Bill McBeath Named College Alumnus of the Year

Bill McBeath ’86 was awarded the Harrah Hotel College Alumnus of the Year award at the annual homecoming dinner at UNLV’s Tam Alumni Center. Each year, the college is asked to select an outstanding alumnus to represent the college and receive the award as a symbol of appreciation for his or her contributions, support, and dedication. McBeath has served on the college’s alumni board of directors as the development co-chairperson for two years.

McBeath is president and chief operating officer of The Mirage. He joined Mirage Resorts in 1987 when he was accepted into the company’s first Management Associate Program at the Golden Nugget. After completing the program, he started his career in the gaming industry. Since then, he has held key management positions throughout the Mirage Resorts family of companies. Upon completion of the MGM MIRAGE merger in June 2000, McBeath was promoted to his current position.

In addition to his work responsibilities, McBeath is an active member of the Las Vegas community and serves as a member of a number of boards and task forces.

During the homecoming festivities, the Alumni Association honored Mike Saltman with the Silver State Award. Saltman, an attorney by training, is the managing general partner and president of the Vista Management Group, a company whose interests include real estate, property management, and mortgage brokering.

James J. Ratigan received the 2004 Outstanding Alumnus honor. He graduated with a bachelor of science in Business Administration degree in 1978 and is a former president of the UNLV Alumni Association. Ratigan, previously owned Advanced Cyberservices, and is now working with NevSys, an information technology services provider.

UNLV Alumni Contribute to Growth of Golf

The Golf for Business and Life program recently got a big boost from the most prestigious organization of the sport – the Professional Golf Association. While many people cheered on the golf games of UNLV alumni Chad Campbell ’97 (Hotel Administration) and Chris Riley ’96 (Communication Studies), the two graduates did something that makes UNLV cheer - they added to their winning streak by designating the UNLV Golf for Business and Life program to receive grants through the PGA Growth of the Game program.

Since 1999, the PGA of America has distributed more than $2.4 million to colleges and universities throughout the United States on behalf of members of the U.S. Ryder Cup Team. Each captain and the 12 players designate $100,000 to the universities of their choice in support of the PGA’s initiative to growing participation in the game of golf.

Through the financial assistance of these grants, PGA professionals can develop and administer

See “Golf” on page 5
DEAN’S MESSAGE

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

As we work on many fronts trying to achieve one of our strategic goals of fostering an equitable environment that values diversity, I think it is important for our constituencies to know how we are engaged with these efforts.

Over the last six years as dean, I have worked very hard to diversify our faculty and staff ranks. The number of people employed in these positions from under-represented groups has now reached 21 percent of the total faculty and staff. These individuals are outstanding role models for the students we are trying to attract to our programs and for working within the industry in the training of management staff.

We must recruit many more minority students to our programs. Our intent is to retain and graduate these students so that they can move up in the management ranks in an industry quite underrepresented with these minorities. Moving forward with this endeavor, we have designated money to create the positions of director of diversity initiatives and a graduate assistantship to assist with minority recruiting.

Toward this end, we have a contract with the Barona tribe to deliver training to the management staff of the Barona Valley Ranch Resort in Lakeside, Calif. Selected faculty members of the college travel to Lakeside, in the San Diego area, and deliver day-long seminars on a variety of subjects that will improve the management capabilities of the resort staff. We have had a similar program in New Mexico with the Taos Mountain tribe.

Yet another program has been given the name “Eagle Feather.” It is a multipurpose program to deliver training for tribal members managing casinos and to encourage Indian youth to attend UNLV for the purpose of obtaining an undergraduate degree in hotel administration. This program will be launched in the beginning of 2005.

On the academic front, in order to increase the number of students enrolled in our degree programs from under-represented groups, we have first worked to raise scholarship funds. To date we have raised in excess of $800,000 in scholarship and diversity related initiatives funding.

A $500,000 grant from the MGM MIRAGE Corporation for diversity initiatives has enabled us to provide scholarships and has created a working partnership that has been of benefit to both UNLV and the company. The scholarship recipients from this source have been designated as “MGM MIRAGE Scholars” and are provided special internships with the organization. Executives from the corporation deliver lectures to the students in a classroom setting once a week each semester.

