A History of UNLV

By: Victoria Mitchell and Wesley Knight, Hixson-Lied Scholars

Today, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, or simply UNLV, is home to fifteen academic colleges, divisions, and professional schools as well as 220 undergraduate, masters, and doctorate programs. We didn’t burst out of the gate with these hefty statistics though; in fact, we weren’t even called UNLV. We started as an extension program of the University of Nevada, Reno. That’s right – we began as a baby cradled in the arms of what is now our biggest collegiate rival. UNLV did not have many facilities and the first classes were held in the auditorium dressing rooms of Las Vegas High School. The cost of the first classes was a mere $7.50 per course!

It didn’t take long until...

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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!
Coaching Corner

By: Brittany Prescott, Hixson-Lied Scholar

Cheyenne has been a coach in the Academic Success Center since August 2012, which was also her second semester as a graduate student here at UNLV. She has known since her sophomore year in college that she wanted to work directly with students in a higher education setting. She first desired to become a coach during her senior year internship in the ASC with Dr. Dan Gianoutsos where she was able to shadow a coach. During this time she found her passion in helping students succeed. After graduating in spring 2012 with Bachelors in Psychology, she decided to become a full time coach in the ASC, while pursuing a Masters in Higher Education. After she earns her masters, Cheyenne would love to become an Academic Advisor.

When asked what kind of advice she gives to her students she said planning and organization are important areas she goes over with her students. Time management is also important, along with prioritizing and making realistic goals. Cheyenne starts with a semester calendar, breaks it into weeks, and then into a daily to-do list. She also helps students break up large projects into smaller sections. She also says it is important to find out what study method works best for each student depending on their learning style. A student should study in a place that is comfortable and productive for them such as home or the library. Taking breaks is key when studying for class. According to Cheyenne, the cycle should be to study for thirty to fifty minutes and then take a break before starting again.

Cheyenne’s favorite thing about being an ASC coach is all of the success stories her students come back with about good grades, improvements, and their motivation. Cheyenne said that because of this, she never wants to lose communication with students. So, any career she pursues has to involve working with students. If Cheyenne had a chance to tell her students one important piece of advice it would be to take the time to find out what their passion is and what motivates them the most.
A History of UNLV ( Continued )

we started taking our first steps towards becoming a university. Three years after our creation, the Nevada Board of Regents rebranded us the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada, or simply, Nevada Southern. The year after that, Nevada Southern adopted its Rebel name along with its first mascot – a Confederate wolf named Beauregard, who represented us rebelling against the Wolfpack of UNR. That same year, the Rebel Yell released its first issue. Then, in 1957, we took an even bigger step toward independence when the first classes were held on campus in a towering 13,000 square-foot building. A year later, the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools accredited Nevada Southern as its own educational institution. Things didn’t stop there though; later that same year, construction was shifted into maximum overdrive and new buildings seemed to spring up overnight. A health center, a science building, and our first library were all built around this time.

   1964 was a landmark year for Nevada Southern and for the state of Nevada itself. Nevada Southern held its first graduation ceremony – with a class of just 29 students, dubbed the “Centennial Class,” as it was also Nevada’s 100th year as a state. Speaking of graduation, this was also the year that the Division of Graduate Studies was established here on campus. The following year, Nevada Southern became Nevada Southern University (NSU) and published its first catalog during the year that followed. 1966 was a year of expansion for our campus. NSU was becoming so popular with the out-of-town and out-of-state crowds that the first residence hall was erected. You know it now as the Tonopah Complex. But, what is perhaps the biggest day in our storied, albeit short, history wouldn’t come until two years later.

   The big day came in 1968 when the Nevada System of Higher Education officially recognized Nevada Southern University as its own independent entity. We were finally independent from Reno. A year after this momentous occasion, the Nevada Board of Regents approved our name change to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

   From that point on, UNLV has done nothing but continue to grow to its current state. Our total enrollment
A History of UNLV (Cont.)

surpassed UNR’s during the 1977-78 school year and it has climbed to almost 30,000 students since then. What began as classes held in the dressing rooms of a local high school has exploded into a full-fledged university over the course of almost sixty years. The campus as we know it today was nothing more than a big patch of desert along the two-lane dirt road that became Maryland Parkway. As Las Vegas boomed in the 1980s and 90s, the city grew around UNLV as the campus constantly improved and expanded to what you see around you now. Take a moment to breathe it in, for you are a part of history.

