During the months of October and November, COLA 100E students were required to participate in three to five hours of community service with an approved agency. The list of approved agencies came from the UNLV Office of Civic Engagement and Diversity. Students had to sign up for their service through the Student Involvement Center located in MyUNLV.

Some of the service learning opportunities included: Boo Bash, Take Back the Night at UNLV, the UNLV Homecoming Parade at Town Square, and Opportunity Village. Many students expressed that they thoroughly enjoyed their experience participating in a service learning activity. Students were

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Ms. Christina M. Hixson graduated from high school in Clarinda, Iowa, and moved to Omaha, Nebraska to attend business school. She later went to work for Mr. Ernst F. Lied, a car dealership owner in Omaha, and in 1960, she joined Mr. Lied in Las Vegas, Nevada as his assistant. After Mr. Lied’s death in 1980, Ms. Hixson became the sole trustee of the Lied Foundation Trust, and turned the Lied Foundation Trust into one of the largest foundations in the state of Nevada at that time. Ms. Hixson has a special understanding of young people, who, like her, came from a challenging family background and are willing to work hard.

Mr. Ernst F. Lied was born in Columbus, Ohio, and attended the University of Kansas for two years, where he played on the golf team. He ultimately graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1927. Mr. Lied became a Buick dealer in Omaha, Nebraska, and later his dealership was ranked third in the country for the number of cars sold. Mr. Lied established his charitable foundation in 1972, and upon his death in 1980 at age 74 nearly his entire estate funded the Lied Foundation Trust. Lied Foundation Trust has enhanced the capabilities of many schools and enriched the quality of many lives!
Recently, I did an interview with my personal coach, Kevin Altman. He has truly motivated me this semester and encouraged me to pursue my dreams academically and personally. Kevin is a great coach who genuinely cares about his students, and after all of our meetings, I would consider him a friend. If given the opportunity, I would recommend him to any student at UNLV. These were some of his responses to the interview questions:

What is your background?
My service in the U.S. Military gave me much of my counseling experience. I managed anywhere from two to fifty soldiers both in combat and peacetime. I was responsible for their health, well-being, overall safety, and I served in a counselor roll in support of our returning forces from combat. In addition, during the summers I spent time mentoring (German/U.S.) high school students.

What kind style do you use when coaching?
I largely gained my counseling style and approach through mentoring and leading soldiers in my U.S. Army unit. In many ways, I use the same approaches in my academic coaching. I understand that as human beings students have virtually unlimited potential to develop into something they’ve never dreamt of becoming and have adjusted my style to allow these individual to control his/her future using their own logic and decision making skills.

What is your coaching philosophy?
My philosophy is simple. I let the student take responsibility for their actions and decisions. I do not believe in prescriptive coaching, because I feel the individual is not afforded the opportunity to self-develop. I feel that when I give students the opportunity to show themselves and myself what they are capable of, they often take that moment to shine and to prove that they are successful and unique.

What are your goals?
I would like to graduate with my MA in Higher Education Leadership by the end of 2013 and hopefully come on board as an academic advisor or counselor serving either at-risk, non-traditional students or student veteran populations. I would like to create Veteran Transitioning Programs for use at colleges and universities across America aimed at providing transition assistance from military to civilian life, more specifically, college life.

Do you have any aspirations?
Currently, I demonstrate and live by authentic and genuine leadership; that is, I coach through my experiences in life. I would never advise someone of something I would never do myself, and so, my aspiration is to become an ever-developing authentic leader and to make real difference in the lives of my students.

What are your hobbies?
I enjoy fabricating high performance automotive components for import vehicles regarding forced induction applications, engine building, engine control unit modifications, metal fabrication, and test and tuning/racing. I also golf, ski, and have a private pilots’ license. I love spending quality time with my family as well.
COLA 100E and Service Learning (Continued)

able to learn the purpose of their (continued on pg. 3) event/organization and its effect on the community. For their service hours, students volunteered at an event or helped a community organization with its day-to-day operations.

This project did not end after the students conducted their community service. The students also had to write a reflection essay that included: the social, cultural, or political issues that contribute to the need for their service in the community; the role of the agency in the Las Vegas community; the role of volunteers in the community agency; and what the students learned from their experience working with the agency.

COLA 100E students did not just participate in a community service activity, instead they participated in a service learning activity and had the opportunity to reflect upon and learn from their experience.

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Final Exam and Holiday Stress Tips

We all have different obligations during the end of the fall semester: end of semester projects, finals to study for, and family commitments. Compiled below are a few tips on how to survive, and thrive, through this stressful time. Happy Holidays!

• Be proactive. Get an early start so that work does not pile up toward the end.

• Be sure to get enough sleep. It’s difficult to be proactive if you are tired.

• Break studying down into smaller chunks. It can be overwhelming when you have to study such a large amount at one time.

• Study in groups. Your classmates may have tricks for remembering something that could be beneficial to you as well.

• Eat something before your exam, you will be better focused.

• If you’re feeling stressed, talk to a friend, family member, or academic success coach.

• Form a budget: Find out how much gifts are going to cost and how much you will need to save instead of spending as normal.

• Start shopping early. If you wait until the last minute, you may not be able to find what you are looking for.

• Shopping online is a great resource. If you know exactly what you want and you can’t find it right away, order online. Be sure you leave enough time for it to ship.

• Create a calendar of events so that family obligations are not forgotten.
Proactive Steps to Finding a Job After Graduation

By: Melanie Cruz, Hixson-Lied Scholar

Finding a job after graduation is quite tough at the moment due to the bad economy, but that doesn’t mean that it’s impossible. There are ways to land a job by setting yourself apart from the competition in the job market. During college, students should be active and prepared before graduation to boost their chances of getting hired.

As college students, it’s important to start thinking about the future and gaining experience. Having a high GPA is not the only thing that can help you find a job since most employers are looking for well-rounded individuals. Join the clubs and organizations on campus and apply for internships!

If you can’t find an internship, apply for a part-time job that is related to your major. Other things to consider are studying abroad and learning another language. Knowing another language can boost your chances of getting a job because it shows how versatile you can be with people from different cultures. Along with that, you may even try getting a job outside of the U.S. and participating in the global market. With such opportunities to gain experience, connecting with people in and out of school will help your chances of landing a good job.

Look into the resources available and ask for advice. Try to meet up with your advisor or success coach a couple of times throughout each semester to be informed on what courses to take and to find out about helpful opportunities. Networking with classmates and professors will help you when you begin your job search in your final semester of college.

Don’t forget to attend UNLV career fairs offered through the Career Services Office! Career Services can also offer guidance and counseling to students entering the job market, including resume review, so consider the resources it has available. Get active now to increase your chances of getting a job after graduation!

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How to Get Involved on Campus

By: Sabina Catak, Hixson-Lied Scholar

Are you looking for ways to get involved on campus? UNLV has many organizations around campus in which you can meet new people, create new memories, and even build your resume! To learn more you may visit the Office of Civic Engagement and Diversity website (getinvolved.unlv.edu). You may also visit their office in the Student Union in room 316. For quicker access, sign in to your MyUNLV website and click on the UNLV Involvement Center section. UNLV offers organizations, fraternities, sororities, and various clubs. For example, Toast Masters club is here for students who are looking to improve their public speaking skills. You may also look for non-profit organizations such as Alpha Phi Omega, if you would like to volunteer. The options are endless! UNLV offers a club for just about anything you can think of. You even have an opportunity to create your own!

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