

# PREMIER

## Dolores Owens Scholarship Fund Established

When Dolores Owens, a casino host and industry executive for 25 years died in November of 2003, she was one of the most respected women in the gaming industry. To honor her memory and to help women pursuing careers in the gaming industry, family and colleagues suggested a scholarship fund for the Harrah Hotel College. The fund has attracted more than \$65,000 in donations from family, friends, and colleagues around the world.

Mrs. Owens served as Executive Vice President of Middle East and European Marketing for MGM MIRAGE and as Executive Vice President of Middle East and European Operations for Caesars World Marketing. She came to Las Vegas from Michigan more than 25 years ago and began her gaming career as a pit clerk at Caesars Palace. Throughout her remarkable career, she became one of the industry's most prominent hosts working in the Middle East and European marketing divisions.

The secret to her success she once said was "timing, luck and being the only one in town who always answered my phone 24 hours a day." A paperweight that sat on her desk summed up her philosophy: "Diplomacy-

the art of letting you have it my way".

"She will be remembered not only for the heights to which she was able to take her career, but also for the path she created and the role model she became to both women and men seeking careers in gaming," said longtime friend Terry Lanni, Chairman and CEO of MGM MIRAGE. "I am not surprised that so many of Dolores' friends, family members and colleagues have contributed so generously to the Dolores Owens Scholarship Fund. I can think of no more fitting tribute to Dolores than this scholarship fund to benefit deserving students pursuing



Dolores Owens

See "Dolores Owens" on page 4

## Alumni Lead Professional Organizations

Many Harrah Hotel College alumni take pride in being active members of professional organizations across the country and around the world. "Professional organizations offer great networking opportunities," said alumnus Tony Llanos '97. Another alumna, Tyra Bell-Bloom '94, commented that, "It's important to belong to these groups because everything ties back to how your career began."

Llanos should know. As the human resources manager and controller at The Orchard Hotel in San Francisco, he is the President of the Northern California chapter of an international organization, Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals. "I'm the first minority to hold office in this organization and through my position, I want to share the importance of diversity," he said. "We can learn so much from each other while fostering cultural learning, in addition to professional learning, through these types of opportunities."

He has been a member of the organization since 1992, when he served as the student chapter president at UNLV.

"I have been able to learn from controllers with maturity and over the years, have looked to them for guidance," said Llanos. "It's important for students to know that there are organizations like this and they can help with job hunting. There's a need for hospitality accounting as many of the 'old-timers' are about ready to retire."

In addition, Llanos is a mentor for the hospitality program at San Francisco State University. "They're trying to start a mentoring program similar to UNLV's.



Tony Llanos

See "Alumni Lead" on page 5

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## DEAN'S MESSAGE

**Stuart Mann, Dean,  
William F. Harrah  
College of Hotel Administration**

Become a Dean's Associate. Why? Because your association with this group means that you understand the purpose of higher education and the quality that is delivered here in the Harrah Hotel College at UNLV.

Being a member of the Dean's Associates means that you have provided the college with an unrestricted gift of at least \$1,000. Those dollars are controlled by the Dean for needs that are not covered by the general funds provided to the college from the State of Nevada. These needs are many because the state has limited resources and also restricts in many ways how state monies can be expended.

Let me tell you how some of the Dean's Associates monies have been used during this past year. As many of you know, we have been making great progress in trying to achieve our strategic goal related to diversifying our faculty, staff and student body. Because of donor restrictions on how much of our scholarship money can be allocated we have many occasions when students would not be able to attend UNLV if it were not for the scholarship they receive from money set aside for that purpose from the Dean's Associates fund.

State of Nevada money and donations from industry

partners have not provided funding for all of the management of this large diversity effort. Dean's Associates funds have enabled me to hire two people to recruit and advise students. The ultimate goal of this effort is, of course, to retain and graduate these students.

We are engaged in a process to build a hospitality campus on the northwest corner of our existing UNLV campus. The Beam Hall facility that founding Dean Jerry Vallen planned for 1,000 students is now quite overrun with 2,500 students. The cost of a marketing and financial feasibility study for new facilities is being paid from the Dean's Associates fund.

There are several other needs that were covered this academic year from these funds but I think this provides you with a feeling for the impact that your gift can make in helping us achieve our strategic goals. Please consider becoming a member of this very special group of friends to the Harrah Hotel College. Become a Dean's Associate.

For more information on joining, please contact Deborah Young, Director of Development, at [dyoung@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:dyoung@ccmail.nevada.edu) or (702) 895-3148.

