university degrees, three in English and one in Italian literature.

"If I learned anything, it was how to write a paper," he said of his student days. "When I am working on my books, I use the skills I learned in English classes about how to research and how to document."

It is that love of research — and its essential role in good writing — that he tries to pass on to his students at UNLV. As an adjunct professor, he teaches a world literature course and an argument-writing course as part of the undergraduate curriculum.

Using his own books as an example, he said, "You may not agree with them, but at least you can figure out where the information came from."

FORTUITOUS INTERVIEW

The Todd book came about after he snagged an interview with film noir star Lupino, who also was one of the first women to direct movies. The two were discussing Errol Flynn when she mentioned Todd, a close family friend. Lupino, who was just 17 when she met the comedic actress, had many stories to tell.

Just what was the true story of this Massachusetts beauty who won a contest, came to Hollywood, achieved movie stardom in such films as the Marx Brothers' *Horse Feathers* and *Monkey Business*, and then ended up dead of carbon monoxide poisoning a decade later, her body found in her luxurious Lincoln Phaeton parked in her boyfriend's garage?

The quest to find out took him to library and newspaper archives to learn all he could about both the life and death of "Hot Toddy," a nickname the actress detested. He combed through back issues of a dozen newspapers and even obtained Todd's FBI file. He interviewed as many people from "Old Hollywood" as he could find. Then he traveled to her home state to talk to family members and old friends. Fortunately, some of Todd's first cousins still were living.

"My book was a labor of love," Donati said. "I took my time. It gave me a chance to exhaust every source — the Academy (of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) library, USC, UCLA. I went everywhere I could. I think I have written the definitive book (on Todd)."

MYSTERY SOLVED

For Donati, the cause of Todd's death is no longer a mystery. Was it a suicide? Was it murder — perhaps at the hands of the notorious Luciano?

No, Donati said. It was a simple accident.

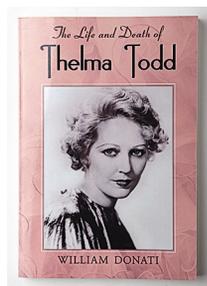
She had gone to a party that night. Her married lover, horror film director Roland West, had told her not to drive all the way home if she stayed out late or had too much to drink. But she did come home late, Donati said, with only one of the two

"As a biographer, I call myself the long distance runner of writing," he remarks. "I only have four books in print, but they are going to be around. When people are interested in these subjects, they are going to go to my books. That means a lot to me."

keys needed to get into the apartment. Not wanting to awaken West, whom she feared would be disappointed in her, she waited in the garage until morning, according to Donati's theory.

"I think she took a nap," he said, adding that he thinks she started the car with its 12-cylinder engine to stay warm.

She probably planned to wait until a porter with a key came to work and could let her in. Or maybe she was going to drive to her mother's house as West had suggested she do, he said. But Todd never got the chance. With the garage door closed, the carbon monoxide killed her. Her body was found on Dec. 16, 1935.



The Life and Death of Thelma Todd

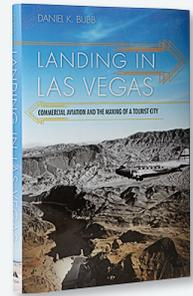
By William Donati
McFarland, 2012

NOT A SPRINTER

Donati recently completed a novel set in 1936 during the Spanish Civil War and is contemplating another nonfiction work about movie swashbuckler Flynn, this one concentrating on the actor's ties to a purported Nazi spy he met in New Guinea. Despite some writers' views to the contrary, Donati does not believe Flynn was a spy. Did Flynn know his buddy was a spy? Probably, Donati said, adding that Flynn liked to live on the edge.

Donati said he may not be a prolific writer, but that he believes his books have staying power.

"As a biographer, I call myself the long distance runner of writing," he remarks. "I only have four books in print, but they are going to be around. When people are interested in these subjects, they are going to go to my books. That means a lot to me."



Landing in Las Vegas: Commercial Aviation and the Making of a Tourist City

By Daniel K. Bubb
University of Nevada Press, 2012

Daniel K. Bubb, '01 MA History, came naturally to writing a book about the role of commercial aviation in making Las Vegas the city it is today. He spent three years as a commercial pilot for Air Vegas Airlines. Then as a history student at UNLV he began researching the symbiotic relationship between commercial air travel and tourism. That became the basis for both his master's thesis and his doctoral dissertation. When he considered the history of tourism in Southern Nevada, Bubb was curious about how the tourists arrived. In the '30s and '40s, it took quite a while to drive from Los Angeles, the nearest major metropolitan area, he reasoned. "The airplane was much faster. It essentially shrunk space and time through speed," he said.

Commercial aviation came to Las Vegas in 1926. Over the years, civic leaders embraced it as an asset worthy of investment. By the century's end Las Vegas was the nation's fastest growing city and boasted its seventh busiest airport. How that relationship evolved over the decades — and benefitted from such disparate events as World War II and airline deregulation — forms the basis of Bubb's book.

BRIEFLY
.....

A Top 5 Test Center

The UNLV Center for Energy Research was named one of five Regional Test Center sites by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The centers provide unbiased and independent validation of large-scale photovoltaic (PV) system performance. The data will be used to create standardized systems and guidelines for the solar energy industry.

The work in Nevada will be conducted by highly trained UNLV researchers and students. The effort is part of a DOE initiative to make solar-generated power account for 15 to 18 percent of U.S. electricity generation by 2030 and to decrease solar energy costs by 75 percent before 2020.

UNLV is working with the Southern Nevada Water Authority to secure land for the evaluation site.

The UNLV location will determine how PV panels react in a climate with abundant sunshine and low rainfall. The other centers are located in Denver; Albuquerque, N.M.; Orlando, Fla.; and Williston, Vt.



Anthropologists Daniel Benyshek and Sharon Young are pioneering research into the use of placenta as a dietary supplement.

It's called Placentophagy

The ick-factor aside, new moms tout the benefits of consuming their placentas.

BY AFSHA BAWANY

MOMS-TO-BE, you may want to add “cook placenta” next to “stock up on diapers and onesies” to your list of things to remember when having a baby.

Placenta eating may seem far-fetched, but a growing number of American women are following the practice, according to a new survey conducted by UNLV anthropologists. It's called placentophagy.

Daniel Benyshek, a nutritional anthropologist,

and doctoral student Sharon Young asked 189 women who consumed their placentas after childbirth why they did it, how they preferred to have the placenta prepared, and if they would do it again. The results were published in the journal *Ecology, Food and Nutrition*.

The survey found most participants were American, Caucasian, married, middle class, and college-educated. They also were more likely to give birth at home. Overall, 76 percent of participants reported very positive experiences, with improved mood and lactation. The most commonly reported negative aspect was the placenta's appeal: The taste or smell of it was simply kind of icky.

The placenta can be consumed cooked or raw, but most women in the survey consumed it in the

At left, nutritional anthropologist Daniel Benyshek and Ph.D. student Sharon Young are pioneering research into the consumption of placentas.

easier-to-digest capsule form. In this preparation, a cooked or uncooked placenta is dehydrated, pulverized, and encapsulated in a gelatin-coated pill.

Benyshek, whose past studies have looked at obesity-related health disorders and the evolution of the human diet, became interested in placentophagy after attending a lecture by Jodi Selander, a specialist in placenta encapsulation and education in Southern Nevada.

What these moms are doing is something new for humans, he said. While nearly all non-human primates and mammal mothers are known to eat the placenta after giving birth, there is very little

Overall, 76 percent of participants reported very positive experiences ... The most commonly reported negative aspect was the placenta's appeal: The taste or smell of it was simply kind of icky.

evidence for it among human mothers. He and Young co-authored their first study on the subject in 2010. They did not find any evidence of human maternal placentophagy as a traditional cultural practice among a sample of 179 societies around the globe. Consumption by humans other than the mother, however, has been recorded among a handful of cultures for various medicinal purposes. Placenta can be found in some traditional Chinese remedies, he said.

While science knows much about the hormonal and nutritional components of the human placenta tissue, almost nothing is known about the biological effects of its consumption. Benyshek notes, however, that there is a hunger for remedies to treat post-partum effects.

His next studies will delve into the public health implications of consumption, including whether placentas can treat mood disorders and hormonal imbalances and whether there are any potential risks. He's also analyzing the nutritional, hormonal, and chemical components of placenta in its various preparations.

"Our survey participants generally reported some type of perceived benefit from the practice, felt that their postpartum experience with placentophagy was a positive one, and overwhelmingly indicated that they would engage in placentophagy again after subsequent pregnancies," the authors wrote.



RISKY RECREATION

WHAT PROMPTS PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN EXTREME SPORTS OR OTHER PASTIMES THAT COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH?

Economics professor Mary Riddell and graduate student Sonja Kolstoe of the Lee Business School set out to discover why people do the crazy things they do.

The study: The researchers wanted to understand if lovers of high-risk activities consider the likelihood of mortality in the same way that average risk takers do. They wondered if high-risk takers were overly optimistic about survival. The researchers compared subject's level of comfort with risk and their knowledge of the hazards of a particular activity. A sample size of 500 volunteers was used for the experiment. A student control group did not engage in any high-risk activity; another group engaged in risky recreational activities such as amateur auto racing, rock climbing, and scuba diving.

Subjects were asked to imagine that they had been diagnosed with a disease that, without treatment, would be fatal within a year. They were offered two treatment options. Treatment A gave patients a 95 percent chance of living five more years and a 5 percent chance of dying within the next year. Treatment B gave them a 50 percent chance of living 10 more years and a 50 percent chance of dying within the next year.

Results: Responses revealed the subjects' level of risk aversion and how they assessed the likelihood of survival. If the subject was risk-averse, he or she chose treatment A. High-risk takers generally chose option B. Findings show that people who engage in risky recreational activities have different mortality risk preferences than the average person. Amateur auto racers were the most mortality risk-loving, followed by scuba divers, rock climbers, and the control group. The racers and scuba divers derived benefit from the sports' potential for fatality. "Safe" activities such as gardening or cooking wouldn't satisfy their need to take risks.

They found two answers: Some people lack good judgment and engage in dangerous activity without fully understanding the consequences. Others fully understand but find the thrill worth the risk. As individuals understand the high costs of an activity, they mitigate the risk factors or cease the activity.

The researchers also found the control group was more optimistic about survival while the risk takers weighed their options more rationally. "Average risky recreationists compare the benefit derived from the risky recreation to any costs. When benefits exceed costs, they engage in the risky activity," Riddell said.

Mary Riddell is chair of the economics department and a Beam Research Fellow. Sonja Kolstoe received a master's degree in economics from UNLV and is now a doctoral student in environmental studies at the University of Oregon. Their study will be published in the next edition of the Journal of Risk and Uncertainty.

Karu Hangawatte is spending at least the next two years in Paris, but it's certainly not a vacation. The criminal justice professor is taking a leave of absence to become Sri Lanka's ambassador to France. His native South Asian country is still recovering from a 26-year conflict that started as a guerilla war and escalated into a war against terrorism. He has gained diplomatic experience as an expert consultant to the United Nations and as a member of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, which dealt with the aftermath of Sri Lanka's war. But he still has his fingers crossed as he enters this new life chapter.

THE AMBASSADOR

Karu Hangawatte, criminal justice professor, ambassador

People carry their politics with them even when they leave a country.

In the 1970s the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) were a budding terrorist group. Many treated them as boys and didn't pay much attention to them. They organized as a guerilla group with assistance from abroad. Then in 1983, they killed 18 soldiers.

The public outrage led to a mob reaction. The mobs attacked innocent Tamils in Colombo (the capitol) and its suburbs. Many of the targets were public officers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, and businessmen or their kith and kin.

