

UNLV

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2026

Out of This World

**AT THE NEVADA NATIONAL TEST SITES, STUDENTS WALK IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ASTRONAUTS.
THE GOAL: TO HELP NASA PREPARE FOR THE NEXT MOON LANDING**

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**+ MEET THE RAD GRADS
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What's Inside



14

On the Right Track

A series of fortuitous events helped former sprinters Kaysha Love (above) and Azaria Hill fulfill their Olympic dreams. Here's how UNLV helped them get there.



33

The Future of Business

The Lee Business School is getting a new home, a place designed for how business is learned today — and how it will be led tomorrow.



24

Out of This World

UNLV engineering and science students test an experiential course partially designed for NASA astronauts returning to the moon. It's just one of the ways that UNLV's partnership with the Nevada National Security Sites helps elevate Rebel experiences.

THE COVER



[PHOTO: NEVADA NATIONAL SECURITY SITES]

DEPARTMENTS

3
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

4
THE FLASHLIGHT

14
SPORTS

18
RESEARCH

36
ALUMNI NEWS & CLASS NOTES

48
BACK STORY



Our flagship publication is free for alumni and friends, but distribution is limited. Opt in now to keep getting the print copy or to request a digital version.



“Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to learn and thrive. Education is the best gift anyone can give because no one can take it away.”

Ginger Vical, Business Economics
Nevada Gold Mines Honors Scholarship Recipient

Generosity Creates Possibility

UNLV FOUNDATION

UNLV

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, wishes to acknowledge and honor the Indigenous communities of this region, and recognize that the university is situated on the traditional homelands of the Nuwu (noo-woo), Southern Paiute (pai-oot) People.

Full statement:

unlv.edu/land-acknowledgement

From the President

Built By and For This Community

Las Vegas — or UNLV, for that matter — was not supposed to be here. In a natural environment with so little water and extreme heat, it took a lot of vision, innovation, and smart, hard-working people to make this a place where more than 2 million people now thrive. The city is a testament to the fact that there is nothing more powerful than a group of people coming together with a shared mission.

Universities bring together the world's leading experts in nearly every topic imaginable to educate the next generation and drive innovation. Our mission is to make sure that the world that comes after us is better because of the intentional work we do today and every day.

As an R1 “very high research” university — and the only one in the region — UNLV is uniquely designed to accelerate human potential. Our research endeavors and community engagement efforts feed growth in every sector of the workforce. And our academic programs change the trajectory of our students’ lives who, in turn, become powerful contributors to our community, our state, and our world.

But we cannot do any of that without the partnerships we’ve forged with business leaders and elected officials and the support of community members and our alumni base of some 150,000 graduates. Our newest academic programs all came from listening to the needs of our partners and their respective industries. Since 2021, UNLV has added 17 workforce-aligned degree programs to meet the growing demand for professionals ranging from registered nurse anesthetists to school counselors to cybersecurity experts (for an update on the tremendous national success of that last program, turn to Page 7). Many of our programs capitalize on



our location to offer students “only-at-UNLV” experiences, but our unique opportunities reach far beyond the entertainment venues on the Strip.

One group of science and engineering majors recently took experiential learning to a whole new level. They trekked to locations otherwise off limits to civilians and spent four days at the Nevada National Security Sites (NNSS). There they mapped how to traverse the tricky terrain and collect geological samples from the massive man-made craters of Nevada’s nuclear testing past. Their feedback was used to test a new course created in part for NASA astronauts who will soon return to the moon.

The partnerships with NNSS and other U.S. Department of Energy agencies were forged over many decades, and they’ve led to numerous scholarships and internships for students and collaborations with leading scientists. They’ve also led to the creation of UNLV-patented technology aimed at helping Southern Nevada meet its energy needs (see Page 18).

Indeed, UNLV owes its very beginning to partnerships. The land our

Maryland Parkway campus sits on came from the generosity of donors and the tenacity of local leaders in the 1950s who saw the potential of Las Vegas and the promise of a university created to serve it. It’s the same kind of thinking behind our efforts now to build a new home for the Lee Business School (Page 33). The state has already committed nearly \$75 million toward construction of the 130,000-square-foot facility, and fundraising efforts are fully underway to ensure groundbreaking can begin within the next 18 months.

It’s taken a lot of work to build UNLV into the thriving, top-tier institution that it is today, and I feel a profound responsibility to those who came before me to continue this work. Though we will have challenges, we were built by and for this special community. And there is no greater goal than ours: UNLV exists fully for the purpose of empowering human progress.