## 2003-2004 Dean's Associates Members\*

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Linda Novey Enterprises  
John Peiser, '79  
RCI Consulting  
Dr. Gail Sammons, '87 MS  
Tony, '84, and Michele Santo  
Scott, '88, and Kim Sibella  
Dr. Skip Swerdlow  
Deborah A. Young, '98 M.P.A., and Dr. Michael Green, '86, '88 MA

\*7/1/03-6/30/04

## Class of 2004 Commencement Speech

*Hau-Yin Leung, Hotel Administration major, was selected to give the undergraduate commencement speech this past spring. This is an excerpt from her speech.*

President Harter, members of the Board of Regents, faculty, students, families and friends:



I would like to thank the university for this great honor. I am very proud to be here today. Today is the day of harvest; today is the day of justification and honor; today is the day of happy tears and a day of celebration -

a day in which you and your families feel deeply proud. We made it! The Class of 2004!

Four years ago, we were anonymous in a crowd, but today we have become classmates, friends, mentors, and Rebels...rebels against ignorance, rebels against prejudice, and rebels against intolerance...Some have said that UNLV is an arena of academics and athletics; I would add to that leadership, friendship, and family. Our education has not only taught us the 101s of math and politics, but also furnished us with surroundings to grow and succeed as leaders.

Today all Rebels join together: the U.S. citizens, the minorities and the internationals. We are recalling our different stories with the same gratitude and emotions. It is our differences that make us similar and it is our differences that create such diversity.

As Rebels we have fought hard for our rights ...

Think of how many classmates, faculty and staff you came across that have inspired you during the past four years. Congratulations to many of you who have been the inspired and the inspiring. You have opened up the door for future students to continue the UNLV legacy.

From college freshman to college graduate, you suddenly find yourself at the beginning again. The BIG question is, "Where are we going from here?" We all have fears - fears about paying rent, fears about pursuing our dream careers, or even fears about getting a visa to stay in this country...

You can only dream about what you want your life to be but now you know that life is unpredictable and full of surprises. You have come a long, long way and you are richer in knowledge and confidence.

Finally to those who have given us unconditional love throughout our career here at UNLV — whether it was tuition money, a birthday card or an overseas phone call, your encouragement has enabled us to become who we are today. To the proud teachers, friends, family members, and, especially mothers and fathers — thank you so much! Being number one is not an easy task but today your faith, your hope, and your expectations have shown us that being number one is possible. We love you.

I would like to quote an Arab saying from my best friend here at UNLV. "What comes from the mouth only reaches the ears, but what comes from the heart touches the heart." Today, I speak from the bottom of my heart in wishing you the best of luck. To the class of 2004 - we did it!

*Hau-Yin is newly employed as a training specialist for Springer Miller Systems (SMS), a hospitality software company.*

*"What comes from the mouth only reaches the ears, but what comes from the heart touches the heart." Today, I speak from the bottom of my heart in wishing you the best of luck. To the class of 2004 - we did it!"*

## Pebble Beach Welcomes UNLV Students

The 2004 UNLV Event Management Team operated this year with great success! From February 2nd through February 8th, the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Golf Tournament was held at Pebble Beach, California.

Each year, the UNLV Event Management Team selects 38 team members who are qualified for supervising each sponsor's tent, sky box, or a cash concession tent. These individuals are chosen through a selective interview process. In late January, the members undergo weeks of training comprised of leadership, teamwork, and other skills necessary to accomplish their duties as managers. UNLV students, as well as representatives from the Pebble Beach Company, administer the training.

For the past thirteen years, the Pebble Beach Company has become increasingly impressed with the quality of the UNLV Event Management Team. "Each year, we [the Pebble Beach Company] get the best team ever." Through years of experience, the UNLV Event



Management Team has built a strong foundation and has shown consistent improvement since its inception. The UNLV managers learn valuable lessons through the management experience and from interaction with the hard-working Pebble Beach employees.

*Article submitted by student Joie Kim.*

## PREMIER

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Hotel Administration

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# Why I Chose to Work in this Industry



by Jim Moore

Moore Ideas, Inc.  
Harrah Hotel College National  
Advisory Board Member

The question asked probably should not have been, "why did I choose this industry," but once chosen, "why did I stay in this business?" I chose the hospitality business because a high school counselor suggested I had the personality for service to others. More importantly however, a mentor of mine foresaw the future of the hospitality industry and encouraged me to pursue that field in college.