So the exodus began.

There are over 100,000 Sri Lankans in France now. My objective is to somehow unite the community. Tamil professionals left (for Europe and Western countries) with their memories — memories that don't go away easily. These memories are the stories they tell their children.

It's easy for others to preach healing. But it is not that easy for those who have suffered from the mob violence or the atrocities

perpetrated by the LTTE.

Some of my friends say, "Why don't you go someplace that's easy?" There are too many problems in France." I'm nervous. I know I may not succeed fully in my objectives. But I like challenges. Otherwise life can be boring.

Being ambassador to France is prestigious, but I am more excited to also be the permanent ambassador to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). It opens up possibilities to help the helpless, expand educational opportunities, and promote science, arts, and culture.

Many countries lag (the U.S.) in the use of social science for policymaking. They value natural sciences but don't recognize social sciences yet. In this respect, UNESCO can make significant contributions by bringing more social sciences into policymaking. It will be very gratifying, as a professor, to be a part of that.

Before I came to the United States, I was the assistant secretary of justice in Sri Lanka. In 1971 we had an insurgency driven by extremely leftist ideals. It led to something like

18,000 people being arrested and overcrowded jails. We decided after many meetings we should release those against whom there was not adequate evidence to prosecute and those who had committed misdemeanors. But I knew this would not solve the problem if they were ostracized. I suggested ... they should be reinstated in the jobs they were holding at the time of arrest or helped to find similar jobs. We did that for thousands of people.

I still meet people today who say, "You released me from prison. You helped me." These people went on to have families and lead productive lives. I was blessed to have done that.

Sri Lanka is not a developing country anymore. It's classified a middle-income country with a rapidly expanding economy. It's an English-speaking country with a very high literacy rate. It ranks high on the human development index and on the happiness index. It's a beautiful country.

I decided to come to Las Vegas for the most irrational reasons. Growing up in Sri Lanka, we used to watch a lot of Hollywood movies. They

depicted California as this great, beautiful place with beautiful people. There were no openings in California, but UNLV was only three or four hours away.

When I first became a professor, like many, I started lecturing from written notes. That didn't work well. What I learned over time was to keep my course emphasis on *learning* rather than *knowing* something. Once they have learned something, they can apply it to different situations.

When I started teaching about terrorism [in the '80s] there wasn't much interest. Students thought terrorism occurred elsewhere. This changed after 9/11. [His classes now often include first responders and military personnel in anti-terrorism units.]

Terrorist violence has no well-defined end. For example, hijacking a plane full of innocent civilians may bring a terrorist group publicity, but it will not achieve their political objective.

Terrorism is violence for the sake of violence. It brings about further violence. It is endless.



“When I return to UNLV after my term in France, I’ll have the experience of this diplomatic post to share. I believe it will enrich the conversation with students.”

Bright Ideas

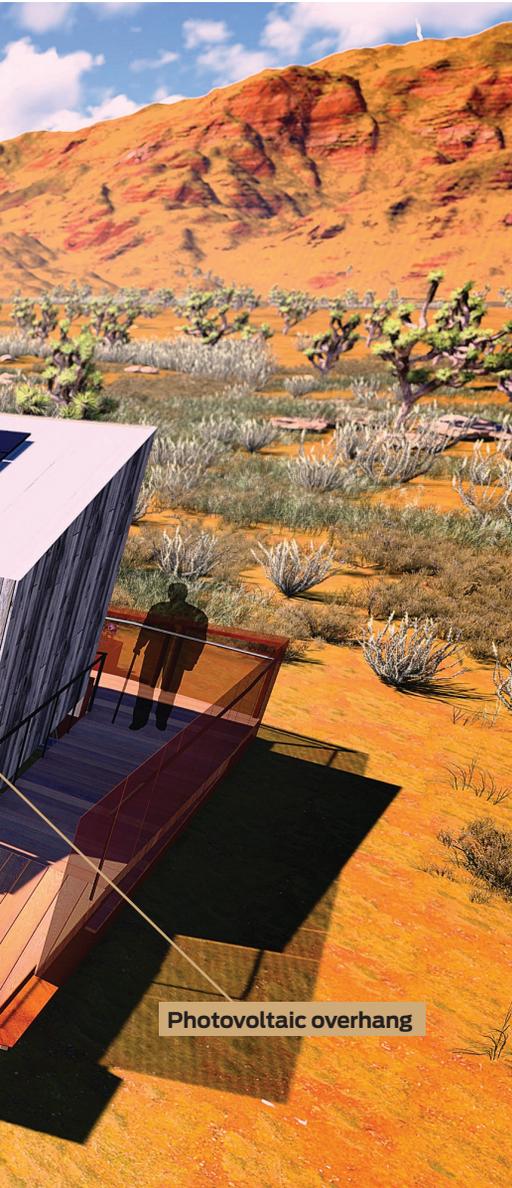
The cool features in the ultimate Mojave Desert home



UNLV is one of just 20 international teams selected to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013. The prestigious competition involves designing and building a solar-powered home — not some wildly futuristic model, but a fully functioning home that could go on the market today. UNLV's entry, dubbed DesertSol, embraces the abundance of our Mojave Desert sun while accounting for the scarcity of water, says project manager Alexia Chen, an architecture studies graduate student. "The team had to take into consideration the heat, dryness, and intense sun — not an easy environment for a typical building." The home is being constructed this summer and will be transported to Irvine, Calif., for the competition in October. Afterward, it will become a permanent exhibit at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve.

We asked some of the architecture and engineering students involved to point out their favorite features. — *Ana Klein*

More: Take a video walk-through and check on the team's progress at solardecathlon.unlv.edu.



“If every household in America committed to the concept, the amount of energy we would save is truly staggering.”



NATHAN WEBER
ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE
STUDENT

Oversees the architecture team and supervises construction

The **retractable solar shade screens** are digitally fabricated from steel with a mesquite tree design. They're located on the hottest sides of the home. In non-desert environments, deciduous trees usually are used to cool an outdoor space in summer while allowing direct sun in winter. DesertSol's screens do the same without consuming water. "It's an attractive way to help keep your house cooler in the summer and cut down on energy costs."



ANDREW CROSS
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
GRADUATE STUDENT

Leads the home's automation system team

DesertSol's intelligent **environmental control system** is the "brain" of the home and allows the lights, appliances, and thermostat to be controlled from an easy-to-use interface on a smartphone or tablet. He wishes all homeowners would take advantage of the programmable thermostats already on the market. "If every household in America committed to the concept, the amount of energy we would save is truly staggering."



IANI BATILOV
CIVIL ENGINEERING GRADUATE
STUDENT

Leads the team's 10 structural engineers

Batilov was tasked ensuring that the 754-square-foot home would withstand a more than 500-mile round trip from Irvine to Las Vegas. The home will be constructed on a **steel chassis**, a framework that allows the home to be moved. "My favorite feature of the home is its mobile nature. You can pick it up and take it anywhere." Constructing for mobility allows people to build once and transport their home to any location, which ultimately saves energy.



CHRISTIAN IUSSO
ARCHITECTURE GRADUATE
STUDENT

Lead for exterior features and team morale officer

Custom roof edging captures water from desert downpours and turns it into a trickling waterfall as a nod to the fact that Las Vegas was founded around natural springs. Rainwater is collected by this water feature for evaporative cooling and landscape irrigation. "Residents are greeted by the cooling effects of the moving water, settling their minds as they transition from the unforgiving desert into the tranquility provided by this desert dwelling."



JINGER ZENG
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
GRADUATE STUDENT

Oversees the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing team

The **Photovoltaic Overhang** on the roof, is made up of photovoltaic (PV) panels. Clark County requires a clearance of three feet around PV panels to ensure access in case of fire, which greatly limits the incorporation of solar panels on rooftops. The overhang solution, however, provides more PV area and also acts as a passive shading device for the deck. "It was an elegant solution between architecture and engineering."



WESTIN CONAHAN
created the renderings of the DesertSol home and has been involved in the design process since the home's inception in an architecture studio course in fall 2011. He now serves as the team's 3-D presentation lead. In May, Conahan graduated with a bachelor of science in architecture studies and a minor in solar and renewable energy policy. He is moving to Washington, D.C. to serve as the national president of the American Institute of Architecture Students for the 2013-14 academic year.

[PIXELS]





Big Head to Fill

SIX YEARS AGO, JON “JERSEY” GOLDMAN first donned the Hey Reb! suit and transformed our beloved mascot into a crowd-surfing, fireworks-shooting main attraction at events. In May, the communications major swapped the Hey Reb! costume for a graduation cap — leaving some big shoes for whoever becomes the next Hey Reb!

True to the mascot rulebook, Goldman was always in full costume in public. This image was caught last fall at the end of a long photo shoot for the annual UNLV cheer and dance team calendar.

Goldman, who also works in sports marketing and as an on-air radio host, hopes to extend his mascot career to professional leagues next. “This is tough, I gotta admit,” he said about leaving Hey Reb! behind. “I’m a first-generation student. I hope I’ve shown my three little sisters — they’re 14, 13, and 7 — that college is a way to a career that you love.”

One of his best adventures as Hey Reb! was repelling down the 20-story Rio Hotel for Special Olympics (check it out on YouTube). But the power of that famous ‘stache struck him after he’d missed a basketball game and another person filled in. “This one dad says, ‘We missed you last week.’ He told me his son cried because Hey Reb! didn’t come give him a high five. Without ever seeing my face, (the dad) could tell I wasn’t in the suit. That’s when I knew I’d done exactly what I wanted to do with this job — I had turned Hey Reb! into a real personality.”

[Aaron Mayes/UNLV Photo Services]

This Way Up

IT'S TELLING THAT THE ROAD MILLIONS TAKE FROM THE AIRPORT TO OUR CITY'S

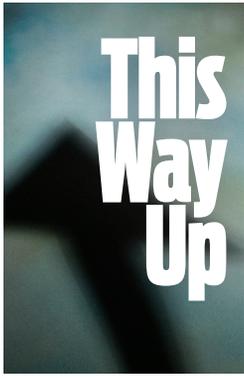


GREATEST DRAW — THE STRIP — RUNS RIGHT ALONGSIDE OUR CAMPUS. This juxtaposition may have grown organically, but it also symbolizes how incredibly entwined the university and the community have become.

UNLV and Southern Nevada have taken some knocks in the past years. But quietly, in the background, amazing people at UNLV have dedicated themselves to building up this university. The examples of their great work are numerous. They have created an institution that advances opportunities for our students and that engages with the community to solve our region's most critical problems.

I invite you to learn about some of our recent accomplishments on the following pages. I truly believe that, working as community partners, the university and the city are positioned to take the next great steps forward in development.

— Neal Smatresk, UNLV president



10 More Ways We're Headed Up (and Taking Las Vegas With Us)



1 The Brookings Mountain West think tank at UNLV is a center for high-quality, independent research on the public policy issues critical to the Inter-Mountain West region.



2 The Academic Success Center is a model for active academic intervention, tutoring, and student support. The retention rate for those using the center's services is 88 percent.



3 UNLV recently established a transfer center partnership with the College of Southern Nevada to make the transition from community college to UNLV easier.

ACCOMPLISHMENT: OVERHAULING GENERAL EDUCATION

Connecting the Dots

Remember staring at the list of graduation requirements and wondering, *Why do I need that class?* UNLV did, too.