Chris Heavey,
Interim UNLV President

As an R1 university — and the only one in the region — UNLV is uniquely designed to accelerate human potential.

PHOTO: JOSH HAWKINS

Flashlight

PUTTING A SHINE ON CAMPUS

If college ranking sites had a category for best views, we're certain UNLV would be No. 1 on the list. Just look at this photo taken from the top of the Cottage Grove Parking Garage by UNLV photographer Becca Schwartz. The Sphere and the High Roller wheel vie for attention as a November supermoon hovers over the Spring Mountains. It's enough to make any of our more than 60,000 out-of-state grads long for a return to their college stomping grounds. Don't forget: The UNLV Alumni Association is always here to welcome you back through dozens of networking events, career workshops, and campus tours.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Come back for this view and all the Homecoming activities Oct. 5-10.

> unlv.edu/alumni

NATIONAL HONORS



ALL THAT JAZZ

Public radio station 91.5 KUNV Jazz & More was named the 2025 Local Station of the Year by BEATS magazine, marking one of the most prestigious recognitions in jazz broadcasting. The station also received the award in 2024, making it the first to win back-to-back.

“This award reflects the incredible dedication of our staff, student broadcasters, community partners, and our loyal listeners who keep smooth jazz alive and thriving in Southern Nevada,” said general manager Ashton Ridley. “Over the past four years, we’ve been recognized three times by industry peers and the public, cementing KUNV as a national leader among

smooth jazz stations.”

The honor is part of the Smooth Jazz Network’s annual “Best Of” recognition, where stations are nominated by industry colleagues and peers, with winners determined through public voting. In 2025, KUNV was nominated alongside respected smooth jazz stations from Atlanta, New Orleans, and St. Louis.

Along with offering music program-

“Over the past four years, we’ve been recognized three times by industry peers and the public, cementing KUNV as a national leader among smooth jazz stations.”

Ashton Ridley
KUNV general manager

ming and a platform for shows produced by community members, KUNV helps students build their skills in on-air broadcasting, production, and journalism.

The station was created by UNLV students in 1981 and later added the student-run HD-2 The Beat channel with a blend of Top 40, hip-hop, and electronic dance music and the HD-3 channel for news.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A CYBER SECURE NEVADA

UNLV’s new Nevada Institute of Cybersecurity (NIC) is building upon its fast-growing and already nationally recognized excellence in programming to respond to a critical need in our state.

“Nevada faces a dual challenge: a severe shortage of skilled professionals and one of the highest rates of cybercrime victims in the nation,” said Juyeon Jo, NIC executive director and professor of computer science. “This institute is a necessary lifeline that will bridge the gap between education and employment while protecting the businesses and residents that drive our economy.”

The institute arrives at a critical time for Nevada. According to data from CyberSeek.org, the state currently fills only 71% of its available cybersecurity positions.

By consolidating UNLV cybersecurity efforts, the center will better serve the state’s key industries and government offices, helping to secure their data, train the next generation of cyber professionals, and provide critical information to policymakers. It brings together expertise from multiple disciplines to facilitate more collaborations with private companies.

Since 2019, UNLV has been recognized as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education, a prestigious designation managed by the National Security Agency. UNLV offers multiple interdisciplinary cybersecurity degree programs, including the Master of Science in Cybersecurity, which secured the No. 2 spot in Fortune’s 2025 list of the nation’s top in-person cybersecurity master’s programs.

The latest accolade is a national championship: UNLV’s student team won first place in the Cyber Games competition hosted by the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity.

The institute will oversee K-12 summer camp programs and the student-led clinic that provides free risk assessments and remediation to small and medium-sized businesses. It is also developing plans for a statewide security operations center to provide monitoring and incident response to state government agencies.

— Cheryl Bella



Juyeon Jo, Nevada Institute of Cybersecurity

UNDERGRADUATE SUCCESS



Goldwater Scholars Lex de Asis and Adrianna N. Tsao

GOING FOR THE GOLD

Two UNLV students have been named 2026 Barry Goldwater Scholars, the nation’s premier award for undergraduates pursuing research careers in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics. They were selected from a highly competitive national pool of more than 5,000 applicants.