Once I started working for the Stouffer Foods Corporation, a popular restaurant chain, I discovered the attributes that would "hook" me forever. The daily long hours and hard work could not overshadow the rewards. The sense of achievement, the recognition for work well done, and the ability to work with people from all walks of

life are just a few of the paybacks this business tends to bestow.

The hospitality business affords anyone the opportunity to fulfill his or her personal goals and dreams. I was able to far exceed the original expectations I had for myself by embracing this wonderful business. A look into the future reveals a growing need for leadership in the hospitality business. Any person who recognizes the leadership qualities needed to be successful will be an asset to their employers as well as their fellow employees.

Often it is not why we choose a segment of business for ourselves, but how we apply ourselves to that business that matters.

## New Majors & Degree Compliment Student Career Interests

Now students in the college have several new options when it comes to choosing a major. At its January 2004 meeting, the UCCSN Board of Regents approved new majors in Food Service Management, Meetings and Events Management, and Lodging and Resort Management. Students may work toward their Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel Administration and choose any of the majors listed above. Previously, all students majored in hotel administration.

A new Bachelor of Science in Gaming Management degree and the Gaming Management major were also approved and go into effect in Fall 2004. This four-year,

124-credit degree program is designed for those who wish to pursue a career in one of several aspects of the rapidly expanding gaming industry.

"As the influence of gaming grows around the world, there is a very strong need for those in the field to be properly educated," said Stuart Mann, Dean of the Harrah Hotel College. "Hospitality is a multi-billion dollar industry and gaming is a large part of that. By designing innovative study programs, the hotel college can stay in the forefront as a leader in the training of tomorrow's hospitality professionals, whether they choose to go into gaming, food service, or any of the other areas."

*From "Dolores Owens" on page 1*

degrees in UNLV's hotel college," said Lanni.

The first recipients of the Dolores Owens Scholarship will be announced in the fall of 2004. An endowment created will allow hotel college students to benefit in

perpetuity from the generous financial support of those paying tribute to Dolores Owens.

To learn about this or other scholarship funds to benefit the hotel college, please contact Deborah Young at [dyoung@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:dyoung@ccmail.nevada.edu) or call her at 702-895-3148.



# Why I Chose to Work in this Industry



by Marvin Franklin

President, Commerical Growth Partners LLC

Harrah Hotel College National Advisory Board Member

My "work" in this industry results directly from my career as an investment professional. Majoring in finance, I was intrigued with the investment professional's task of evaluating market risk and opportunity, and then earning commensurate returns on capital invested. I started my career investing corporate and pension fund capital in major commercial real estate projects on behalf of life insurance companies. Later, I became a partner in an investment management firm, which specifically invested pension fund capital in real estate.

Part of the investment activity during my real estate career involved capitalizing the growth of major hotel operators. I enjoyed investing in hotels more than traditional property types and my work included the full spectrum: limited service, extended stay,

business/convention and resorts; franchise to corporate; publicly-owned and privately held; new and existing development; and debt and equity financing.

Next, I began directing the investment activities of a commercial finance company whose primary focus was restaurants. The perceived lack of capital in both the public and private restaurant markets appealed to me and we financed the expansion of both franchised and independent restaurant companies. This was a rewarding experience and a springboard into my current investment activity - providing working capital and private equity to small to medium-sized businesses.

Over the years, I have learned much about the capital markets and particularly how they relate to the hospitality industry. I am pleased to continue my "work" in this field through my affiliation with UNLV.

*From "Alumni Lead" on page 1*

I meet every week with undergrads and help keep them on track and stay focused on their studies," he said. "My mentor worked for Bally's and was so helpful in connecting me to others within the hotel. He helped me tremendously and I want to help new professionals in the same manner." Llanos also serves as the Bay Area's Hotel College alumni representative.

Tyra Bell-Bloom, Chef Concierge at the Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino, is a member of the prestigious Union Internationale des Concierge d'Hotels Les Clefs d'Or. "Membership in the international association is the highest level of achievement in our profession," said Bell-Bloom. There are only 450 members in 36 states and the application process for membership is quite intense.

"I was fortunate to be educated at UNLV, where the professors are part of the profession, not just academics," said Bell-Bloom. "They showed us the importance of strengthening the community through their work and I continue this through my association in Les Clefs d'Or." Bell-Bloom is also a member of the Southern Nevada Hotel Concierge Association. "Part of that group's mission is to educate locally - who we are, what we are, and what

we can do to help. We're ambassadors for the city and we try to help with a charity event about once a month. I'm very proud to be part of both organizations."