A technology grant from the Cherokee Nation, used to configure one of our classrooms for two-way audio/video, has enabled us to deliver our resident education courses to the tribal members in Oklahoma. We have members of the Cherokee tribe taking our courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

In an agreement with Fort Valley State University in Fort Valley, Ga., a historically black university, students begin their studies in foods and nutrition and then transfer to UNLV after two years. Upon transfer, these students enter the bachelor’s in hotel administration program. Upon completion of their studies, the students receive two degrees, one from Fort Valley State and the other from UNLV. We are currently negotiating agreements with other similar institutions, including Morgan State, North Carolina Central, and Bethune Cookman.

Our faculty and staff created “Be a Rebel Day” to bring students from the local Las Vegas high schools to see what the Harrah Hotel College and UNLV are all about. While this program is not specifically directed at minority populations, the students in the local schools represent the entire range of students that we are trying to attract to our programs.

Our director of diversity initiatives and the minority recruiter spend many hours at CCSN. More than 50 percent of the total student population in the community college system is minority students, therefore this is a fertile ground for our recruiting efforts.

These are just a few of the efforts with which we are engaged. It is my hope that shortly I will be able to report to you many successes in our drive to achieve the goal of creating a diverse and equitable environment both within our UNLV ranks and within the management ranks of the constituencies we serve.
Education Program Promotes Special Events in South Africa

Special events are my life. I work in the industry, I teach special events management in the tourism and convention administration department of the hotel college, and I also conduct research in the area of special events management. Through conferences and trade shows, I have had the opportunity to meet some brilliantly creative people who produce extraordinary events, collect awards, write books, and even appear in popular television shows. In this arena of amazingly produced special events emerges a breath of fresh air - Janet Landey.

With the energy of ten people, Landey, the owner of Party Design Group in Johannesburg, South Africa, is on a mission to show how events can be purposeful, taking on meaning that some of us have never imagined. She has a thirst for knowledge, a passion for globalization of event industry standards, and a tremendous heart.

She has a vision of her company being a sustainable and profitable event design business by actively contributing towards Peace and Poverty Alleviation Through Events. Landey is committed to empowering individuals, through the communities in which they live, to set up profitable, sustainable supplier groups that will contribute to the growing cultural and heritage tourism market through events and related products. She believes the events industry can have a significant impact on tourism as well as the social, economic, and cultural health and wealth of a destination and its community.

Landey works toward her goals by offering courses and has created the Institute of Event Management, a forum for voluntary contribution towards raising industry awareness and standards for its future growth. The Institute of Event Management recently hosted the International Event Management Conference, which included the EMBOK (Event Management Body of Knowledge) Imbizo (Zulu word for “gathering”). I was asked to participate in this endeavor to quantify the scope and framework of performance-based process standards for event management and to create a viable knowledge system to support the industry and its practitioners everywhere.

In addition to the conference, we traveled throughout South Africa. It was an exhilarating experience for those of us who attended events planned by the learners. In Alexandra, a group of six has come together to form eParty Alexandra. These learners are involved in a number of community projects: a soccer tournament for children 12 years of age and under; the Alexandra 90th Celebration Parade; and their first income generating project, Alex Arts & Film Festival.

Landey states, “In the end, in the years to come, we will have wonderful community events and experiences that tourists will be honored to be a part of. When the tourists come, there will be wonderful opportunities to spend money in the community and leave privileged to have been a part of it all – the past, the present, and the opportunity to contribute towards the future.”

Kathy Nelson, ’04, Ph.D., CSEP, CMP contributed this article to Premier.

Banfi Fellowship Offers Students an Experience of a Lifetime in Italy

When I heard about the opportunity to travel through Italy, studying the foods and wines of the various regions, courtesy of Banfi Wineries on a Banfi Research Fellowship, I knew I would have to prove my dedication to the food and beverage field to be chosen. The interview process was a good opportunity to let my enthusiasm shine through and I was thrilled to be accepted.

Chef Jean Hertzman, Sara Janovsky, Joshua Sandmel, Loren Mack, and I arrived in Milan on July 10. After meeting our fellow travelers, we stopped at Vigne Regali, a Banfi winery, and visited Cantine Rüinete, Europe’s most modern winery.

In Tuscany, we stayed in Montalcino, where we relaxed, learned about each other, and bonded as a group of professionals and students passionate about food and wine.