BY CARL REIBER

When I was an undergraduate biology major, I had to take Fortran 77. It was the language of the day for computer programming, and it was called “77” for the year it was developed (Yes, I’m dating myself). Fortunately, my instructor was a visionary. On the first day of class, he told us, “There are so many languages on the horizon; you may not ever actually use this particular one but you do need to understand the logic behind it.” He was right. I never needed to master Fortran, but I did need a foundational understanding of computer programming. I’ve built on the logic skills I acquired in his class throughout my career.

Now, fast forward to 2006 or so at UNLV. Like so many large research universities, we required our students to fulfill a slate of general education requirements before they turned their tassels. This fulfilled one goal of a university — to turn out “well-rounded” graduates. So all students had to take a math, a science, and miscellaneous civic and literature courses.

Our approach at the time was typical of major universities, but we knew we could do better. So we started by surveying.

Students grumbled: *I’m a dance major; why do I need science?* They didn’t feel they were gaining real skills by taking an assortment of classes unrelated to their fields. They also told us that they needed a clearer pathway toward graduation and more guidance on what to take and when.

Faculty grumbled: *Gen ed? What’s that got to do with me?* If students showed up in their classes unable to write a scientific research paper, they pointed to the English department. Whose job was it to teach the difference between a Wikipedia entry and a peer research journal, anyway?

And national employers and local economic development leaders noted that universities in general did not emphasize the skills they most needed in professional hires. They needed new hires grounded in the fundamentals of their field, of course. But they also sought employees who had developed critical thinking and strong writing skills. They want employees with some understanding of global issues and an ability to work with people from various cultures.

We took on the arduous task of breaking down that old, disjointed model. We launched the new general



education program last fall and will continually tweak it to keep pace with the changing needs of our students. It is not hyperbole to say that what we did was revolutionary among major research institutions. It’s the kind of curriculum you’d see at an elite liberal arts school. And it’s been held up by the American Association of Colleges & Universities as a model program.

All UNLV students now have a clear and efficient progression to follow toward graduation. The courses

All UNLV students now have a clear and efficient progression to follow toward graduation.

connect with and build on one another to ensure specific learning outcomes, such as creative presentation skills and an ability find, analyze, and apply new information. We’ve replaced lectures with a first-year seminar and a writing-intensive second-year program. A milestone experience ensures they are grounded in the fundamentals of their majors. Then, in a culminating experience — such as an internship, research or service learning project, or capstone course — students must demonstrate an integration of the knowledge and skills they’ve acquired here.

I believe this will help them become more desirable employees and citizens. In other words, our graduates won’t simply know Fortran; they’ll know how to apply the logic to whatever comes at them next.

Carl Reiber is vice provost for academic affairs and a professor of life sciences.

Moving the Needle

With limited resources and huge needs to serve, Nevada's nonprofits have struggled to bring in grant money. The Lincy Institute is changing that.

BY RAMONA DENBY-BRINSON

I am that rare person who was born and raised in Las Vegas. That's one reason I relish my job at UNLV's The Lincy Institute. The institute was founded through a major donation from the Lincy Foundation just three years ago. It is a central resource and research hub that helps local nonprofits tackle our community's quality-of-life issues in health, education, and social services.

One statistic stands out in particular because it affects every sector of community well-being: Nevada is dead last among the states in receiving federal grant funding. Our tax dollars do not come back to us in social services funding. In essence, we are subsidizing the services that residents in other states enjoy.

Why? In part, it has to do with our infrastructure lagging far behind growth. That is where The Lincy Institute comes in. Here's how we're helping:

IMPROVING GRANT COMPETITIVENESS — Sadly, Nevada has been leaving money on the table simply because we didn't have the data that other locales have at their fingertips. Under the leadership of resident scholar Fatma Nasoz, the institute has made information technology a priority and is building a data repository so nonprofit agencies don't have to go to six different sources just to complete an application. For example, a faculty-led collaborative is bringing together 22 agencies to substantiate the service gaps in our local mental health programming. We also recently helped the Child Advocacy Alliance acquire, for free, a data management system that would have cost the organization hundreds of thousands of dollars.

SHAPING AGENCY PROGRAMMING — With better data and strategy help from The Lincy Institute, agencies are able to shift programming to achieve specific outcomes. A good example is the work we've done with the Clark County Department of Family Services. Two years ago we helped to forecast the money available out of Washington, D.C., to improve child well-being and assist foster youth with transition into adulthood.

Child well-being is one of those programming areas in which Nevada is struggling the most. Our efforts included co-writing a \$2.5 million grant application in which we organized data to conceptualize the problem, articulated it on paper, and then proposed an innovative program model that established a new way of improving child well-being.

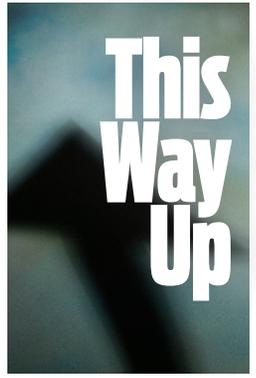


BRINGING BETTER DATA TO POLICYMAKING

— Those of us working in social services, education, and health in the past understood the issues agencies faced, but to be honest, we often couldn't cite hard evidence. A good example is the need for resources for English language learners in our schools. This year, with the help of studies done by UNLV professors, Lincy scholar Sonya Horsford, and the Annenberg Institute at Brown University, we framed the issue by illustrating the broad impact of under-investment in education. An underdeveloped workforce is a consequence of inadequate educational support. When students are not prepared for employment they are not the only ones who suffer. Our local and state economy suffers. We use data and research to better inform the conversations that take place in Carson City, and the Legislature approved \$50 million for ELL programs.

I could go on with countless examples of how the institute is using research to build vital local human service capacity and infrastructure. In fact, this summary does not even begin to scratch the surface of the impact that we are poised to make in the area of health under Marya Shegog, Lincy's director of health programs. While the full impact of The Lincy Institute won't be seen for years, I believe we're finally moving the needle. Past efforts have relied on consultants swooping in from out of state, making recommendations, and leaving town. With the community and the university's smart partnerships, Southern Nevada is tackling its own challenges.

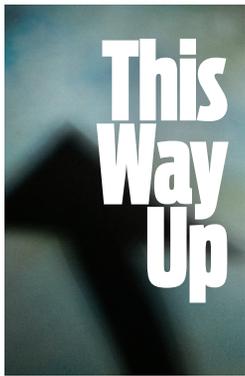
Ramona Denby-Brinson is senior resident scholar of social services in The Lincy Institute and a professor of social work.



4 UNLV President Neal Smatresk helped form and currently serves on the executive committee of the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance and on the executive committee of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce.

5 Scholarship and financial aid support has increased. In 2011-12, UNLV distributed more than \$212 million in financial aid and accounted for 44 percent of total aid disbursed by state higher education institutions.

6 The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities' comprehensive accreditation report cited UNLV "for its exceptional sense of community and solidarity in the face of literally unprecedented fiscal challenges that were countered by a commitment to transparency and inclusiveness in critical planning by the administration and (Faculty) Senate."



Beyond the Breakthrough

UNLV's scientists make discoveries and share their findings in prestigious journals. But then what?

BY HUI ZHANG

7 The office of economic development and technology transfer was established in March 2012. Representatives of the office have initiated aggressive outreach efforts to partner with both state and local economic development agencies, including the Governor's office on economic development and the Nevada Development Authority.



8 UNLV has developed a series of minors directed to critical needs of our state, including the global entrepreneurship program for future business leaders and a renewable energy minor that provides a foundation in both technical and policy issues.

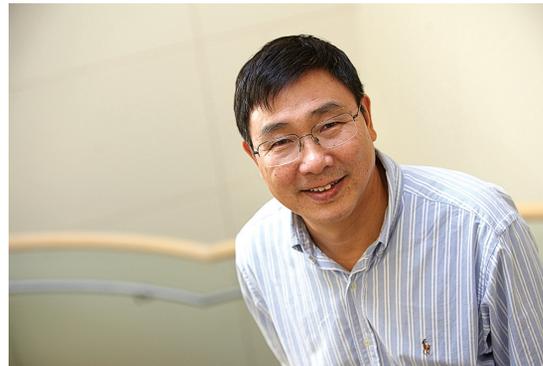
Last year, one of my students was looking through a catalog for biomedical researchers like myself. She was surprised to discover that among the products was a chemical compound that I had developed along with a team of researchers at the now-closed Nevada Cancer Institute. This compound showed promise for solving one of the great challenges in cancer treatment — how to kill cancer cells without harming healthy cells.

My research identifies the molecules that are part of the cell division machine, and we investigate how different proteins work together to make a cell divide. This research helps answer how a human develops from a single fertilized egg and also addresses the mechanisms of diseases such as cancer. Cancer cells can divide under conditions that a normal cell cannot. So, identifying the molecular mechanism that causes cancer cell division can help us develop chemical inhibitors to treat the disease.

My team shared the results of our study on that compound in an academic journal. Then I moved on. I'm now developing a compound that I believe will target cancer cells even better. However, it is surprising that the biomedical supply company was able to reproduce and sell it to other researchers. Now that company is enjoying any profits that stemmed from our work.

To be honest, I was not terribly upset by seeing my work in a company's catalog. I am a molecular biologist, not a lawyer nor a businessman. I am driven by the science and a desire to cure a disease that killed my father. Left to my own devices, I would continue my work in the lab and in the classroom for the inhibitors on my own.

Being a professor allows me to focus on the cure in a way that just does not happen in the labs of pharmaceutical companies. Those companies, by their nature, must be concerned with more immediate profit potential. Breakthrough research — the kind that leads to cures — is first done at universities. Then we share our research with the larger community, and eventually private companies come in to



develop products that will benefit patients.

But, of course, I recognize that my employer should share in the proceeds that come from the research I do. Fortunately, UNLV recently has bolstered its resources for protecting the intellectual property developed by its faculty. The new UNLV office of economic development works with faculty members on what's called technology transfer.

This means that should my next compound prove to work, the university can patent the discovery and then find a private company interested in

I am driven by the science and a desire to cure a disease that killed my father. Left to my own devices, I would continue my work in the lab and in the classroom for the inhibitors on my own.

carrying it through to the market. The university and I would share in the proceeds that come from licensing the product. And the Southern Nevada community would benefit in the development of the biomedical industry in the Las Vegas Valley, which is something my wife and I want very much for our new hometown.

Hui Zhang and his wife, Hong Sun, are professors in the chemistry department. Sun researches the genetic factors in cancer cell growth. Previously, they worked at the Nevada Cancer Institute and Yale School of Medicine.

Hospitality Meets Health Care

UNLV professors are extending their wealth of knowledge in guest satisfaction to boost Nevada's emerging health care tourism industry.

BY STOWE SHOEMAKER

History does repeat itself. In 2004, after nearly a decade teaching at UNLV, I moved to Houston, a city that became a model for overcoming an economy-killing downturn in its key sector — the energy market.

The Las Vegas I came back to in 2011 certainly was different from the booming city that I left. It was, of course, hardest hit by the mortgage crisis. With all the construction cranes stalled, the state leaders took up economic diversification efforts with gusto.

The governor's office has developed an economic development plan that dovetails beautifully with the work done by UNLV's Brookings Mountain West think tank. Leaders have recognized that diversification doesn't mean replacing our key sectors — gaming and tourism — but expanding on them. And a vital component in all planning efforts is tapping into the intellectual capital that already exists at the university.

UNLV has been extending its resources to development efforts in many areas — including clean energy development, social services improvements, and market analysis. Not surprisingly, I am most excited to see how our strength in hospitality can be used to build up other industries, including health care and health care tourism.

Some have used the term medical tourism but I prefer health care tourism because it is much broader than medical services. With our world-class spas, we can lead in wellness-centered vacations. Las Vegas is known for having some of the top doctors in specialties that are a particular draw internationally, including fertility treatment, gastric bypass surgery, and hip and knee replacements.