Sources:


Summer Courses

By: Brendon Herzig, Hixson-Lied Scholar

Summer classes are an easy way to earn credits and move your academic career ahead of schedule. The summer term allows students to take classes over the summer that they would normally take during the Fall or Spring semesters. These courses move at a much faster pace. A majority of the classes during Fall and Spring are attended only two days a week for 16 weeks whereas summer courses are usually attended five days a week for five weeks. Some students feel that these courses are better because they are every day and they help students concentrate on the subject material.

Students can begin their college career early and earn their degrees in a shorter time span. There are three summer sessions that students can sign up for. For Summer 2013, the session dates are as follows: Summer Session I: May 20 - June 7; Summer Session II: June 10 - July 12; Summer Session III: July 15 - August 16. To register for summer sessions, login to your MyUNLV.

Students should always consult their advisor before they sign up for classes. A list of fees for the UNLV Summer Term can be found at http://summerterm.unlv.edu/fees.php. Be sure you are aware of the terms and policies before registering for a class. To learn more about summer courses visit http://summerterm.unlv.edu or the Summer Term Office in RAJ Room 135.
UNLV Festival of Communities

By: Kelly Lutzker, Hixson-Lied Scholar

On Saturday April 20, from 11:30am to 6:00pm, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas hosted the annual Festival of Communities. They partnered with Greenfest to contribute to the message of sustainable living and community partnership, and the expression of cultural diversity it seeks to celebrate.

From the different types of ethnic foods and stands providing research-detailing ways for sustainable development to the various trinkets and accessories sold in booths, it was a mixing bowl filled to the brim with cultural diversity. Traditional African dances were performed alongside the hip-hop stylings of Swish. Eagle Taekwondo was performed in sync with the vocal talents of young children and a Japanese Cover Band. The wonderful master of ceremonies guided the audience and kept them entertained and excited.

Moreover, the festival was incredibly family-oriented. Small children ran around looking at everything, paying particular attention to the different acts and danced and sang along with them. There were several bouncy houses available as well as bumper cars to keep them entertained while their guardians and older siblings watched them.

However, it wasn’t all fun and games. There were stands placed periodically throughout the festival that gave presentations on different environmental problems such as climate change and proposed different ways to solve them. Each booth was very well researched and informative.

Overall the festival was a brilliant way for people to come together and bask in the world’s cultural differences. It was an effective way to bring about solutions to environmental degradation, and a wonderful way to spend a Saturday afternoon.

Meet an ASC Advisor

By: Natalie Costa, Hixson-Lied Scholar

Many students do not realize the importance of Academic Advisors and the dedication they have given to helping students prepare for the future. The ASC offers various methods for academic advising including in-person appointments, phone appointments and an online advising tutorial.

One of the Academic Advisors, Oak Vichaikul, has been working in the ASC for seven years this November. He is from Chicago, Illinois and earned his undergraduate degree in Music and Business at Milliken University. He then attended the University of Iowa for his Masters in Music Composition Theory. Now, Mr. Vichaikul is taking courses for Computer Science here at UNLV, while also being a full time Academic Advisor. He meets with an average of eight
Meet an ASC Advisor (Cont.)

students face-to-face each day. He helps them plan out semester schedules, and makes sure they get on the right path toward a degree.

What Mr. Vichaikul enjoys most about being an advisor is meeting with different students of different backgrounds and learning about their interests. He also likes to watch their progress as students and how their building block stages develop. He has a passion for instructional design, which is educating people about how programs work and how to build technology. He looks forward to the upcoming semester, to meeting new students, and to another year working at the ASC. Academic Advisors in the ASC have benefited so many students during their time here at UNLV. They continue to work extremely hard and do their best to help students find a major that suits them best.

ASC Bridge Program

By: Sabina Catak, Hixson-Lied Scholar

The Bridge Program, sponsored by the Academic Success Center, is designed to help students who have placed into remedial college math (MATH 95 or 96). This program is free to UNLV students who qualify for the program and complete the program. At the end of a 5-week math tutorial, student will re-test in order to determine their new math placement level. The benefit of this program is that hopefully students will place into a 100-level math course that can be applied toward their graduation requirements. The Bridge Program will be held during the summer and will include online tutorials and personal tutoring assistance. The tutors help students develop a solid understanding of collegiate level math concepts. The tutors also help students with developing note taking skills and study habits, and dealing with math anxiety.