At Castello Banfi, we learned to make regional specialties, attended a lecture and wine tasting, and

See “Banfi” on page 5
Online Master of Hospitality Degree Offers Learning from Students’ Homes

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ith today’s busy schedules, it’s often difficult for students to find time to attend classes, even if they really have their minds set on earning a graduate degree. Now there is a solution—the Internet-based Executive Master of Hospitality Administration Degree. Designed for those who want to earn a graduate degree but are not able to attend classes on a fixed schedule, the program makes it possible to earn a master’s degree with no time away from home or work. The curriculum is delivered entirely over the Internet so students can access courses even when they are traveling.

The “action-learning” instructional design of the program allows students to use their real world experience toward their degree. Part of the coursework involves research on a problem or issue that the students’ company is presently facing. As a result, students can enhance their problem-solving skills in today’s hospitality environment.

The format for courses simulates the classroom/faceto-face experience through the use of chat rooms, discussion groups, and e-mails facilitated by the instructor. Students have the opportunity to virtually interact with other professionals in the industry. Books and course materials are mailed directly to the students.

Debbie Howarth ’03 MHA Hotel Administration had looked into graduate degree programs off and on for several years before deciding to enter the program at UNLV. As a member of the Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HMSAI), she was intrigued to read about the new master’s degree program at UNLV a few years ago. She e-mailed a letter of interest and after a year of communicating with the school, became part of the program. As she puts it, “the rest is history!”

She thought that the quality of education was very good. “The fact that UNLV ranks highly amongst other hospitality colleges and that I was able to tap into those faculty members that made UNLV so successful was valuable.” Howarth believes that the keys to online education are self-motivation and the ability to learn from others. The class discussions are what make or break the success of the class.

“As a college professor, I have discussed with administrators that success in online courses is hard for students on the baccalaureate level or under,” she says. “Undergraduate students need the traditional classroom format to motivate them and to determine material comprehension. However, on the graduate level, I think online learning is valuable and an important niche. Aside from the ease of juggling full-time jobs, families, and other commitments, the ability to interact with colleagues around the country in various disciplines is the greater learning experience.

“It’s a great program but you do need to be disciplined to read the materials and do the assignments without a professor standing over you and lecturing at you. It’s a great way to learn if you have that motivation,” explains Howarth, who is now looking forward to an online Ph.D. program.

Amy Beaulieu ’03 is another student who recently graduated with an MHA degree. “I was part of an industry listserv and I saw Patti Shock’s signature line. I didn’t even know that schools offered degrees in hospitality until I saw that. I was working for a nonprofit and as a meeting planner. I had already joined MPI (Meeting Planners International) and was getting my hands on everything industry-related that I could.”

She says she always knew that she wanted to pursue a master’s degree, but just did not know in what subject. “I e-mailed UNLV and received all the information and originally, I thought my husband and I would need move to Las Vegas for me to complete the program. About a month after receiving the information, I got an e-mail telling me that they were going to do an online master’s degree,” she says. The college asked for Beaulieu’s participation and she became the first person to enroll in the program, as well as the first to graduate from it.

Beaulieu thought the program was a worthwhile experience. “It was taught a lot like an MBA program – the first year includes marketing, finance, human resources, etc., then the second year’s focus is on meetings, events, and research. Doing a professional paper from halfway across the country wasn’t so bad – luckily, my peers and I had developed close friendships and were able to guide each other through the process,” she explains.

Having the degree has helped her gain recognition in her industry. Because of research she did for her professional paper, Beaulieu now sits on MPI’s Multicultural Initiative Committee. As a direct result of her advanced degree, she recently accepted a position as the associate director of operations for USA Hosts.

Another member of the class of 2003 is Kristine Swift. After setting her sights on a master’s degree, she took the GMAT and began looking into various programs. She first thought about studying for an MBA, since her undergraduate degree is in business. However, with her full-time work schedule, which includes extensive travel, she needed to either do an online program or an executive program. She began her MBA graduate studies through the University of Phoenix and the University of Tampa but soon realized what she was learning was not really applicable to the meeting planning industry.

“I knew that UNLV was one of the top-rated hotel schools in the country,” says Swift. “I was thrilled to learn that they offered an on-line program. The university has so much to offer students.”