But Las Vegas also has strength in customer service, revenue management, and training facilities. In all of these areas, UNLV can be a major contributor to industry advancements.

Hotel administration assistant professor Dina Zemke, for example, is an expert in the atmospherics of the hotel environment and the effects of ambient scents in a place. Now imagine the last time you walked into a medical facility. How was your experience shaped by that first whiff you got walking through the door? Zemke is working with University Medical Center and with UNLV dental medicine professor James Mah to apply her knowledge to medical environments.



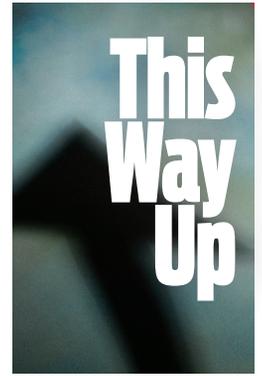
Interdisciplinary studies professor Sheila Bock studies cultural influences related to diabetes. She, hotel administration professor Carola Raab, and I are collaborating on nutritional labeling and how we can draw from menu design research to influence what people eat.

And several professors, including Olena Mazurenko and Chris Cochran in the School of Allied Health Sciences are working with hospitality professors to apply aspects of customer satisfaction to patient satisfaction. This work will prove critical to Nevada providers as Medicare reimbursements soon will be based in part on how organizations fare in patient satisfaction.

Recently, the “aha” moment — the moment I knew the impact that the work at UNLV could have in health care — came when I was working with the division chief of a medical center on managing capacity constraints. Rather than buying more radiology equipment, I suggested using the techniques that hotels have used for years use to meet demand during peak times. Prime times could be saved for the patients with the highest needs. Those with more flexibility could be scheduled during low-volume times. And wait times could be reduced.

He was skeptical, but we kept discussing it, and I shared my research on revenue management, along with other research, with him. He soon wrote back, “I think this could be a savior of my hospital.” And I believed more firmly than ever that the intersection of health care and hospitality could be a driver of Nevada's economy.

Stowe Shoemaker, a professor of hotel administration, will become dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration in July.



9 In 2011-12, UNLV raised more than \$59.9 million in contributions and gift commitments, including \$38.5 million in cash and cash equivalents, and \$13.2 million in pledges. This was one of the largest fundraising years in the university's history.



10 The UNLV Business Startup Center was created by reorganizing the former Small Business Development Center and refocusing its mission on technology companies and entrepreneurial start ups. The center is aligning its efforts with the governor's office of economic development to focus on the areas with the most potential for economic impact and job creation.

[CLASS NOTES]

A CHANGE OF HEART

Simon Keith

'92 BS Physical Education

Simon Keith got sick of being ‘The Heart Guy’ and spent two decades downplaying his status as a transplant recipient. Then he got a reality check—and a new goal in life.

BY KATHERINE STOWELL

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imon Keith looks like a normal guy. He’s a handsome man in his 40s. In shape, well-dressed, and groomed. Never would you think, “I bet he’s had a heart transplant.” Keith is one of the longest living heart transplant recipients in the world and has lived the majority of his life with his second heart.

“Being normal, having a normal life — a family, a successful career — that’s my greatest accomplishment,” Keith said.

This comes from a man who at 18 played on his first professional soccer team, who at 21 underwent a heart transplant, and who was named the No. 1 overall pick in the 1989 professional indoor soccer draft by the Cleveland Crunch of the Major Indoor Soccer League (MISL). He was the first athlete to play professional sports after a heart transplant. After retiring from soccer, he became a successful entrepreneur, launching and the spinning off several businesses.

Keith grew up in a sports-focused family, and by the time he graduated high school, he was playing soccer on professional teams in Canada and England. But in 1984, when he was just 19 years old, Keith was diagnosed with myocarditis, a deterioration of the heart muscle. For nearly two years, Keith played with an ill-functioning heart and body. Games and practices often were followed by trips to the hospital. But Keith would not give in to his health problems.

In 1986, Keith’s parents took him to England, his birthplace, to investigate heart transplant surgeries. Later that year, he was given a new heart. He recovered swiftly and immediately returned to playing soccer in Victoria, Canada, where he grew up. The only problem was that he was no longer known as “Simon Keith, a great soccer player.” He’d become “The Heart Guy.”

“Returning to Canada was tough. (In Victoria), there were about 400,000 people, and I promise you, every person there knew my name,” Keith remembered. “I couldn’t do anything without people following me around, asking me questions, wanting to film me. I was 21 years old, and I couldn’t live. I had to leave. I had to escape from there.

“Las Vegas greeted me with open arms.”

ESCAPING THE LABEL

He came here to visit his brother, Adam, ’89 BS Marketing, a member of the UNLV soccer team. He met with then-head soccer coach Barry Barto and tried out for the team. The athletics department offered him a full-ride scholarship, assuring Keith that his health history would remain confidential.

“When Simon came here, obviously, there was a lot of concern and

apprehension,” recalled Jerry Koloskie, senior associate athletics director. “There wasn’t even a cardiologist here in town that had ever dealt with a transplant patient. But we decided that we just needed to move on and treat him like we treated everybody else and let him enjoy the college experience. We would provide the most reasonable care, but we decided not to make this a day-to-day issue. Really, that’s the way Simon approached it. He just wanted to be a soccer player and a regular student.”

For two years, UNLV provided Keith the escape he was looking for. “It allowed me to be a guy,” Keith said. “People didn’t know my whole life story. I could grow up, be a little reckless, and have some fun.”

In his senior year, Keith once again was drafted by a professional team. He put his education on hold and went on to play with the Victory Vistas, the Winnipeg Fury, and the Montreal Supra of the Canadian Soccer League. And he once again became The Heart Guy. After games, his teammates would explore the city. Keith, however, was rushed to media events, where he would be interviewed not about his performance, but about his surgery.

EMBRACING THE LABEL

In 1992, Keith retired from his professional soccer career, happy to leave the spotlight. He returned to UNLV to finish his degree. He launched his first company in 1994 and continued to start and sell companies for more than 10 years. He got married and had three children. Finally, people stopped talking about that heart transplant.

It wasn’t until 2011, when Keith was asked to give a speech about his experience to a group of organ donor organizations, that everything changed. Long removed from the spotlight, he spoke about how he couldn’t handle The Heart Guy label.

His speech bombed. The audience was turned off by Keith’s lack of appreciation for his second heart. “That speech was life-changing,” Keith said. “At the time, I really didn’t know what I was talking about when it came down to organ donation and transplantation. I only knew anecdotally what I experienced, so I set about a course to learn.”

He jumped into research about organ donation. He established The Simon Keith Foundation to help those experiencing organ transplants and their families. Volunteering with donor organizations led to becoming chief operating officer of the Nevada Donor Network, the state’s procurement organization. He now actively speaks about his transplant experience and in 2012 published a memoir, *Heart for the Game*. In April, Donate Life America awarded him its inaugural Champion Award for remarkable longevity, athletic accomplishments, and passionate advocacy for organ donation.

Keith also recently returned to England to meet the family of his heart’s donor. There he discovered that his heart had belonged to a 17-year-old boy who collapsed and died while playing soccer. The coincidence was striking. “I feel a different responsibility now. I really feel like I can make a difference as The Heart Guy.”

Hooked With a Hug

BY KATHERINE STOWELL

A little boy at a market in the West African country of Sierra Leone clinched it for Eric Talbert. It was March 2012 and Talbert had taken an afternoon off from work at a medical facility run by the aid group Emergency International. He went to explore the local market. The boy walked over and pointed to Talbert's shirt bearing the group's logo — a capital E, formed by three bold red lines, with a circle around it.

"Emergency, right?" the boy asked. Talbert nodded. "Thank you," said the boy, holding up his arm to show his surgical scars. Then he wrapped his arms around Talbert, grateful that he still had both of them.

The UNLV alumnus was traveling abroad with the humanitarian group. He'd left his comfortable bed and modern conveniences in San Francisco to travel to Sierra Leone, a country still devastated by a civil war that broke out in 1991 and lasted 10 years. Having volunteered as a fundraiser and advocate for the group in the United States for six years, Talbert was well aware of the good it did. That day he felt it.

"I didn't do anything to directly help this little boy," Talbert said, "but as a representative of Emergency, there was this huge immediate gratitude and connection, and being able to see him smile and know that he received care that he deserved in this one quick passing was really touching. There's no undoing that hook."

EVEN BEFORE TALBERT'S TRAVELS ABROAD, he was passionate about the vision and mission of Emergency, which provides high-standard free health care to victims of war and poverty. In 2005, he was living in New York City when a friend told him about a book event featuring Dr. Gino Strada, an Italian war surgeon and co-founder of Emergency. It took two pieces of information for Talbert to decide to devote his life to this organization: First, that 90 percent of the victims in today's conflicts are civilians, of which one-third are children. Second, organizations such as Emergency are changing those statistics.

During the next six years, Talbert collected emails on a clipboard in front of a local supermarket. He talked to people about the organization and inspired them to give. Their \$20 donations added up.

Anna Gilmore, a fellow volunteer at the time, saw Talbert's passion for the organization. "He was willing to do anything," said Gilmore,

now the Emergency USA board president. "And beyond that, he was willing to learn how to do more."

At the time, Talbert was a research psychologist working at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. As he became more and more familiar with the group's work, he realized he wanted to transition to the non-profit sector. Finally, in 2011, after six years of volunteering, a master's degree, and practical experience, Talbert was hired as the executive director of Emergency USA.

"I don't know if it's his vegetarian diet or the fact that he's a runner, but he is just so well-paced and unstoppable," Gilmore said. "We could not exist without him. He's basically been the source of structure, planning, and building a really effective future."

Talbert said he's gratified to work in an organization that changes lives. That medical facility in Sierra Leone now has a specialized program to treat esophageal burns. Homemade soaps in the area are traditionally made with caustic lye. As a liquid, it looks like milk; as a solid, it looks like sugar or salt. Children who aren't old enough to read warning labels on bottles ingest the lye. The resulting burns in the throat are so severe that without treatment the child eventually dies from starvation.

"This is a program Emergency developed with the help and support of the local people. We didn't even know this was going on, but we were able to address it because we have surgical capacity."

Another example is Emergency's Salam Center for Cardiac Surgery in Sudan, Africa. It was opened because of the large number of children with heart problems. "A hundred years ago, strep throat was a big problem in the United States, but now we all have access to penicillin," Talbert explained. Unfortunately, the same is not true in Africa. "So the strep throat turns into rheumatic heart fever and then it starts attacking the heart valves. People, kids especially, are dying from cardiac arrest, all because of strep throat."

LAST YEAR, THE WORK AT THE SALAM CENTER caught the attention of Kief Davidson, a documentary filmmaker. He came across the story of eight children who were preparing to make the trip to Sudan for open-heart surgery to treat their rheumatic heart disease. In *Open Heart*, Davidson follows their journey. The film was nominated this year for an Academy Award in the Best Documentary Short Subject category. The College of Liberal Arts, which named Talbert its 2012 Outstanding Alumnus of the Year, is bringing the film and Talbert to campus for a screening.

Talbert hopes that the wrenching story in the film will help people understand the issues people face in war-torn and poverty-stricken areas. Since it formed nearly 20 years ago, Emergency has treated more than 5 million people. "It's been really bittersweet to watch that number grow," Talbert said. "There's a sense of confidence that we're helping people in need, but at the same time there can be a sense of despair because there is such a need due to war and a lack of resources."