Paula O'Donnell '75, Director of Hotel Marketing and Operations at the Boardwalk Hotel & Casino, serves as Vice President of the Las Vegas Hotel Managers Association, a group she has been a member of for about ten years.

Why does she feel it's important to be involved with a group like this? "For me, as a professional, it's an invaluable way of getting to know others in the industry," said O'Donnell. "We assist each other, provide speakers at events and share knowledge. On the personal side, it's also a lot of fun and I've made some wonderful friends through my affiliation with it."

O'Donnell spoke of how her property, the Boardwalk, hosted an Internet discussion for the Las Vegas Hotel Managers Association in February. "It was a great opportunity to ask industry-related questions from representatives of companies like Expedia and Hotwire. We don't usually get to do that much at the local level and everyone in the group really enjoyed it."

Thank you to the following associations which have created endowed scholarships within the Harrah Hotel College:

- Food & Beverage Directors Association
- Hospitality Financial & Technical Professionals
- Las Vegas Hospitality Association
- Nevada Resort Association

*“More than anything else, I believe my UNLV education has opened doors.”*

— Todd Mastry '03 MS

## Sport & Leisure Services Putting Their Degrees to Work

In 2003, the Harrah Hotel College graduated five students with Master of Science, Sport and Leisure Service Management degrees. Gerry Bernabe, Troy Carlson, Todd Mastry, Julie Santiago, and Alex Tambor finished their requirements for graduation in December 2003. While the degree has the word “leisure” in its name, the graduates didn’t get to rest much while completing their studies!

Alumnus Todd Mastry began working in the field while still attending classes. While in Las Vegas, he worked for the Las Vegas Stars baseball team as the Public, Community and Media Relations Manager, for the Grand Garden Arena at the MGM Grand as a sponsorship coordinator and special events representative, and for the Las Vegas Outlaws XFL team as the Assistant Director of Communications. He also managed to gain some experience as a media assistant for the Los Angeles Lakers exhibition games in 2000 and 2001 and assisted at the Invensys Classic, which took place at the TPC Canyons golf course in Las Vegas.

Since finishing his coursework, he has held a number of high profile positions, beginning with Event Services Manager at the Schottenstein Center at Ohio State University. In April 2003, he was promoted to Assistant Director of Event Services and Administration. This past

May, Mastry accepted a position as the Director of Event Operations with the National Basketball Association Memphis Grizzlies team at the new FedEx Forum in Memphis, Tennessee.

“More than anything else, I believe my UNLV education has opened doors,” said Mastry. “Combining real world situations with theory and discussions within the degree program has really helped me be successful in the industry.”

Graduate Troy Carlson feels much the same way. “Following the completion of my UNLV master’s degree, I entered into a second Master’s program at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs,” said Carlson. “Career-wise, I still have ten years of Air Force service to go until I use my Sport and Leisure Services degree but I know it will be well worth it.”

When Carlson completes his second master’s degree in December, he will move to the Air Force Academy to become an instructor in the Geography Department. However, in the meantime, he is an active volunteer in the Air Force Academy’s Outdoor Adventure Program, which offers year-round recreation opportunities for the military community.

## Internships Provide Win-Win Results

Hospitality internships are an important aspect to a student’s education. While the time commitment requires 90 hours of internship site observation and 19 hours of related classroom learning, it is always a unique experience.

The success of the internship program is largely due to the hundreds of hotels, resorts, recreational facilities, restaurants, and tourism companies that provide the most expansive hands-on learning laboratories. Nevada Hotel and Lodging Association President Van Heffner states “the internship program continues to be a win-win arrangement for all parties involved.” Over 40% of the interns have been recruited for career management positions by properties with whom they’ve interned.

Melanie Harjee, Hotel Operations Training Manager at The Rio looks forward to UNLV interns each semester. “The internship program provides students exposure to the many facets that make up our team and in return, allows our team to reach out and tap the pipeline of resources UNLV can offer the industry.”

“It has been rewarding to participate in UNLV’s Internship Program. As a small hotel by Las Vegas standards at 190 rooms, I’ve been impressed with the intern’s enthusiasm, interest in learning our hotel operations, and desire to observe and work throughout the hotel,”

states Chuck Jarvi, Director of Sales for the Double Tree Club Hotel.

