We Love
Scott Sibella '88
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Pictured in The Mirage's LOVE Theater, A Cirque Du Soleil Tribute To The Beatles
Unlike many children who are drawn to baseball, football or basketball, Kyle Helms started playing golf as a youngster in New Jersey. "Of course, you're no good at it when you first start," says Helms. "But if you keep playing, you become addicted to it." That addiction is something he never outgrew, and when a friend moved to Las Vegas to enroll in the Professional Golf Management (PGM) program at UNLV, he told Helms he should check it out too.

Little did he know that in a few short years, he would be the program's student assistant.

"I told him, 'No way—I can't go to school in Las Vegas,'" recalls Helms. "From what I knew, Las Vegas was all about having fun, and I didn't think I could concentrate there. I found out later that I was wrong.'"

During his senior year of high school, Helms had reason to visit Las Vegas when he played in a golf tournament. "I met up with my friend, who showed me the UNLV campus and all the great things that were going on with the PGM program. The facilities and resources were just unreal, and the warmer weather was another good reason to get out of New Jersey."

He came back from his trip and told his parents that he had decided where he wanted to go to college. "They were supportive, and I'm so glad. The experiences that I have had here are incredible."

Favorite courses have included Professor Jim Barner's business class, which Helms says, "is really going to help me in the future." He especially enjoyed Professor Cynny Canfield's course, PLS 220, which focuses on leisure services for individuals with disabilities. "That class really opened my eyes to the entire world," says Helms. "It was a great interactive experience, and I learned that you can help anybody learn to do anything."

Now Helms is looking forward to completing an internship at one of the country's top 10 golf courses, the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md. "I will complete a six-month internship there and will have the opportunity to lead junior clinics and camps and to help out in the golf shop," states Helms. His future plans include returning to UNLV for graduate school and either becoming a pro golfer or working in some capacity with a PGM program.