Then he thinks about the boy in Sierra Leone. "My job is building a connection between the medical work in the field and the people here on the ground and educating people about a culture of peace, solidarity, and respect for human rights. I'll continue to do that until I put myself out of a job."

Eric Talbert

'03 BS Psychology



The Making of an Advocate

Christina Vela escaped the fate of many inner-city teen moms with education. Now she's determined to help others overcome their obstacles.

BY KATHERINE STOWELL

It was Wednesday afternoon, and I was running behind. I shot off a quick email saying I'd be five minutes late. A message immediately popped back from Christina Vela, chief program officer at St. Jude's Ranch for Children. But this was no ordinary auto-reply: "Hello! Our agency is taking time to reconnect on a more personal level. Every Wednesday from 12-5 p.m. has been designated as 'no-email afternoons.' During this time we are still conducting business as usual but not through email. Please call me so we can discuss the matter via phone."

Vela later explained she started the no-email initiative just three weeks before in St. Jude Ranch's Nevada and Texas offices.

"Maybe we'll only do it for a little while, but it's good to shake things up a bit every once in awhile."

That willingness to risk change has helped Vela get where she is today. "(Christina) came to us with years of experience in programs for abused, abandoned, neglected, and homeless children," said Christine Spadafor, chief executive officer of St. Jude's. "Her passion for the work is

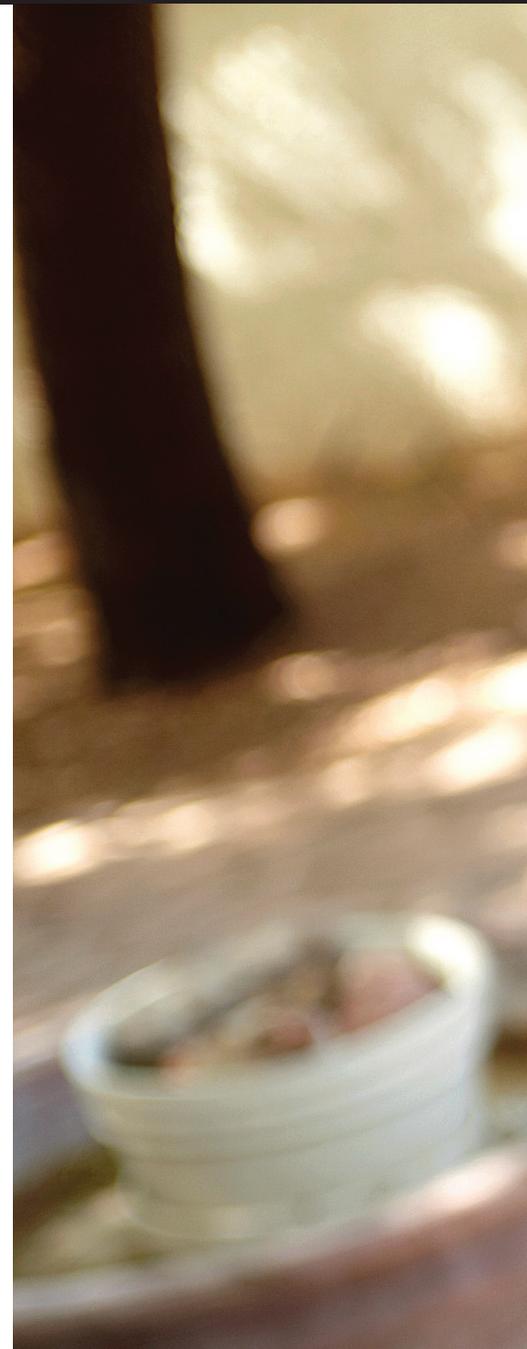
so obvious, and it is constantly driving her to come up with new ideas."

Vela has worked at all levels of government. She was assistant manager of the Clark County Department of Family Services; statewide independent living coordinator and foster care specialist for the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services; and child welfare program specialist of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. At St. Jude's Ranch, she develops new programs for pregnant and parenting teens, homeless young adults, and youth living in foster care.

'WHERE I BELONG'

Hearing the stories of abandonment, abuse, and neglect can be wrenching. "When I'm having a bad day or things seem really tough, I might go hold a baby, or I can go play with some little kids or talk to teenagers at our Boulder City campus," she said. "It puts everything back into perspective. It helps me reset."

It also reminds her of her own upbringing. She was once a teen mom living in an inner-city neighborhood in Southern California. "I saw so many girls in my neighborhood become teen moms and just stay home," Vela said. "I knew I wanted more.



Vela graduated from high school and enrolled at California State University, Northridge, where her social work courses shed light on her own upbringing.

"My mom was in foster care as a youth," Vela explained. "As a child, I didn't really understand what that meant, and it never seemed to have any impact on my mom other than it made her and my father give so much to me and my brothers.

"But as I started learning more (through my courses) about social work and the system, I couldn't believe my mom could have gone through these situations. I didn't think I was interested in this field because of my upbringing or heritage, but the more



Christina Vela

'11 MPA

I realized my connection to it, the more I realized that this is where I belonged.”

AN ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN

Vela finished her bachelor’s degree and worked her way up in the social services field. As assistant manager of the Clark County Department of Family Services, she decided to go back to school. It was a balancing act between work, school, and family (she now has three children), but she knew having creative ideas is just not enough; executing them “has to be done more systemically.” She enrolled in the public administration certificate program at UNLV to broaden her skills as a public

servant. Her professors, Jessica Word and Christopher Stream, encouraged her to reach higher and pursue a master’s degree.

“Christina has always been one of those students who stands out in terms of her dedication to her work and her desire to do the best job she can do,” Word said. “She’s an outstanding example of someone who’s very dedicated to their community, making a difference here in Southern Nevada.”

Her more recent accomplishments include developing the strategy and programs for Crossings, a housing and services program for homeless people aged 18-25. Its first residents moved in less than a year ago. “Watching these previously homeless

residents get registered in school and get jobs and hold their heads high because they feel a sense of worth has been just amazing,” Vela said.

She is developing her government advocacy skills, too, most recently to establish a Sibling Bill of Rights to legally preserve family relationships in Nevada. St. Jude’s partnered with Child Focus to bring the bill to the state Legislature. Vela drafted the proposal and found a legislative sponsor. “Whether this gets passed as law or not, it’s just so cool to be a part of this advocacy and to try to make a difference in this community,” she said. “I want to make it the best community I can.”

NOTES
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1960s

Keith Davis, '63 BS Zoology, retired after working for the U.S. government for 37 years. In June he will celebrate his 50th wedding anniversary. He is the father of three and the grandfather of five. His hobbies include fly fishing, hiking, and working out at the gym. He lives in Bend, Ore.

Jacqueline Mongeot, '65 BA Education, '70 MA English, is enjoying retirement. Her pastimes include reading, working on a second book, painting landscapes, traveling, and doing water aerobics. Before her husband, John, died in 2011, the couple traveled extensively, making 30 trips to Europe as well as journeys to Latin America, Tahiti, and most of the 50 U.S. states. A native of France, she taught French at Western and Valley high schools for 23 years before retiring from the Clark County School District in 1989. After that she served as a lecturer in foreign languages at UNLV for five years. The San Diego resident has two children, Francoise and Veronica, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Diana Armstrong Winn, '68 BA English, is operations manager of Rebuilding Together Southern Nevada, a local nonprofit organization that offers repairs to elderly and disabled homeowners. The signature event, National Rebuilding Day, took place the last Saturday in April with two volunteer teams from UNLV participating.

1970s

Leonard Paul, '74 M.Ed. Educational Administration, is the Northwest U.S. regional director for AdvancED. The company offers school improvement and accreditation services to education providers of all types through three regional accreditation agencies, accrediting more than 30,000 institutions in more than 70 countries.

Jerry Chernik, '75 BS Zoology, retired in 2010 after 31 years practicing dentistry. For 21 years he was in private practice in Wasilla, Alaska. Before that, he served 10 years in the U.S. Army Dental Corps, attaining the rank of major. Traveling is his hobby. The resident of Palmer, Alaska, spends winters at his condo in Hawaii.

1980s

Deborah Levy, '82 BS Business Administration, teaches art for kindergarten through third grade at Henderson International School. She also owns and manages Art Starts Here. She is a board member for Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada and



'84 Michaud



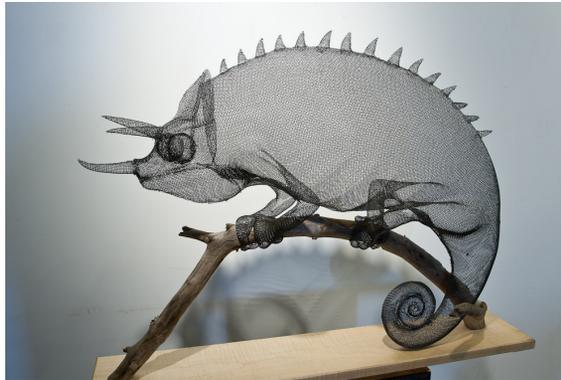
'87 Hutchison



'87 Symanski



'88 Deike



Ben Roth, '95 BS Hotel Administration, has spent the last 11 years as an artist, producing sculpture, furniture, and architectural metalwork. He moved to Jackson Hole, Wyo., in 1996 to manage a corporate retreat. Later he opened a French bistro called Terroir. After three years, he left the restaurant business to concentrate on his art. His hobbies include skiing, fishing, and spending time outdoors. He says the Jackson Hole music scene is improving and a social dance community is developing.



Kathryn Mifflin, '92 MBA, teaches oral English at Haiyan High School in China's Zhejiang province.

serves on the Displaced Homemakers board for the state of Nevada. She is the wife of Andrew and mother of **Sarah Levy Petrocelli**, '05 BS Hotel Administration, and **Jenna Levy**, '09 MS Kinesiology. Her hobbies include interior design, walking, reading, and vacationing at the beach and in Brian Head, Utah.

John Dube, '84 MBA, is president of Dube & Associates, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services. He enjoys travel, single malt

Scotch, paleontology, and numismatics.

Marsha Garrison Michaud, '84 BS Elementary Education, is retiring from teaching in Clark County after 27 years. She plans on working fulltime as a Mary Kay independent consultant. She is married and has five grandchildren. Reading is her hobby.

Bill Hemphill, '85 BS Hotel Administration, works in facilities management for Sodexo where he is general manager of a custodial account on the



Kelcey West, '86 BA Communication, is pastor and founder of Nehemiah Ministries Christian Church. He also is the founder and director of the annual Unity Through Knowledge Historically Black Colleges and University College Tour & Preparatory Program, now in its 18th year. He lives in North Las Vegas.

Oregon coast. Previously, he spent 15 years working in the hospitality industry with Radisson and DoubleTree hotels. He also spent five years in the health care industry. He is married with two grown children. His hobbies include hiking, fishing, and listening to music. He lives in Toledo.

Mary Lynn Ashworth, '86 BS Business Administration, is the first ombudsman in the nation for common-interest communities, also known as homeowners associations. Previously, she worked as a business analyst for the city of Las Vegas and as a banker. Her hobbies include anthropology, astronomy, and ornithology. The Reno resident is the mother of two daughters and one son.

Mark Hutchison, '87 BS Business Administration, was elected to a four-year term in the Nevada Senate last fall, representing District 6. He serves on the Judiciary and the Commerce, Labor and Energy committees. He ran on a platform of working hard to create jobs, focusing on education, bringing more value to government, and defending Nevadans' rights. He was featured in a full-length article in the 2012 Mountain States edition of *Super Lawyers* magazine. The article focused on his representation of Nevada in the 26-state constitutional challenge to the health care law, his founding of the now 45-lawyer firm of Hutchison &

Steffen, and his ranking in the top 100 of Mountain States' lawyers.