As a student, Josh Wand '00, took advantage of the internship program, working in both Japan and with Walt Disney. Now, as National Sales Director for Montecristo Rum, a division of Sidebar Spirits, he is ensuring current students have an opportunity to learn about the wine and spirits industry. “As UNLV alumni, we understand the importance of providing support to the college. Our foundation was built through the education we received, the relationships we developed, and through the support of UNLV faculty. It’s now our responsibility to provide opportunities for the future of the food & beverage industry.”

For more information on how to offer an internship, please contact:

Food & Beverage Internships: Al Izzolo,  
Al.Izzolo@ccmail.nevada.edu

Hotel Management Internships: Ellis Norman,  
Ellis.Norman@ccmail.nevada.edu

Tourism & Convention and Gaming Internships: Ed Polivka,  
Ed.Polivka@ccmail.nevada.edu

Golf Management, Recreation and Leisure Studies Internships: Chris Brown,  
Chris.Brown@ccmail.nevada.edu

# Elite Student Team Begins Facility Feasibility Study

For several months, Dean Mann has been contemplating the best way to launch the development of a new world-class facility for the college. Mann envisions combining a deluxe hotel, state-of-the-art conference center, and faculty club-restaurant with an academic facility dedicated entirely to the college. Alumnus Russell Dazio, Chairman of R & R Hotel Group, has taken this vision of creating a “campus within a campus” one step closer to reality. Dazio offered to lead a team of “elite” graduate and undergraduate students to perform the pre-development work needed to get the project underway.

As one of the most progressive learning experiences ever offered at UNLV, the project includes three, eight-week courses (which began in March) where students analyze the marketplace, refine project concepts, and create a global development strategy. At the conclusion of these courses, Dean Mann will be able to take his hotel campus concept from feasibility to construction.

“Development of the proposed facilities hinges on what Russ Dazio, contributing hospitality executives, and the ‘Elite Team’ uncover and recommend, and of course, approval by the Board of Regents,” said Mann.

To ensure they stay on course, the teams will work with top executives from companies including Dazio’s

R&R Hotel Group and PricewaterhouseCoopers. In addition, senior executives of Starwood, Marriott, and Hilton hotels have agreed to guest-teach classes. To earn top grades, they must prove to executives working with them they’ve got what it takes to succeed in the real business world.



Students are lead by alumnus Russ Dazio (middle left), with guest Bruce Baltin (end of table), former UNLV professor and Sr. VP for PKF Consulting.



Dean Stuart H. Mann thanks alumnus Jacques D’Rovencourt ‘89, Director of Food & Beverage at the Palmer House Hilton, for hosting the Chicago UNLV Alumni Reception in May.



San Francisco area alumni gathered for a reception held at the Orchard Hotel in June. Pictured: Alumni Director Judy Nagai-Allison, Sandra Yep Lebeck ‘91, Tony Llanos ‘94, Pamela Andres ‘97, and Wanda Jong ‘98.



# In Memorium

## Chuck DiRocco

Chuck DiRocco, the founder and publisher of *Gaming Today*, died March 6 after a long illness. DiRocco was a member of the Hotel College International Gaming Institute Advisory Board. He also funded a room in the Stan Fulton Building, named the "Gaming Today Executive Conference Room" and provided support for the *Gaming Today* Graduate Fellowships. Mr. DiRocco and *Gaming Today* were also members of the UNLV Foundation's Academic Corporate Council.

## Linda Novey-White

Linda Moore Novey-White, founder of Linda Novey Enterprises and a customer service legend in the hospitality industry, died March 25 in Bradenton, Florida. She was recognized internationally as a consultant and lecturer in customer service, motivation and total quality management. A member of many professional organizations, White served on the national advisory board for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. She was a recipient of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Special Person of the Year award.

## Dean's National Advisory Board



The Dean's National Advisory Board members participated in a roundtable discussion with students to discuss the hospitality industry.



## Awards Bestowed Upon Alumni & Friends During UNLVino

The 3rd Annual UNLVino Alumni Brunch helped kick off the 30th Anniversary of UNLVino on May 1. The brunch brought together over 250 alumni and friends to honor this year's industry achievement award recipients while reuniting alumni for the weekend. The brunch took place at Les Artistes Steakhouse in the Paris Hotel Casino. Guests were greeted with champagne and Montecristo Rum mojito cocktails and served gourmet crepes and other Parisian-inspired food.