This past June, she was honored by the Tampa Bay Area MPI Chapter as Meeting Planner of the Year. One of the reasons cited for her award was the research that she did on the CMP (Certified Meeting Planner) designation, research that was a requirement of the master’s program.
Why I Chose to Work in this Industry

I did not choose this industry; it chose me. Being the youngest of eight children, we all knew we were to support ourselves by the age of 13. I got a job running the snack bar at our swim club and fell in love with the challenges of providing the right product, keeping customers happy, making money, and improving sales. That was 40 years ago and today, most of my excitement revolves around those same challenges with incredibly different complexities. I went from there to working in a college cafeteria, then moving up to operations management and human resources in the contract management segment. This eventually led me to consulting and now, executive and team coaching in the hospitality industry.

To simplify, this industry is all about people, profits, and products. How they interact, how they affect each other, how we can impact them by our knowledge and skills, and how to do it better today than the way we did it yesterday is the heart and soul of the attraction. People are the cornerstone. The people you serve, the people you lead, the people you develop, and your own personal journey is the greatest thrill and the most intense and addictive part of the industry for me. A mentor once told me, “You have the opportunity to affect a lot of lives, use it wisely.” Teaching the joy of serving, embracing the diplomacy of dealing with a disappointed guest, encouraging a person to improve their skills levels and discovering your own true authenticity are all benefits of working in hospitality.

The ability to analyze, evaluate and adjust operations to improve profits is the greatest chess game. It takes knowledge, strategy, insight and risk taking. Nothing in an operation exists on its own and that interconnectivity is the key to the excitement. Every day is new in this industry. It is filled with issues that affect the mind, the heart, and the soul. I choose this industry over and over for that extreme sense of complete challenge and fulfillment. It is driven by passion and fed by complexity.

Debi Benedetti
Strategist, Coach and Explorer
Beyond the Possible

Harrah Hotel College
National Advisory Board Member

This summer, students (from left) Loren Mack, Susan Price, Sara Janovsky, and Joshua Sandmel, traveled to Italy for an educational culinary tour. Chef Jean Hertzman (center) led the students’ experience.

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toured the facilities. We even enjoyed a gala dinner in a Michelin-starred restaurant, where medieval flag bearers and acrobats greeted us. Afterwards, we spent two nights in Rome.

This trip was the best experience of my life—an asset for my career, an unparalleled learning experience, and a chance to meet people that will forever be an important part of my life. I cannot express enough gratitude to Banfi, which treated us like royalty, and chef Jean Hertzman, my trip leader, professor, and mentor.

Susan Price ‘04 contributed this article to Premier.

“Golf” from page 1
important programs that open doors of opportunity for participants to enter the game and ultimately, remain a part of a growing golf population. According to the PGA, these grants touch virtually all sectors of society.

The Golf for Business and Life program is a Harrah Hotel College initiative, designed to teach and improve the golf skill of juniors, seniors, and graduate students through instruction provided by PGA professionals, and to suggest ways in which the students can use golf as a business tool as they enter the professional world.

Proper golf instruction is the backbone to the PGA professionals as education is to the universities. Combining these two institutions and their expertise in an effort to better prepare a student is vital, and has potentially tremendous positive impact to the students, the universities and the PGA of America.

With the $100,000 grant from Campbell and one totaling $80,000 from Riley, the program will be able to grow appropriately.
Summer Studies in Switzerland: Another Huge Success

This year, the Summer Studies in Switzerland program continued its history of successfully combining summer travel abroad and intensive education in hospitality management. The program was filled to capacity in October 2003 with a group of 36 enthusiastic students from UNLV, other American hospitality schools, and for the first time, two from Peru.

Nine credit hours were offered for three courses during the five-week session. The students’ work started in Las Vegas where each was assigned a topic for the European travel and tourism class. They were required to prepare a report about one of the destination cities. During the travels, these reports provided valuable information and gave the students first-hand experience researching and arranging international travel in Europe.

The hospitality law class was modified to account for international law and to highlight the operational differences between U.S. and European laws. The students learned not only how to anticipate and prevent legal problems but also how differences in law lead directly to differences in operational policies and practices.

The program began in July in Montreux, Switzerland, with classes also held in Rimini, Italy and Lausanne, Switzerland. Organized sightseeing excursions included Rome, Florence, Venice, Nice, and Paris.

UNLV students gain experience working at the Hotel Institute of Montreux in Switzerland during their five-week summer program.