Leon Symanski, '87 BS Management, '01 JD, has worked at the Craig P. Kenny & Associates law firm since 1997. He practices in the areas of personal injury, workers' compensation, and traffic tickets. He is president of Legends Foundation, a nonprofit comprised of UNLV men's basketball alumni who are committed to providing funds and guidance toward continuing education and community service. He and his wife, **Lisa Gentile Symanski**, '87 BA Communication Studies, live in Henderson.

Kari Carlson Deike, '88 BS Elementary Education, is the librarian at Desert Oasis High School. She has worked for the Clark County School District since 1988. She was Mrs. Nevada United States for 2012 and enjoys serving many nonprofit organizations, including the UNLV Beverage Management Club, Project Teddy, Goodie Two Shoes, Living Grace Home, and Spread the Word. Her hobbies include reading, working out, and volunteering. She is married to **Robert Deike**, '89 BS Management. They have two sons currently attending UNLV. **Robert** is majoring in engineering, while **Thomas** is studying criminal justice. The family lives in Henderson.

1990s

Antonio Castanon, '90 BS Business Administration, was promoted to general manager of the Sears portfolio for Citi Retail Services, which requires cross-functional expertise and partner management experience. He also serves as site president for the Kansas City location where he is responsible for site plans and logistics for more than 1,500 employees. He volunteers with Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Kansas and is a member of the Corporate Advisory Council for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. He has three grown children. He and his wife live in Westwood, Mo.

Becky Albiston Pintar, '90 Master of Education, '93 Ed.D., '01 JD, founded the law firm of Pintar Albiston with her son, **Bryan Albiston**, '01 BS Business Administration, '12 JD. Their practice consists mainly of business law and family law. Before earning her law degree she worked at the Clark County School District as a teacher and an administrator for dropout prevention programs. **Timothy Albiston**, '99 BS Business Administration, also is her son.

George Cartwright, '91 BS Business Administration, has been named president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Southern Nevada.

Matt Engle, '91 BS Business Administration, is a commercial insurance broker at Cragin & Pike. He recently was elected to the board of directors of the Las Vegas Natural History Museum. He chairs its Expansion Committee as the museum makes plans to upgrade and



Neil Smith, '98 BA Sociology, owns Vegas Guitars Custom Shop. People who live as far away as London have sent him guitars for repair. He is certified to work on more than 20 instrument brands. He is a member in good standing of the Guild of American Luthiers and the Association of Musical Instrument Repairers & Woodworkers Guild of America. He is the only gold-certified Fender Musical Instruments technician in Las Vegas and the only Custom Shop Custom Care technician in Utah and Nevada. At one time he was a successful road musician, but realized he prefers building and repairing stringed instruments.

relocate in downtown Las Vegas. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have been married 20 years and have two daughters.

Darren Hankel, '91 BS Business Administration, joined CIM Marketing Partners as a principal in March.

Rand Higbee, '91 MFA Playwriting, wrote the play *A Girl Named Destiny*, which was named one of the best plays of 2012 by DC Metro Theater Arts. The play premiered at the Venus Theatre in Laurel, Md., in March 2012.

Mannetta Braunstein, '93 BA Anthropology, volunteers as an instructor in UNLV's art history program, teaching Museum Practices. Previously, she taught Pre-Columbian Art of Ancient Mesoamerica. She also volunteers as a special curator of Pre-Columbian art at the Marjorie Barrick Museum on campus, researching the collections and assisting with exhibits.

Cheryl Sawyer Lyons, '93 BA Sociology, is director of residential life at Ohio State University. Previously, she worked as a coordinator of student development in residential life at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She lives in Columbus.

Marian Samela Dingus, '94 BA Communication, recently started a company called the ReDun Dancers Project for professional dancers over 40. The company's first performance is scheduled to take place at the Summerlin Library in June.



'90 Castanon



'91 Engle



'94 Luna



'97 Ortega



Lori Cox, '96 BA Management Information Systems, has worked at the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* for more than 26 years. She worked her way up from classified receptionist to vertical digital products manager and has worked at Stephens Media newspapers from North Carolina to Hawaii. She writes a blog for the *R-I* called Rebel Rundown. She has three children, Diana, Michael, and Larae. **Michael** is a UNLV student and one of the cofounders of the Rebellion, a group of students whose cheering at basketball games includes holding up oversized cardboard cutouts of players and local celebrities. She enjoys traveling to Runnin' Rebels games and has attended several NCAA tournament games in which the team played. This year, she and her children traveled to Atlanta for the Final Four.

Nora Luna, '94 BA Criminal Justice, is the Hispanic/Latino program manager at Nathan Adelson Hospice. From 2008 to 2012 she was a faculty member at the UNR Cooperative Extension. Before that she was an administrative faculty member at the UNR Center for Substance Abuse Technologies.

Linda Marie Gray Norcross, '94 BA Political Science, '04 JD, is an attorney in the intellectual property group at Lewis and Roca. She primarily practices trademark law. She and her husband, Matt, had a baby boy, Beckham Bradford Norcross, on Nov. 23. The couple also has two daughters, Shelby and Jameson.

Allen Klevens, '95 BA Music, recently launched a new business venture,

Tooshlights Inc. The company has developed an LED sensor lighting system that allows patrons of theaters, arenas, stadiums, airports, casinos, and other public restroom facilities to know when restrooms are available, decreasing the time patrons stand in line. If the light is red, the stall is occupied. A green light means it's available. He lives in Calabasas, Calif.

Douglas Crook, '97 BS Business Administration, works in commercial real estate development, brokerage, investment, and property management.

Eric Ortega, '97 BS Business Administration, recently was promoted to vice president at Citibank, working as a disaster recovery/continuity of business project manager. He and his wife,



Raquel Speers Shohet, '96 BS Civil Engineering, is vice president for Hill International, a construction consulting firm. She has more than 20 years of engineering, procurement, and construction experience as well as management construction experience in the engineering, cost, scheduling, estimating, and field disciplines. For construction and engineering projects, she has provided scheduling, cost engineering, estimating, documentation, economic, and forensic construction analysis across many industries, including specialty, retail, hotel/casino, transportation, high-rise, water/wastewater, heavy industrial power, and petrochemical projects. In April she spoke at the Oracle National Conference. She is married and has two children.

Kristy Kruse Ortega, '00 Nursing, have four daughters. His hobbies include technology, photography, and amateur radio. The family lives in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Lori Shultz, '98 BS Clinical Laboratory Sciences, recently was named laboratory manager of West Texas Medical Associates. She is in charge of a lab that serves more than 100 physicians and is a full-service reference laboratory. She spent the last year traveling to Canada where she worked as a consultant in British Columbia for Med Tech for Solutions. While there she supplied comprehensive training to burgeoning andrologists in the infertility field. When she married David Riese in 2011, she was walked down the aisle by her son, **Trenton Balogh**, who now is a UNLV freshman studying computer science.

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Her hobbies include yoga, volunteering at a nursing home, and mentoring future lab science majors. She lives in San Angelo, Texas.

2000s

Robyn Campbell-Ouchida, '00 MA Communication Studies, received a Gold Award from the Collegiate Advertising Awards for her work as editor of Nevada State College's *Black & Gold* magazine. The first edition of the magazine was published in October. She enjoys juggling working from home and caring for her two young sons. The family lives in Henderson.

Pamela Graves-Longley, '00 MS Sport & Leisure Service Management, is director of sales and marketing/public relations for Lespri Resorts. The company owns and operates boutique hotels, restaurants, spas, and large property management companies in numerous U.S. and Canadian locations. The company, which has its corporate headquarters in Park City, Utah, is expanding into other vacation destinations both domestic and international. Her hobbies include snowboarding, mountain biking, hiking, show jumping, and "living the Park City lifestyle." She and her husband, Brendon Longley, live in Park City.

Adam Lopez, '00 BS Hotel Administration, is a client project manager with Bally Technologies. He is responsible for some of the largest Las Vegas accounts, including Boyd Corporate and Caesars Entertainment. He assists customers in finding the best solutions for their casino management system, including new marketing campaigns, resolving issues with current architecture, and advice on growing their systems. He and his wife, Alicia, are the parents of 23-month-old twins, one boy and one girl. Scouring yard sales every Saturday "looking for the next treasure" is his hobby. The family lives in North Las Vegas.

Kathryn Null, '00 BS Education, '07 Master of Education, has owned the Enchanted Florist since 2006. Before that, she taught six years for the Clark County School District.

M. Elena Diaz-Pina Otter, '00 BS Hotel Administration, has joined Carpenter Sellers Del Gatto Architects as its marketing manager. She manages both the marketing and business development departments. She is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Society for Professional Marketing Services, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, the Young Contractors Forum, and the American Public Works Association. She is cofounder of the Las Vegas chapter of Commercial Real Estate Networking & Beer.

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Phillip Dart, '01 BS Education, is the performance, data, and training manager in workforce development services at Vincennes University. He is responsible for monitoring several workforce programs under the Workforce Investment Act, including adult services, dislocated worker services, and youth programs. He and his wife, Judy, live in Bloomington, Ind.

Adrienne Hester, '01 BA Communication Studies, is a marketing and communications strategist and event consultant. She owns TwoGirlsConsulting, a firm developing effective messaging and clear and concise marketing and communication strategies from research, planning, and evaluation to build awareness and grow businesses.

Brian Weems, '01 BS Business Administration, '04 Master of Education, teaches math and coaches boys' varsity soccer at Sandia High School in Albuquerque, N.M.

Marion Smith, '02 BS Education, was appointed principal of Lowell Elementary School in Seattle in August 2012. Previously, he was assistant principal of Madrona K-8 School in Seattle and founding director of culture at Young Scholars Frederick Douglass, a K-8 turnaround school in North Philadelphia, Penn. Before that he worked for the Clark County School District in a variety of positions, including teacher and dean of students. He currently is enrolled in the executive leadership superintendent program at Seattle University.

Jennifer Critchley Toledano, '02 BS Education, recently retired from the U.S. Army for medical reasons after more than 21 years. A combat engineer who led and commanded forces in battle, she participated in all campaigns from the Gulf War to Afghanistan. Married for 21 years, she has two children in college, son Emile and daughter Yvette, who plans to attend dental school at UNLV. She lists her hobby as "returning to civilian life." She lives in Bridgport, Vt.

Robert Caldwell Drollinger, '03 MS Biomedical Engineering, says his hobbies include art, music, and space. Before a car accident led to a disability retirement, he taught in the medical magnet program at Rancho High School for seven years. He lives in Romania.

Jacqueline Hager-Bodnar, '03 BA Interdisciplinary Studies, is a professional writer. She has written more than 2,500 articles that have been published in magazines, newspapers, and elsewhere. She also is a prolific blogger. She is the author of the book *Starting Your Career as a Professional Blogger*, which is scheduled to be published by Skyhorse Publishing in June. She recently became a Florida Master



'90 Pintar



'00 Campbell-Ouchida



'00 Graves-Longley



'00 Lopez



Jessica Hyam Zimmerman, '02 BA

Communication, has a graduate assistantship in the journalism and media studies department at UNLV where she serves as web coordinator for Virtual Rebel. She hopes to complete her master's degree in journalism in December. She and her husband, James, have one son, who was born in September 2011. At that time she left her full-time job in UNLV's admissions department, giving her more time for her son and her thesis. Eventually she plans to return to a career in higher education. Her hobbies include blogging and working out.

Naturalist and also started and runs the Daytona Beach Vegetarian Society. Her hobbies include hiking, camping, reading, writing, traveling, and collecting seashells. She has two children. The family lives in Port Orange, Fla.