**Larry Ruvo accepts his award from President Carol C. Harter and Dean Stuart H. Mann.**

Alumna Kaci Feldman '98 enjoyed catching up with fellow alumni at the brunch. "I think it's important to attend and support my alma mater so that others may receive the same benefits that helped me with my career," said Feldman.

"UNLV students have many opportunities waiting for them and the school and its programs will only continue to improve over time, which in turn will help the community."

Michael Carosielli '02 was an attendee of last year's brunch as well. "I'm extremely proud to have received my degree from the best hospitality administration program in the country. UNLV is producing more executives than any other college and students are better prepared in the workforce after their UNLV experience."

Carosielli, the Director of Ticketing for the Las Vegas Gladiators Arena football team, went on to say, "When we are in search of interns or personnel to fill event positions, I always look for UNLV students and graduates, especially



**Alumni Board Chairman Jim Germain and Dean Stuart H. Mann present the Alumnus of the Year Award to Tony Santo.**

those associated with the alumni association. The association's networking

opportunities are endless and most importantly, all the events are fun! If you have not attended the UNLV Alumni Brunch prior to UNLVino, you are missing out!"

Although there were many local alumni in attendance, others flew in from across the country. Chris Pahlman '93 plans to attend UNLVino every year, no matter where he is living. "My wife Terry and I have made a tremendous effort

to attend UNLVino for the past three years," said Pahlman, who currently lives in Virginia. "It has become a tradition that would be hard to break now due to the enjoyment we receive from seeing current students, alumni friends, and of course, the myriad of wine that is available. Every year is better than the last!"

The award recipients included:

The Alumnus of the Year award was given to Tony Santo '84, Senior Vice President, Western and Mid-South Regions, Caesars Entertainment Corporation. The award was presented by Jim Germain '75, Harrah Hotel College Alumni Association Board Chairperson.

The Distinguished University Service Award was presented to Mr. Larry Ruvo, Senior Managing Director of Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada. This award was presented by UNLV President Carol C. Harter.

The Industry Executive of the Year selected by the Food & Beverage Management Department was awarded to Cristina Mariani-May, Executive Vice President of Banfi Vintners. Dr. Andrew Feinstein, '91, '95 MS, presented the award to Sharron McCarthy in Ms. Mariani-May's absence.

The Industry Executive of the Year selected by the Leisure Studies Program was awarded to Joe Louis Barrow,



**George Markantonis speaks to the attendees.**

Senior Vice President and Executive Director, The First Tee Division, World Golf Foundation. The award was presented by Dean Stuart Mann.

The Industry Executive of the Year selected by the Tourism & Convention Administration Department was awarded to Paul Dykstra, President and CEO of GES Exposition Services. The award was presented by Patti Shock, department chairperson, to Sallie Sargent in Mr. Dykstra's absence.

The Industry Executive of the Year selected by the Hotel Management Department was awarded to George Markantonis, CEO of Atlantis, The Palm on Dubai. The award was presented by Dr. Robert Woods, department chairperson.

Special thanks to the following companies and individuals who donated items for this event:

24/7 Magazine  
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*"I'm extremely proud to have received my degree from the best hospitality administration program in the country."*

— Michael Carosielli '02

# Congratulations

Each year, a committee of faculty select faculty members to receive awards and recognition for their previous year of work in the college. **Dr. Seymus Baloglu** was named the Claudine



Williams Distinguished Chair for the 2004-2006 academic years. **Dr. Zheng Gu** was selected to receive the Ace Denkin Research Award. The Boyd Awards were presented to **Dr. Pearl Brewer** for Research, **Dr. Gail Sammons** for Service, and **Dr. David Holmes** for Teaching.

The following professors also received recent awards: **Dr. Donald Bell**, food and beverage management department professor received the UNLV Foundation Distinguished Teaching Award. **Dr. Cynny Carruthers**, tourism and convention management department professor received the Outstanding Graduate Faculty award (pictured above). **Dr. Andy Nazarechuk '79, '85 MS** was selected by the UNLV Alumni Association as a recipient of the *UNLV Alumni Association Student Focused Faculty Award*.

National Advisory Board Member **Richard Goeglein** was named to the board of directors of Pinnacle Entertainment. Board member **Van Heffner** was named to the board of directors for The National Restaurant Association, a nonprofit trade group based in Washington, D.C. Heffner is president and CEO of the Nevada Restaurant Association. Board member **Susie Southgate-Fox** of Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc., received The Elliott Group award which is given to human resources professionals who inspire and influence corporations.