The primary educational achievement of this year’s program was the placement of all of our hotel internship students in practical work situations in Swiss and Italian hotels and restaurants. The students rotated through different departments, including housekeeping, laundry, front office, and food and beverage. Putting students to work in European hotels and restaurants gave them the opportunity to learn about European business and corporate mentality as well as become familiar with foreign hotel operations.

The hotel internship also included a group project, in which students studied comparisons and contrasts between U.S. and European operational standards and rating systems. Students conducted a number of field trips and interviews with hotel managers of both American and European hotels, which helped them in their research and gave them a better understanding of international standards and operations.

Mohsen Azizsoltani ’93 M.S. contributed this article to Premier.

Las Vegas International Hospitality & Convention Summit Makes a Good First Impression

The inaugural offering of the Las Vegas International Hospitality & Convention Summit was a great success. Held at the Stan Fulton Building in early June, there were 96 attendees from seven countries as well as six exhibitors. During the course of the summit, there were 24 academic paper presentations, 15 industry presentations, six technology sessions, three panel discussions, and seven property tours of some of Las Vegas’ most outstanding hotel/casinos.

The summit had a number of high-profile sponsors, including the International Association of Exposition Management, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor’s Authority, and Meeting Professionals International. Speakers included Steven Hacker, President of IAEM; David Kushner, president of the Professional Convention Management Association; Juli Jones, Convention Industry Council; Felix Rappaport, New York/New York Hotel & Casino; and John Sweeney, Global Resorts, Inc.

In addition, Certified Hospitality Educator (CHE) training, from the Educational Institute of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, was offered in conjunction with the summit.

Plans are already underway for next summer’s event, which is being scheduled for June 5 - 7. Sponsorships are available and information is located at http://www.tca.unlv.edu/summit. If you or someone you know is interested in presenting at the summit, the call for papers is also available on the website.
ARTSPRING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT AN E W HOSPITALITY CAMPUS BEING BUILT NEAR THE SITE OF THE 3TAN & ULTON BUILDING BEGAN TO SURFACE. HERUMORS OF A PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL PLAY HOMETO AN ARRASHOTEL, COLLEGE BUILDING AND ALSO HOST A STATE OF THE ART HOTEL, TIMESHARE, CONFERENCE FACILITIES, AND A FINE DINING RESTAURANT ARE FINALLY BECOMING REALITY. IN EARLY MARCH, AN ELITE TEAM OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT STUDENTS WAS ASSEMBLED TO HELP GATHER RESEARCH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT'S MARKET STUDY. THE TEAM WAS LEAD BY THE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT'S COORDINATOR, RUSSELL DAZZIO, CEO OF R&R HOTEL GROUP, A CALIFORNIA-BASED HOTEL FIRM. AFTER MEETING DAZZIO LAST YEAR, DEAN STUART H. MANN RECRUITED HIM TO LEAD THE PROJECT. BOTH MEN BELIEVED THAT BY PAIRING TOP STUDENTS WITH AN EXPERIENCED INDUSTRY LEADER, THEY COULD COMBINE AN INNOVATIVE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT IN THE COLLEGE'S HISTORY. IN KEEPING WITH THE STATED OBJECTIVES OF THIS REVOLUTIONARY ACADEMIC COURSE, THE STUDENTS WILL FOLLOW THE HOSPITALITY CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FROM MARKET STUDY TO GROUNDBREAKING. WITH THE FIRST PHASE OF THE STUDY NOW COMPLETED; MOMENTUM IS BUILDING AND THE PROJECT HAS ENTERED THE CRITICAL STAGE OF SECURING OVERALL UNIVERSITY APPROVAL AND LOCATING SOURCES FOR FUNDING.

FACTS ABOUT THE PROJECT:

- **Who?** Russell Dazzio, a 1973 graduate of the Harrah Hotel College, is Chairman & CEO of R&R Hotel Group and is responsible for the coordination of all aspects of the development now under study. He reports directly to dean Stuart Mann and also is an active Harrah Hotel College visiting professor.

- **What?** LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Designs) is a program that will be employed for the creation of the hospitality campus. This program is the essence of constructing “cutting-edge” buildings that will represent what the hotel of tomorrow will look like today. Especially important to concept is the fact that the focus of this development is on the interrelationship between buildings and people. The superior design of such structures differentiates these buildings from the rest and will symbolize a holistic view of how future hotels may be built and operated using advanced technologies. The hospitality campus facilities will be operated by experienced executives and staffed intermittently by students. The project is targeted to open in 2007.