Mary Beth Hartleb, '03 JD, has been appointed to the Workforce Investment Board by Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval. She lives in Henderson.

Michael Huerta, '03 BA Philosophy, recently wrapped up what he describes as a great first year as a sole practitioner attorney in New York City. He focuses on personal injury, criminal defense, and bankruptcy law.

Lorraine Jurist, '03 Master of Social Work, is a social worker in a dialysis clinic. Her hobbies include hiking, dancing, and advocating for an improved health care system.

Pablo Sanchez Ortiz, '03 BS Business Administration, works in the IT department of Heidelberg Cement as an SAP Finance business analyst. He has traveled extensively all over the world and now is concentrating on Eastern Europe. He says he and his wife have only one hobby — their Harley Davidson. They live in Heidelberg, Germany.

Laura Stanzone, '03 BA Communication Studies, graduated from Anderson University with a master's degree in elementary education and now works as a tutor. She specializes in working with students with learning disabilities and uses the Orton-Gillingham approach. The mother of a 6-year-old son, she takes ballet lessons and enjoys reading juvenile literature. They live in Anderson, S.C.

Wanda Brister, '04 Doctor of Musical

Arts, is an associate professor of voice at Florida State University. She lives in Tallahassee.

Randee Dickman Busch, '04 BS Hotel Administration, is catering and conference manager for the Westin Lake Las Vegas Resort & Spa. Her daughter, Morgan, was born June 21, 2012.

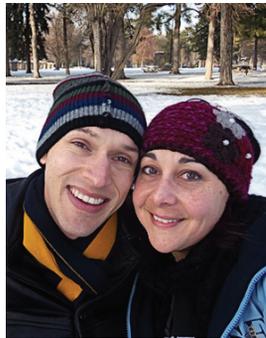
Lori Fulton, '04 Master of Education, '12 Ph.D. Teacher Education, won the 2013 National Association for Research in Science Teaching Outstanding Doctoral Research Award for her dissertation titled "Writing in Science: Influences of Professional Development on Teachers' Beliefs, Practices, and Student Performance." Her dissertation was completed under the direction of education professor **Jian Wang**.

Josh Haldeman, '04 BS Business Administration, is a vice president and a commercial loan officer of Bank of Nevada. He married in 2001 and has five children. His hobbies include running, watching college basketball, and coaching children's soccer and baseball teams.

Alma Myers, '04 BS International Business, is a registered representative of NYLIFE Securities, an affiliate of New York Life Insurance Co. Her passion is to help those who want to be helped. Her hobbies are networking, yoga, and volunteering for any good cause.

Timothy Rainey, '04 BA Communication Studies, is the program director for WZLH-FM, a CBS Radio top 40 station in Detroit. He lives in Royal Oak.

Zhuo Wang, '04 MS Hotel Administration, is a senior manager of finance at Expedia. Now a resident of Seattle, he previously worked and lived in Texas.



William Paul Miller, '10 Ph.D. Civil and Environmental Engineering, recently accepted a job as a senior hydrologist at the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He is engaged to **Jessica Lucero**, '12 Ph.D. English. He lives in Salt Lake City.

Timothy Anderson, '05 BA Film Studies, completed his first film, *Two Hundred Thousand Dirty*, which currently is playing in festivals. It is a dark comedy about some blue-collar losers who work in a mattress store and plot to kill someone. It stars Mark Greenfield, Coolio, Rocio Verdejo, and C. Clayton Blackwell. It was the only North American film selected for showing at Italy's 2013 Rome Independent Film Festival. Among the other festivals it has played or will be playing are those in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Anchorage, Alaska; Boston; and Santiago, Chile. It had its Nevada premiere at the Vegas Indie Film Fest. He lives in Littleton, Colo.

Zlatan Coralic, '05 BS Biology, was a 2012 recipient of a new investigator research grant from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Research and Education Foundation. He will use the \$20,000 grant to conduct a study titled "Root Cause Analysis of Adverse Drug Events Leading to an Emergency Department Visit" in conjunction with a senior investigator. He was one of only two pharmacist investigators in the nation to receive the grant last year. He is a clinical pharmacist in the department of pharmacy and emergency medicine at the University of San Francisco (UCSF) Medical Center and an assistant clinical professor at the UCSF School of Pharmacy.



Rewandee "Dee Dee" Meevasin Cruz, '07 DDM, has her own dental practice, Dee For Dentist, which she describes as an office that provides high-end care with amenities to match. She and her husband, **Michael Cruz**, '01 BA Communication, participate in Smile It Forward, a nonprofit organization that gives back to the community by providing free dental care. She is a member of the Asian and Filipino chambers of commerce, the American Dental Association, and the Nevada Dental Association. Her hobbies include traveling with family, scuba diving, experiencing new foods, cooking, and being involved with several local charities.

Elio Montes, '05 BA Economics, is founder and CEO of Montes Enterprises. Among the most notable companies he has launched are Bolivia's leading online jobs site; the largest real-estate classifieds site in Bolivia; a social media agency that works with some of the largest corporations in the country, including 3M and Banco Nacional de Bolivia; and a sales outsourcing company in the telecom industry. He lives in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia.

Scott Turner, '05 BA Psychology, was named wide receivers coach for the Cleveland Browns in January. He joined the professional coaching ranks in 2011 as offensive quality control coach for the Carolina Panthers. Previously, he had served as both wide receivers coach and offensive assistant at the University of Pittsburgh. At UNLV he was quarterback and a three-year letterman. He is the son of former NFL head coach and current Browns offensive coordinator Norv Turner.

Thomas Cahill, '06 M.Ed. Special Education, teaches special education math courses at Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio. He lives in Galion.

Donna Childers, '06 BS Education, teaches kindergarten at Bell Elementary School. This is her seventh year of teaching. In August she will celebrate her 25th wedding anniversary. Her son is **Charles Childers**, '12 BA Film Studies.



Nadeen Yousef, '12 BS Education, and her husband had a baby girl, Elena, on May 8, almost exactly a year after she received her degree.

Kelley Nyquist Goldberg, '06 JD, is a shareholder in the Las Vegas office of the law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. She heads the intellectual property and technology department in Las Vegas. Her practice focuses on establishing, protecting, and defending intellectual property rights in the United States and abroad.

Yvonne Randall, '06 Ed.D. Special Education, is director of the School of Occupational Therapy at Touro University Nevada. She is completing a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the American Occupational Therapy Association. Her hobbies include following Lady Rebels volleyball and basketball.

Wendy Starr, '06 BS Architecture, has joined the interior design team at Carpenter Sellers Del Gatto Architects. She is working on numerous projects, including Ameristar Resorts Lake Charles and the Zappo's.com Photo and Video Studio.

Robert Taylor, '06 MS Hotel Administration, in February was named general manager at Chocolate Pizza Company's newest retail location, Eastgate Jungle Jim's in Cincinnati. He and his wife, Eva, have three children, Sean, 18; Bradford, 15; and Chloe, 11. His hobbies include rowing, swimming, and lifting weights. The family lives in Amelia.

David Bell, '07 BA Economics, owns and operates a small design and engineering company that focuses on providing contractors, architects, and other companies and consultants with engineering and technical services. He has 10 years of experience in engineering and design. His hobbies include surfing, reading, working out, and cooking. He lives in Redondo Beach, Calif.

Douglas Carpenter, '07 Bachelor of Music, won the \$15,000 first prize at the 15th annual Lotte Lenya Competition held at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., in April. The international theater singing contest recognizes talented young singer/actors, ages 19-32 who are dramatically and musically convincing with a



'00 Null



'01 Hester



'02 Toledano



'03 Hartleb



'03 Huerta



'03 Sanchez Ortiz



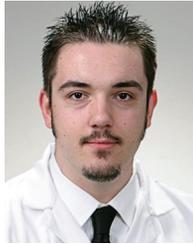
'04 Myers



'04 Rainey



'05 Anderson



'05 Coralic



'05 Turner



'06 Goldberg



'06 Taylor



'07 Graves



'07 Kanet



'07 Maguire



'09 Hurst



'10 Munn



'11 Hewitt



'12 Saadeh

Ashley Drozd Zimmerman, '08 BA Communication Studies, says she has found her dream job working as a birth doula. Her job is to support a birthing mother and her partner physically, emotionally, and spiritually during childbirth with the goal of helping them achieve their dream birth. She, herself, had a doula during the birth of her second child. She and her husband of five years, Benji, have two children, Lexi, 3, and Jude, 1. Her hobbies include birth education, essential oil education, natural healing advocacy, reading, hiking, yoga, and meeting friends for coffee dates.



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wide repertoire. Carpenter, a baritone, impressed the judges with a dynamic program that included "Tanzled de Pierrot" from Korngold's *Die tote Stadt* and "Molasses to Rum" from the Sherman Edwards musical *1776*.

Dana Covotsos, '07 BS Hotel Administration, is an account executive at ML International. Her hobbies are traveling, playing sports, and hanging out with friends and family. She and her husband have two sons, Dylan and Easton. The family lives in Naperville, Ill.

Laura Graves, '07 BA Art, launched a company, Top Banana Photography, shortly after graduation. She specializes in weddings. This year the company was recognized by WeddingWire as being in the top 5 percent of wedding professionals nationwide. In 2012 the company was given the Rising Star Award by *Las Vegas Bride* magazine and she was included in a write-up in *examiner.com* as one of the top five wedding photographers in Las Vegas. Her hobbies include business development, public speaking, teaching photography, painting, drawing, reading, kickboxing, gardening, home decorating, and cooking.

Michael Kanet, '07 BS Management Information Systems, launched iTernal Networks in 2009 and recently added his third employee. The company provides managed IT support services to small- and medium-sized businesses and considers itself the IT department for companies that do not have their own internal IT departments. The company manages networks, servers, and computers to prevent downtime. He and his wife have three children, Ellie, Reagan, and Mason, ranging in age from 5 years to 12 months. His hobby is attending UNLV basketball games.

Tescly Maguire, '07 BA Journalism & Media Studies, works for Ohana Broadcast Co. on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, where she has learned marketing, commercial traffic, and sales in the radio industry. She coaches the varsity volleyball team at Kapaa High School. Previously she worked at WBKO in Bowling Green, Ky., as news editor, environmental blogger, news producer, and writer and at KVVU in Las Vegas as a news producer. She was part of the group that won an Emmy in the best team coverage category for coverage of the fatal crash of racecar driver Dan Wheldon. Her hobbies include volleyball, cooking, crafts, throwing themed parties, and taking her dog to the beach. She lives in Kapaa.

Tony Masini, '07 BA Psychology, recently graduated with a doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Pacific Graduate School of Psychology at Palo Alto University. He has accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services.

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Jamie Albright, '08 BA English, earned her master's degree in writing at UNR in 2012. This fall she will begin UNR's Ph.D. program in rhetoric and composition. She wrote a feature-length script for her master's thesis, which she has been submitting to contests and agents, and has begun work on another screenplay. She says she has a passion for roller skating, film, raising her daughter, and yoga. Additionally, she is becoming a more accomplished vegetarian cook. She shops at locally owned used bookstores and has started a collection of first editions. She lives in Reno.

Adrienne Davis, '08 M.Ed. Educational Leadership, is manager of hospital services for United Blood Services. They collect and manage the inventory of blood and blood products for the Las Vegas area. She has three children who are college graduates, including **Staci Davis**, '09 BA English, who teaches at Clark High School, and **Scott Davis**, '12 BS Education. Her hobbies include reading, studying the Bible, and volunteering in the community.