**Bill Hornbuckle '84**, president and COO of MGM MIRAGE-Europe and donor to the Hornbuckle Family Scholarship, served as keynote speaker for the annual 2004 Student

Scholarship Luncheon. Recent graduate **Leah Zarah Laderas '04**, was selected as the student speaker for the luncheon and reflected on how receiving a scholarship had an impact on her education.

The following professors received promotions: **Dr. Andy Feinstein '91, '95 MS**, recently received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. He has also been appointed as Department Chair for the Food & Beverage Department, effective July 2004. **Jim Kilby** was recently promoted to Assistant Affiliate Professor. **Dr. Curtis Love**

also recently received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. He was a 2003 recipient of the UNLV Alumni Association Student Focused Faculty Award.

The **National Society of Minorities in Hospitality** student chapter won national awards at the national conference in St. Louis in February for best publicity and best conference display. Faculty Advisor **Dr. David Corsun** was honored with the Founders' Award, which is the equivalent of Advisor of the Year. The chapter took 16 students to St. Louis including senior **Teresa Chen** (NSMH Western Regional Chair). All students met with sponsor companies and several of the graduating seniors received multiple job offers. Two seniors, **Leah Laderas** and **Anna Karner**, were awarded \$1500 scholarships by national sponsors.

Student **Deborah Parz** received a \$5,000 scholarship award from the International Association of Conference Centers. She is pictured with Geoff Lawson, President of IACC-North America, accepting her award.



Graduate student **Ivan Turnipseed** was selected as a student presenter at the 2004 National Black Graduate Student Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. He successfully presented

papers entitled "Compensation Discrimination" and "Service Quality and Black Customer Satisfaction in the United States Restaurant Industry." The latter presentation placed first in the business category of the conference's paper competition. Additionally, he was elected to serve on the Executive Council as Western Regional Representative.

New alumna **Eunice Vasquez '04** and student **Ivy Kuzminsky** were selected to represent UNLV at the annual National Restaurant Association Salute to Excellence event during May in Chicago. The day-long event celebrates the best and the brightest in the restaurant and foodservice industry by spotlighting esteemed leadership and extraordinary academic accomplishments.



## Upcoming Events

**October 8, 2004**

UNLV Alumni & Friends Benefit Golf Tournament  
Las Vegas National Golf Club

Call Erika Avilas at (702) 798-0000 for more information.

**November 14, 2004**

UNLV Alumni & Friends Reception in New York City

InterContinental The Barclay New York  
111 E. 48th St., New York, NY  
5:30-7:30 pm

**May 22, 2005**

UNLV Alumni & Friends Reception in Chicago, IL

The Westin Chicago River North  
5:30-7:30 pm

# Alumni Updates

## THE 1970s

**Robert Lapp, Jr. '72** Robert retired from SkyWest Airlines after 24 years as Director of Maintenance. He returned to college to be a surgical technician and then plans to go on to nursing school. His daughter attends the University of Utah and his son is in high school.

**Michael Demers '77** Michael was named Carmel Room executive chef at the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort.

**M. Shahgir Shah '78** Shahgir was named sergeant-at-arms for the 2004 Las Vegas branch of the International Food Service Executives Association Directors.

**Jayne Siegel Garrett '79** Jayne, after working and traveling for the hospitality industry for many years, now resides in San Antonio, Texas. Jayne by profession is a writer, lyricist, speaker and executive coach. She recently published a book and can be contacted through her website [www.jaynegarrett.com](http://www.jaynegarrett.com).

**Martin Gross '79** Martin was named general manager and COO for the Tahoe Biltmore Lodge and Casino in Crystal Bay.

## THE 1980s

**Gabriele Schumann Lawrence '85** After completing the Ty Warner project at the historic San Ysidro Ranch in Santa Barbara, California, Gabriele moved to the Jack Parker Corporation to do another historic renovation of the original Gene Autry Melodyland Ranch (now called the Le Parker Meridien Palm Springs). This \$24 million renovation will include renovating all rooms, spa, lobby, a new meeting hall, new pool and cabanas and conversion of existing courts into English clay courts.

**Will Brinck '88** Will was appointed manager of Ceres Restaurant by JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort. Working in the food and beverage division for the last six years, Brink has enjoyed positions at the Marco Island Marriott in Florida, Seattle's Sea-Tac Airport Marriott, and the Santa Clara Marriott in California.