- **Why?** The question has arisen on occasion why the university needs to build hotel, timeshare and conference facilities on campus when a plethora of mega-hotels is only minutes away. The simple answer is that this development is not about replacing the learning laboratory that is the Las Vegas Strip. Rather, it is about providing hospitality facilities on campus that will allow the university to perform groundbreaking research and distance learning programs that it cannot otherwise pursue. It is also about providing a means to build a much-needed larger academic building by using commercial hospitality components as revenue generators to underwrite project costs.

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**Project Master Site**

**Plan Prepared By:** Dekker/Perich/Holmes/Sabatini Architecture.

**Additional details about the students involved in this endeavor can be found at www.unlvhoteldevelopment.com.**

**Address all inquiries concerning how to financially or otherwise support this project to:**

UNLV Hospitality Campus Development Project
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy.,
Box 456013
Las Vegas, NV 89154-6013
Hotel College Welcomes New Faculty

The Harrah Hotel College is pleased to welcome new faculty members this fall. With their various backgrounds, they bring a variety of teaching and research methods that will continue to help diversify the program.

Christopher Cain, M.S., Director, Professional Golf Management
Golf expert Christopher Cain is a 1998 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University professional golf management program. He received his master of science in leisure studies from Pennsylvania State University in August of 2004. He has worked at Pocono Farms Country Club in Tobyhanna, Penn., the Tournament Players Club at the Canyons in Las Vegas, and the department of intercollegiate athletics as Penn State's head golf professional for three years. While he was employed there, the facility was recognized as America's Top 100 Golf Shops and Merchandiser of the Year for the Philadelphia PGA Section.

Clark Kincaid, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Clark Kincaid received his doctoral degree in hospitality administration from UNLV in 2003. In addition to his Ph.D., Kincaid holds a master's degree from UNLV and a bachelor's degree from Southern Utah State College. Prior to continuing his education, Kincaid spent more than 20 years working in restaurant operations, 16 of those years with Chart House restaurants. His last post there was as director of operations for the southeast region, where he was in charge of supervising 17 restaurants.

Kincaid teaches courses in professional development, marketing, and organizational behavior.

Kathryn Braun-LaTour, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Kathryn Braun-LaTour's main research focus has been on the complexity to human memory and she has published numerous articles on the subject. She received her Ph.D. in Marketing from the University of Iowa in 1997 and her article “Reconstructive Memory in Customer Decision Making” won the prestigious Ferber Award for best dissertation-based article from the Association for Consumer Research. From 1997-2001 she served as a visiting scholar/research associate in the Mind of the Market Lab at the Harvard Business School.

She is especially known for her research on the reconstructive nature of recall and has been written about in the popular press, including USA Today and The Oregonian.

Debra Ann Pace, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Debra Ann Pace completed her B.S. and M.Ed. in human movement at Boston University in 1996. Upon graduation, she traveled to Rabat, Morocco where she taught physical education and health while coaching soccer, softball, swimming, track and field, and volleyball at the Rabat American School. She then spent four years teaching physical education and health in Brookline, Mass.

Pace completed her Ph.D. in sport and exercise management at Ohio State University. While working on her degree, she conducted research for Columbus Public Schools and coached at Ohio Wesleyan University. She taught in the division of sports administration at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio last year. Her areas of interest are youth development through participation in sport programs and the role mentoring plays in both youth and professional development.

Debra Pace and Kurt Stahura

Kurt A. Stahura, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Kurt Stahura completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin before receiving his M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota where he graduated Phi Kappa Phi in degrees in sport sociology. In addition to teaching courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level in a number of topics associated with sports, Stahura has published more than 15 articles and has delivered more than 40 presentations.

His research has focused on race and gender issues in sport as well as the social trends within intercollegiate and in professional sports.
UNLV Participates in International Tourism Conference

You may know that faculty or graduate students conduct nearly all of the research in hospitality schools around the world. Four years ago, I became aware of a European conference that strongly promotes undergraduate research. This annual conference was conducted by a consortium of thirteen member schools representing Europe, Cuba, and Mexico.