John Green, '08 Ph.D. Civil Engineering, and his wife, Margaux, welcomed the birth of their second son, Joseph William, on Dec. 19. The family lives in Plainfield, Ill.

Brittany McCoy, '08 BA Journalism & Media Studies, has been named resource development director of Communities in Schools Nevada.

Amanda Hurst, '09 BA Sociology, '11 MA Criminal Justice, is program manager for the nonprofit organization White Horse Youth Ranch, the only free horsemanship training program in Clark County for socially challenged youths. She is engaged to **Michael Gordon**, '08 MA Public Administration, who is working on a doctoral degree in public administration and who serves as president of UNLV's Graduate & Professional Student Association. She is a board member of the Young Nonprofit Professionals Network and a member of Vegas Young Professionals.

Julius Scarlett, '09 BS Hotel Administration, **Borko Bojanic**, '07 BS Hotel Administration, and **Jessica Perahia**, '11 BS Hotel Administration, launched an online travel agency, Scarlett Hospitality Group, a hotel consulting firm and online search engine. In November the company was part of the Luxury Travel Convention in Las Vegas.

2010s

Kristopher Munn, '10 BA Economics, is a partner in Marino-Munn Partners, a company that does development consulting work in Asia, focusing on resorts and golf courses. The company recently opened offices in Vietnam and Cambodia when it added Southeast Asia projects to its existing projects in Northern China.

D. Christopher Perkins, '10 MFA Creative Writing, teaches writing and literature at the College of Southern Nevada. He also is staff editor of *Red Rock Review*, a literary

MEET THE REGENTS

This is the final in a series of articles to introduce Nevada readers to the elected officials governing UNLV and other state institutions of higher education.

Ron Knecht, District 9
Since 2006

The greatest challenge the NSHE faces during the recent legislative session has been getting funding in light of the cuts that came from the previous legislative session, Knecht says.

"Our small community colleges — especially

their small-town and rural campuses and other operations — plus Cooperative Extension have been cut and shorted more than any other NSHE institutions. Southern Nevada institutions have done better, contrary to local myth," he says.

Prior to the session, he said he'd also like "to see the new funding formula revised to a more reasonable balance between the value of basic undergraduate and advanced graduate courses; the former are currently under-valued, and the latter are over-valued in the proposed formula," Knecht says. A new formula was adopted.

NSHE must lower the cost of providing its full range of higher education services using new delivery and instruction methods. "Even though we have initiatives under way in distance learning — open-source, online platforms; massive open online courses; interactive audio-video, etc. — we are running behind our emerging competitors, and we need to catch up and pass them yesterday."

Knecht serves on the Audit, Business & Finance, Health Sciences System, and Investment & Facilities committees.

He is an economist and policy analyst, registered professional mechanical engineer in California, and law school graduate, who now works as a consultant.

Allison Stephens, District 4
Since 2012

Stephens, who joined the Board of Regents following the November election, says higher education is the key to improving the state's economy.

"My vision is that higher education will become a central, driving force to

sustain and improve our economic and cultural status across Nevada," she says.

The biggest challenge facing NSHE at the Legislature, she says, is making sure representatives understand that link between educational investment and long-term economic stability. "As our economy continues to improve, making the right decisions on where and how to move forward can be even more difficult than when we were in the thick of the great recession. Education is critical to diversifying and strengthening our economy statewide."

Stevens says that she has been pleased with what she has seen of NSHE since joining the board. "Even in all of the preparation I did in looking forward to joining the board, I have been pleasantly surprised at the level of talent, innovation, and sheer determination going on within higher education throughout our state."

She brings to the board "my personal experiences as a relatively recent university student, a corporate professional, the mother of two small children, and as a broad-based community leader."

A two-time UNLV graduate, Stephens '02 BS Health Care Administration, '04 Master of Education in Health Promotion, serves on the Audit, Business and Finance, Health Sciences System, and Investment and Facilities committees.

More info: The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) — comprised of the state's two doctoral-granting universities (UNLV and UNR), a state college, four comprehensive community colleges, and one environmental research institute — serves the educational and job training needs of Nevada. The NSHE provides educational opportunities to more than 105,000 students and is governed by the Nevada Board of Regents. Visit the Nevada System of Higher Education website at system.nevada.edu to find your elected regent.



Big spring for former UNLV golfers

STANDING ON THE 18TH GREEN, his 20-foot birdie putt sitting in the bottom of the cup, UNLV golfer Adam Scott turned to the crowd and yelled, “C’mon, Aussies!” He had just taken a one-shot lead April 14 in America’s most prestigious golf tournament, the Masters.



Scott

But Scott’s first PGA major tournament win would have to wait a bit longer. Moments later the gallery surrounding the final green roared again as Angel Cabrera of Argentina, the 2009 champion at Augusta, also birdied the final regulation hole, setting up a two-man playoff. At No. 10 — the second playoff hole — Scott again sunk a birdie putt. That one clinched the tournament and made Scott the first Masters champion from Australia and from UNLV.

He played at UNLV from 1998-99. “I am really proud of Adam — just awesome stuff,” UNLV coach



Ernst

weeks later, Derek Ernst, the 2010-11 Mountain West player of the year, made par on the first playoff hole to beat David Lynn and captured the Wells Fargo Championship at Quail Hollow in North Carolina on May 5; it was Ernst’s first PGA Tour win.

Ernst was the fourth alternate heading into the Charlotte-area tournament and made the field when other golfers withdrew.

With the win, Ernst rocketed up the World Golf Ranking, from 1,207th to 123rd.

— Ched Whitney

Dwaine Knight said. “It is such justice for him after suffering that really tough loss last year at the British Open. But now he got the one he really wanted, which was the Masters.”

THE PUTTS KEPT DROPPING

for UNLV alums. A few

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and visual art journal. He has written several chapbooks, including *Tradition of Bedrock & Derivatives* and *For If He Flees*. He has translated poems by Guy Thomas and Alain Suied from French into English. He enjoys hiking, swimming, and traveling.

Trevor Hewitt, ’11 Master of Hotel Administration, owns and operates two nightlife venues in San Francisco and three nightlife venues in Sacramento. He plans to open his first Las Vegas venue, Pizza Rock Las Vegas, downtown this fall with chef Tony Gemignani. He lives in San Francisco.

Andrew Insigne, ’11 BS Hotel Administration, works as the marketing manager at Marquee Nightclub & Dayclub at the Cosmopolitan. He also is a celebrity assistant at live award shows in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, including the Grammy Awards, the MTV Video Music Awards, and the Billboard Music Awards. He has served as a production assistant at large-scale events, including the Electric Daisy Carnival and the iHeartRadio Music Festival.

Charles Childers, ’12 BA Film Studies, is completing his first year of graduate study in film at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University. His mother is **Donna Childers**, ’06 BS Education.

Angela Douglas, ’12 MBA, works as associate director for the Center for Entrepreneurship at UNLV. In March she was recognized as a member of the class of 2013 *Las Vegas Business Press* Rising Stars for her work with the center.

Christopher Humes, ’12 JD, has joined the litigation department of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck as an associate. His practice will focus on employee benefits. Previously, he served as a judicial law clerk for the 5th Judicial District Court in Nye County and as a paralegal for the gang crimes unit of the Clark County district attorney’s office.

Kristine Leavitt, ’12 MS Nursing, is a board-certified nurse practitioner in the neurosurgery practice of Dr. Aury Nagy. She previously worked as transplant services coordinator for University Medical Center (UMC) and as a registered nurse for both UMC and St. Rose Dominican Hospitals.

Donna Weiss, ’12 BS Education, is executive assistant to the dean of UNLV’s Lee Business School. She started at UNLV in 1990 as a management assistant II. She had begun pursuing her bachelor’s degree in 1985 in Cleveland. She suspended her studies in 1992 while raising two children. She returned to her studies in 2008 and is considering beginning a master’s program in education this fall. Her hobbies include reading, swimming, billiards, and attending music performances.

Mohammad Saadeh, ’12 Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering, is a tenure-track assistant professor at Southeastern Louisiana University. He and his wife, **Hanaa Shaheen**, ’12 MS Kinesiology, have two sons and are expecting a girl. The family lives in Hammond.

OBITUARIES

Mehdi Bouras, ’11 BS Business Administration, one of the most decorated players in UNLV men’s tennis, died March 21. At the time of his death, he was ranked No. 986 in singles and No. 1,321 in doubles in the ATP World Rankings. In 2011 he was the Mountain West men’s Player of the Year as well as the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Mountain Region Senior Player of the Year. In 2009 he was the conference Freshman of the Year and UNLV’s top scholar athlete. He was a two-time ITA Scholar-Athlete and a three-time Academic All-Mountain West honoree. A native of Algeria, he graduated from high school in France. He is survived by his parents, Rachid and Nadjah Bouras.

Donald Carns, emeritus professor of sociology, died Jan. 7. He taught at UNLV for 33 years, arriving in the summer of 1973 and retiring in 2006. At one time he served as department chair. He was living in Fort Collins, Colo., at the time of his death. Survivors include his wife, Mary LaDouceur; children, stepchildren, and their spouses, Robert Everett and Stephanie Carns, Katherine and Eric Allen, Megan and Roy Serrano, Vanessa Bock, and Erik Bock and Natasha York; and four grandsons.

Gage Chapel, retired communications studies professor, died Oct. 5, 2012. He joined the UNLV faculty in 1986. At one point he served as chair of the communication studies department, which at that time was part of the College of Liberal Arts. While chair, he strengthened the



Bouras

department’s journalism program by hiring several professional journalists to teach part time. His teaching emphasis was public relations. He retired in 2001. Survivors include his wife, Christine; daughter, Celeste; and son, Gage Jr.

Alice Mason, emeritus professor of physical education, died Feb. 19. She joined the faculty of what then was the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada in 1957. She retired in 1991. The university’s first tennis coach, she also coached women’s volleyball

and basketball as well as the horseback riding and skiing club sports. She and her husband, Walter, pitched in wherever they could, helping with basketball games by selling tickets, ushering, and on occasion even paying the referees. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Tufts University in 1953 and a master’s degree in education from the University of Colorado in 1958. She is survived by Walter, her husband of 55 years; son David; daughters Kathy Florentino, Ellen Mason Spears, and Amelia Mason; and seven grandchildren.

The Pida Behind the Plaza

There are plenty of alumni who can be called true Rebels at heart — people who embody the scarlet and gray. But few attained the level of Valerie Pida. She's the UNLV cheerleader for whom the plaza outside the north entrance to the Student Union is named.

Pida (that's pronounced *pie-duh*) was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, a lymph node cancer, at the age of 13 and battled the disease while attending UNLV from 1985 to 1991. In 1987, as a UNLV cheerleader, she postponed treatments to cheer on the Runnin' Rebels basketball team in its NCAA Final Four appearance and was featured on a CBS News segment during the game. *Newsweek* magazine later named her an "Unsung American Hero." Then-President Robert Maxson referred to Pida as "the spirit of UNLV." And in 1988, Las Vegas Mayor Ron Lurie declared Jan. 24 Valerie Pida Day.

The plaza was dedicated to the former homecoming queen and Delta Zeta sorority sister in 1991. It was the first time a student had received such an honor. Pida was well enough to attend the dedication ceremony and cut the ribbon. She passed away on Nov. 10, 1992, at the age of 25. — *Brian Sodoma*

More: Visit news.unlv.edu for more stories about campus landmarks.



Above: UNLV President Robert Maxson, Valerie Pida, and Regent Carolyn Sparks during the dedication of the plaza that bears Pida's name in May 1991. [UNLV Special Collections]

Below: Pida Plaza is now a smoke-free zone. [Aaron Mayes/UNLV Photo Services]





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