When: First Session: June 10-July 12, 2013 (Monday-Friday)
   Second Session: July 15-August 16, 2013 (Monday-Friday)
   Morning Sections: 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
   Afternoon Sections: 1:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M.

*Attendance is Mandatory

Eligibility: UNLV students who have taken the SAT or ACT exam and place into a college preparatory class (Math 95 or Math 96).

Contact Information: ascbridge@unlv.edu or call the Academic Success Center at 702-895-3177.
Hixson-Lied Success Scholar Personal Statements

Sabina Catak, Sophomore

As a Hixson-Lied Scholar I feel accomplished to have completed my first year in the Academic Success Center community. I have learned many different lessons that I will be able to use in the future. Some of the lessons I have learned include time-management, accepting that it is impossible to be perfect, and making time for my own wellbeing. Time management is a life learning experience and every day is a day to make improvements. Throughout this journey I had a difficult time accepting that I can’t be perfect. In accepting this I am a lot less stressed, and I have improved mentally. I learned that every single day is a day to improve in any aspect of my life but perfection is not possible. Setting aside time for myself has helped me manage my stress significantly. I was juggling way too many things such as school, studying, work, my scholarship, a non-profit organization, and my sorority. After all of these activities I hardly had time to go out or even go to the gym. Over the course of this semester, I have been working on myself, because without my happiness I will not be able to accomplish any tasks without dreading them. Overall, I am content with my improvement, but still work on myself every single day.

Natalie Costa, Freshman

I started UNLV this year as a freshman without any extracurricular activities to participate in until I became a Hixson-Lied Success Scholar and became more familiar with the Academic Success Center and the campus of UNLV. I was able to take the things I learned from working at the ASC satellite location in the Student Union and apply it to my own academics. I took full advantage of the tutors on the second floor of the Lied library, I used the maps to become aware of all the buildings on campus, and I met with an Academic Success Coach once a week.

While I am meeting with advisors and coaches and taking those steps to further my college career, I have guidance. Without my Academic Success Coach I would not have been as organized and would not have been able to plan out my homework and personal life so well. My coach has taught me to stay positive and focus on one thing at a time instead of worrying about a million things at once. Visiting with him once a week has improved my study habits and prepared me for the workload of being a college student as the years get tougher.
I am thankful for the opportunities that the Hixson-Lied Scholarship has offered me and the abilities I have been able to hone through the scholarship. Each year I will grow more with the help of the ASC staff and will be able to experience new things.

Brendon Herzig, Freshman

The Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship has given me the opportunity to engage in more extracurricular activities. It has encouraged me to get academic advising that has helped me organize my schedule and better my study habits. Without the Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship and my affiliation with the ASC, I would not have sought out coaching for my study and organization skills. I have grown by becoming more involved and more open to new things. The Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship has allowed me to interact with students and answer their questions with an increased amount of information about the university. The Hixson-Lied Scholarship has given me the opportunity to grow as a student and to be a stronger member of the university’s community.

Wesley Knight, Freshman

I have to admit, my first semester was more stressful than it needed to be, but adjusting to college life is so much different than transitioning from middle to high school. This second semester has been much easier in comparison. I’ve made many new friends and feel more connected to campus life, even though I’m not in any clubs or extracurricular activities. Being part of the Hixson-Lied Scholarship has literally been life-changing – I doubt I would be able to attend college debt-free without it, and I know I wouldn’t have felt at home so quickly had I not met so many great people during my first days here. Everyone I’ve talked to has been helpful and caring; I hope to continue to see that as I further my education toward my undergraduate degree. I’ve worked so hard these past two semesters that the winter break and upcoming summer break feel earned and not just handed out – it’s a motivator in itself to be productive in one way or another during my time away from UNLV. When fall comes around, I hope to return to the wonderful people in the Academic Success Center and to the program that has already propelled me to the level of success I feel today. This semester was one of self-discovery and academia. Thank you to everyone involved in the Hixson-Lied Scholarship as well as the Academic Success Center in general for making me feel more accepted during this introductory year to higher education.
**Victoria Mitchell, Freshman**