I contacted one of its founders to ask for his assistance in granting our college the right to participate as the sole United States representative. After he presented a proposal to the consortium board of directors, they agreed to accept UNLV as the newest member, even though the consortium’s intentions were to keep the membership from growing beyond the original thirteen.

The conference location rotates among its members’ countries, giving participants a glimpse into different tourism industries. The 2003 conference was in Greece, this year’s was in Finland, and next May, Madrid will sponsor the program. The host country picks the conference’s research topic, and because many European hotel schools are strongly focused on tourism, most research topics are related. Recent themes have included heritage tourism and eco-tourism; next year’s conference will explore urban tourism development.

Students who qualify to participate are interviewed and selected by October and immediately begin working on their reports. During the last two years, UNLV students have traveled to the Grand Canyon and Yosemite National Park to gather information, and conducted a number of interviews to collect data needed for their research and presentation.

The UNLV student delegations have produced two professional papers, one of which won top recognition in Finland. Students credit Audrey McCool, the faculty advisor for their research, as she has significantly contributed to their success.

Mohsen Azizsoltani ’93 M.S. contributed this article to Premier.

Below, right, classmates Sam Ruttmman ’82 (left) and Andy Nazarechuk ’79, ’85, along with their wives, Yong Ran Ruttmman (left center) and Lisa Nazarechuk (right center) reunite at the Dusit Laguna in Phuket, Thailand, where Ruttmman is the general manager.

Above, Dean Stuart H. Mann meets with a member of Sentosa Leisure Group and a representative of US Commercial Service in Singapore. Sentosa is Singapore’s premier island resort and hosts four million tourists each year.

Right, Professor Andy Nazarechuk ’79, ’85, visits with L.H. Ainsworth, executive chairman, Ainsworth Game Technology—one of the largest slot machine manufacturers in the world during Singapore’s inaugural Asian Gaming Expo.


**Congratulations**

Bill Paulos ’69 was recently honored by the Foodservice and Hospitality Industry Alliance for City of Hope with the Spirit of Life Award. Paulos was recognized for his exceptional achievements as an entrepreneur, industry leader, and philanthropist. The award is the most prestigious honor given on behalf of City of Hope and presented to individuals who have made an invaluable contribution to both their community and profession.

Seyhmu Baloglu has been appointed assistant dean for research. A professor at UNLV since 1996, his new position will include promoting scholarship and research within the college as well as assisting faculty in securing grants and contracts. He will also serve as a liaison for the office of the vice president for research and graduate studies and as a member of the dean’s executive committee.

The Food and Beverage Management Department is pleased to announce the appointment of Don Bell as director of the beverage management program and chef Jean Hertzman as the director of the foodservice management program.

UNLV professors Michael C. Dalbor (William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration) and Robert E. Chatfield (College of Business) recently co-authored a textbook titled Hospitality Financial Management. For more information about their book, visit www.prenhall.com/chatfield

Gail Sammons ’87 M.S. has been appointed interim department chairperson for the department of hotel management.

The graduate studies office recently named Kathy Nelson ’94, ’96 M.S., ’04 Ph.D. as the university’s director of master of science programs.

A group of faculty and graduate students recently received a Certified Hospitality Educator (CHE) certification from the Educational Institute of the American Hotel & Lodging Association. The CHE training was held in tandem with the Las Vegas International Hospitality & Convention Summit. Congratulations to:
- Xiacheng "Billy" Bai, faculty
- Deborah Barrash, faculty
- So Young Boo, Ph.D. student
- Kathryn A. Braun-LaTour, faculty
- Hyun Kyung Chatfield, Ph.D. student
- Seonghee Cho, Ph.D. student
- Wanda M. Costen, faculty
- Nancy D. Matheny, adjunct professor
- Karl Mayer, faculty
- Collin D. Rameen, faculty
- Eunju Suh, Ph.D. student
- Henry Tsai, Ph.D. student

UNLV professors Patti Shock and John Stefanelli, together with John Bowen from the University of Houston, recently co-authored the book, Restaurant Marketing for Owners & Managers. The book was written for the industry market and is available at www.amazon.com.

Youngsan University President Guwuck Bu, LL.D. and UNLV president Carol C. Harter signed an agreement of academic cooperation between the hospitality programs at UNLV and Youngsan University in South Korea. This provides both institutions with an opportunity for collaborative faculty and student research. The college is pleased to extend its cooperative efforts further into South Korea to complement an existing agreement in Seoul with Kyung Hee University.