**Sulaiman Pradhan '89** Sulaiman started Perfumecastle.com, an online fragrance company featuring over 1,200 fragrances from around the world. He has traveled extensively and has first hand knowledge of making perfumes. After graduating, he worked for Red Lion Hotels and Holiday Inns in Food & Beverage and has worked at hotels in Santa Barbara, CA, Phoenix, AZ, Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Jose, CA. He currently resides in Seattle with his wife of 12 years and two daughters.

## THE 1990s

**Justin Doucette '92, '00 MS** Justin was named chairman of the Nevada Restaurant Association's 2004 board of directors.

**Karin Erickson '92** In 2002, after six years with Newmarket International implementing the Delphi - Sales and Catering

software system in hotels around the world, Karin accepted a teaching position with the Clark County School District - Area Technical Trade Center (ATTC). This unique high school offers a two-year program for juniors and seniors to gain knowledge, skills, and internship experience in the hotel industry.

**Tayfun Ozeren '95** Tayfun is the founder, shareholder and the director of KATOPARK in Istanbul, Turkey. The company specializes in manufacturing parking lifts and the United States is among the countries that import his products.

**Riccardo Caponi '97** Riccardo has a Florida real estate license and sells deeded timeshares, otherwise known as vacation ownerships. He participates with RCI (Resort Condominiums International), the exchange company. Though Riccardo works in South Florida, he would be happy to advise anyone interested in learning more about timeshare and vacation ownership.

**Andrew Kalish '98** Andrew currently owns Kalish Catering & Co. in Highland Park, IL, a suburb of Chicago. After working in executive catering for a number of years, he decided to open his own business. He can be reached through the website [www.kalishcatering.com](http://www.kalishcatering.com).

**Clark Kincaid '99 MS, '03 Ph.D.** Clark was named to the Nevada Restaurant Association's 2004 board of directors.

**Tony Zaranti, CCM '99** Tony works at Desert Highlands in Scottsdale, Arizona as the Catering Manager. He was the youngest manager to earn his "Certified Club Manager" designation through the Club Managers Association of America. While at UNLV, Tony served as CMAA Student Chapter President.

## THE 2000s

**Coreena Fletcher '01** Coreena recently started her own business, Scoretek, a golf scoring solutions and event management company in the Vancouver area. More information about her company can be found at [www.scoretek.ca](http://www.scoretek.ca).

**Shay-Anne Spencer '02** Shay-Anne currently works for the Yakama Nation Legends Casino in Washington State. She is the Acting Operations Manager and is responsible for internal controls, a million dollar budget, policies and procedures, safety and security issues, as well as marketing for the facility. The casino includes a 250-seat bingo hall and 90 class II machines.

**Rachel S. Shinnar '04 Ph.D.** Rachel is a faculty fellow in the Department of Management of the Walker College of Business at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. She will teach in the departments of Management and Hospitality and Tourism Management, as well as promote diversity within the university community.



**Zhuo Joel Wang '04** Zhuo was selected as the Graduate Speaker for the May 2004 UNLV Commencement.

## ALUMNI CLUBS

### Get Involved.

### Stay Connected.

### Alumni Volunteers Wanted!

If you are interested in joining an existing alumni club or would like to start one in your area, please contact your fellow alumni:

**Chicago Area**  
Stephanie Fisher '00  
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**Denver, CO Area**  
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For all other areas, please contact  
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[judy\\_nagai-allison@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:judy_nagai-allison@ccmail.nevada.edu)

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

Send us your personal and career updates to share with fellow alumni.

Send an e-mail to [Judy.Nagai-Allison@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:Judy.Nagai-Allison@ccmail.nevada.edu) to update your information.



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## Alumni & Friends Benefit Golf Tournament

**On the occasion of the 2004 Global Gaming Expo**

**Las Vegas National Golf Club • Las Vegas, Nevada • Friday, October 8, 2004**  
**8:00 AM Shotgun Start • Four-Person Handicapped Scramble • Lunch Included**  
**• Post-Event Reception**

### *Prizes for Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin*

The UNLV William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration Alumni Association Board of Directors is presenting this event to raise funds for the college's Mentoring Program, which pairs the industry executives of today with the industry executives of tomorrow. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of students.

For more information, visit <http://www.globalgamingexpo.com> and select Show Info, then select Highlights & Special Events.

If you are interested in becoming a Tee Hole Sponsor or Premium Sponsor, please contact Judy Nagai-Allison at [judy.nagai-allison@ccmail.nevada.edu](mailto:judy.nagai-allison@ccmail.nevada.edu) or (702) 895-2934.

Special thanks to our sponsors!