As an average student my whole life, I had always thought that great accomplishments were out of my league and that I was destined to be ordinary. I though that because I got average grades and took average classes and did your average teenage things, there wasn’t much more I could be than average. Then I heard about a scholarship that, with my average description, I somehow fit the requirements for, so I applied. To my surprise, I had been accepted as a Hixson-Lied Success Scholar. This wasn’t ordinary. I was now part of something bigger and I felt that I was no longer average. I felt like people had seen something in me that I hadn’t seen in myself. I had traits that set me apart from my peers, I had a willingness to work hard and overcome any obstacles that were placed in my way. I had never thought of myself like that but because others did and they saw my potential I would be named a Hixson-Lied Success Scholar. This was something to be proud of and this was proof that, “Ordinary people can achieve extraordinary things,” as Ms. Hixson would say. Now I do not feel ordinary, and I plan on proving that I am extraordinary. With this scholarship, I was given the greatest opportunity I could ask for, the opportunity to attend a university, and meet some of the most kind, caring, and knowledgeable people I have ever met. I am honored to be known as a Hixson-Lied Success Scholar and to experience the opportunity of a lifetime.

**Brittany Prescott, Sophomore**

The Hixson-Lied scholarship has definitely impacted my time here at UNLV over the last year. I am extremely grateful for the program and all it has done for me. In the past two semesters, I have participated in team-building activities, assisted professors, and improved my journalist skills. I never expected to be part of a program like this, much less one that directly focuses on preparing me to be a better student, leader, and college graduate.

I have really enjoyed getting to know my fellow Hixson-Lied Scholars better, and even made a few really good friends. Over the past couple of months, I have assisted Dr. Ryan Theroux in his COLA 100E class. Dr. Theroux has been a phenomenal teacher and really cares about his students. He has given me opportunities to speak to the class about my experiences here at UNLV, and teach them a few tips I have learned since I was a freshman. In addition, I have never been part of a newsletter before, and this scholarship has allowed me know what it really feels like to be a journalist. This last year has been really great and I look forward to the years to come.
Garrett Wilson, Sophomore

My time as a Hixson-Lied Success Scholar this past year has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my academic career. Not only have I learned skills that have made me a better student, but a better person as well. The skills that I have learned ensure my ongoing success in the academic and professional world. I have taken away many things from this program and continue to grow each day.

As a Hixson-Lied Success Scholar, I have formed bonds and learned lessons that will last a lifetime. When I began my college career, I was just a normal student, going through the motions with no worthwhile college experience. When I was accepted into the program, I quickly learned how to not only better myself as a person through the pursuit of success, but to help others achieve their goals as well. What I have taken away from a single year is enough knowledge to perpetuate my ongoing pursuit of outstanding achievement as an individual.

From left to right: Kelly Lutzker, Victoria Mitchell, Sabina Catak, Brittany Prescott, Wesley Knight, Ms. Christina Hixson, Garrett Wilson, Natalie Costa, Brendon Herzig

At the last monthly meeting of the inaugural academic year for the Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship, Ms. Christina Hixson visited the Scholars. As the Scholars introduced themselves to her, Ms. Hixson provided words of encouragement to them over lunch. Then, everyone had cheesecake!
A Student’s Tips to Successfully Attack Finals  
By: Garrett Wilson, Hixson-Lied Scholar

The world’s leading academic experts can give theories on how students should study, but at times, that may not fit a student’s personal learning style. Students who want to be successful in school have to know how to study effectively. Here are some tips that will be sure to help you achieve success during Finals Week.

1. Time Management: It is essential to get in study time for finals, prioritize your obligations to maximize your success.
2. Spread out Study Time: Do not cram. It’s as simple as that. Your mind will not have a chance to process all the information you loaded in one night. Over a span of three to four weeks, study for half an hour to an hour a night.
3. Take Breaks: Do not exhaust yourself with long hauls of studying. Allocate a break in between study times or subjects.
4. Know What to Study: Clarify what format the test will take, i.e., multiple choice, free response, hybrid, etc. Determine what content is being covered and study accordingly.
5. Use YOUR Study Style: You know what works and what does not work for you.
6. SLEEP: Get eight hours. No exceptions.
7. Eat well the day of the test: Do not grab a Pop-tart® and run out the door, take the time to make yourself a meal and enjoy it.
8. Flex your mind: Do a logic puzzle, do a crossword, read a book. Do anything that will stimulate your mind.
9. Stay positive: Go in with a positive attitude. Confidence will counteract any nerves that you have.
10. Relax: Do not worry. Go in, stay positive, and keep your cool. It will turn out great. Believe in yourself.