Dr. Carol C. Harter and Youngsan University President Guwuck Bu.
Alumni Updates

1970s
Bernard “Bernie” Fried '79 has been teaching at UNLV for 15 years and is an associate professor in the department of tourism and convention. He can be reached by e-mail at fried@ccmail.nevada.edu.

Rakesh K. Bhatnagar '78 was named vice president of purchasing for the three gaming resort properties of American Casino & Entertainment Properties, LLC (i.e., the Stratosphere Casino Hotel & Tower, Arizona Charlie’s Decatur and Arizona Charlie’s Boulder).

1980s
Jann Butler '82 was married in June on top of Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau, Alaska. She is currently the human resources director for the chief software architect and chairman of the board for Microsoft, where she has worked for more than seven years.

Edwin Conway '88 M.S. has been named general manager of the Sedona Rouge Hotel & Spa (www.sedonarouge.com), a new boutique hotel opening in spring 2005 in Sedona, Ariz.

Kai Fischer '85 relocated to Texas with his wife Colleen and children, Sierra, 8, Tyler, 7, and Austin, 4, from Marriott's headquarters in Bethesda, Md. He is now the general manager of the Dallas Solana Marriott.

Glenn Plantone '83 recently moved back to Las Vegas after being gone for 17 years. He now works full time as a real estate investor.

Chris Stanley '89 lives in Fairfield, Conn., and works with Starwood Hotels & Resorts as the director of franchise development in White Plains, N.Y.

1990s
Chris Allen '98 was recently named general manager for La Quinta Inn & Suites Westminster Promenade in Westminster, Colo.

April Aloia '95 is an instructor at Orange Coast College in Calif., which offers an associate of arts degree in hotel management. She teaches hotel operations, guest relations, and leadership skills. She has been married for 16 years and keeps busy with three children, ages 15, 12 and 4. They live close to the beach and spend a lot of time there, body-boarding and collecting shells. She hopes to attend UNLVino in 2005 and says “Aloha!” to her UNLV friends.

Darin Linkin '90 was recently promoted to donor recruitment manager of United Blood Services in Las Vegas. After serving as a donor recruiter for more than three years, he now oversees all donor recruiters. United Blood Services is the sole blood provider for 21 hospitals in Southern Nevada and parts of California and Arizona. If alumni have interest in sponsoring a blood drive as a group, please contact him at dlarkin@bloodsystems.org.

Katherine Ocampo ’98 is in her last year of law school at Western Sierra Law School and plans to take the California Bar next July. She is currently an intern at the public defender's office in San Diego.

Ma-Liza Mangalindan Ochiai '93 is the owner of two Aloha Kitchen restaurants in Las Vegas, including one next to the UNLV campus. She invites alumni to stop by and visit.

Michele Aydelott Polci '90 received two awards at the annual NACE (National Association of Catering Executives) Educational Conference in San Diego in July. She was honored for “Best On-Premise Event” for events executed at the Rio All-Suite Hotel Casino, where she works as the senior catering sales manager.

Evelyn Ramos '94 became a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) in March 2004 and recently began working as one of the senior sales managers for the House of Blues Las Vegas.

2000s
Bruce Cole '04 recently moved to Kansas City, Mo., and works for the Fairmont Hotels & Resorts as a housekeeping manager.

Samantha Cook '00 is currently the employment manager at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe Resort, Spa & Casino. She has worked for Hyatt Corporation for four years and currently resides in Incline Village, Nev.

Debbie Howarth '03 MHA was appointed as assistant professor in the hospitality college at Johnson & Wales University, where she lives in Plainville, Mass.

Leslie O'Mullan Morgan '00 is currently the event manager for the Las Vegas Marriott Suites. She can be reached by e-mail at Leslie.Morgan@Marriott.com or westlile@aol.com.

Kristine Swift '03 MHA was selected by the Tampa Bay Area MPI Chapter as “Meeting Planner of the Year” in June 2004.

Add Venyige '00 worked for a year following graduation at a banquet facility in Los Angeles overseeing the operation of six banquet halls, a staff of 150, and three full production kitchens. In 2001, he left the company and started Voila Gourmet Catering, specializing in Corporate Events and Private Parties. Venyige can be reached at www.voilacaterers.com or at (310) 467-2633.

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