LEX DE ASIS

An Honors College student double majoring in psychology and film, de Asis studies anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder with the goal of pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. Working under the mentorship of professor Nicole Short, de Asis focuses on OCD in individuals with physical disabilities, an area that remains largely unexplored in existing research.

De Asis has seen firsthand how existing mental health frameworks often overlook individuals with disabilities. “Being born physically disabled myself, it gets frustrating living in a system that wasn’t developed with you in mind,” de Asis said. “I couldn’t help but feel invisible when I discovered how little research has been done around mental health for people with disabilities.”

ADRIANNA N. TSAO

As a high school student, Tsao was inspired to pursue research after members of UNLV’s Neuroscience Undergraduate Research Organization visited her class. She’s now a biology major and works in neuroscience professor Jefferson Kinney’s lab.

There, she encountered a central challenge: Despite decades of study, much remains unknown about what drives the most common, late-onset form of Alzheimer’s disease. Her focus is on understanding the biological pathways underlying the disease. “I hope to contribute to clinical research for Alzheimer’s disease by helping to translate what we discover in the lab into effective, evidence-based therapies that meaningfully improve people’s lives,” Tsao said.

— Daniel Coyle

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THE COURSE

VIDEO GAMES, STREAMING, AND SOCIETY

How *Zelda*, *Pokémon*, and *Grand Theft Auto* can help students level up their communication skills

BY REN MCMULLIN

What does *Tetris* teach us about the human condition? Like Sisyphus forever pushing his rock up a hill, the tile matching puzzle game features a task with no end. Perhaps the best-selling game of all time reflects humanity's ability to accept, adapt, and find patterns in a chaotic world of impermanence.

At least that's one takeaway students might get from the Video Games, Streaming, and Society course. Taught in the Hank Greenspun School of Journalism, the 400-level course focuses on the humanistic and critical study of video games and streaming culture.

"When students come into the classroom, I ask them, 'How many of you play video games?'" assistant professor Arthur Soto-Vásquez says. "Of course, hands go up all the time."

Meeting students in an arena they're comfortable in, he says, is an effective way to introduce critical concepts. "It's a fun class, but it allows them to think deeply about things that they really care about."

THE METHODOLOGY

In the era of AI, Soto-Vásquez makes an effort to ensure students enter the workforce by developing their critical thinking and presentation skills — human skills that can't be AI-generated.

Every student gives an oral presentation examining a video game through a philosophical or cultural lens. Afterward, they lead a discussion and sometimes play the games in class.

"In this way, students are allowed to present and gain skills in a very safe environment as they're about to go out into the working world. These kinds of skills will become increasingly valuable in an

"Students will walk away from this class — and this is my goal — surprised to learn how much of their own lives they can treat like a video game."

Arthur Soto-Vásquez
UNLV assistant professor



AI-driven world," Soto-Vásquez says.

At the end of the semester, students are assigned a video essay, rather than a typical written essay, where they play a video game and record their commentary over it. The project replicates the streaming and essay-style videos often found on YouTube.

THE PROFESSOR

Soto-Vásquez began his career in politics before transitioning into higher education to study the relationship between media, politics, health, and Latina/o/x identity. Since then, he's published a wide range of research on Instagram, consumer culture, migration, right-wing movements online, misinformation, and podcasts.

And, he knows a thing or two about video games. Fun fact: He ranks in the top 3% of players worldwide in *Risk: Global Domination*.

THE SURPRISING LESSON

"Students will walk away from this class — and this is my goal — surprised to learn how much of their own lives they can treat like a video game," Soto-Vásquez says.

"It's very much an open-world game-play out there. They can take on quests, build up their stamina, and treat it like an RPG [role playing game]. They don't just have to follow the scripts that are laid out in front of them."

The course also refines students' public speaking and video production skills. Soto-Vásquez notes that content

production is an avenue for many students starting their careers today.

WHAT LAY PEOPLE CAN LEARN FROM THE COURSE

That people who don't consider themselves gamers likely still play video games, Soto-Vásquez points out. Mobile games, for example, are still part of the video game industry.

"I think the perception that gamers are just teenage boys does not exist anymore," he says. "Everybody from the elderly to women to all types of different people play games, and it is very much a media industry here to stay."

The industry has a huge reach, and this course helps students be mindful of the media they and those around them consume.

RECOMMENDED PLAYING

Soto-Vásquez recommends *Papers, Please*, a puzzle simulation game where players act as a border crossing guard and choose whether to let people in or out.

"I use it in class to talk about the concept of the banality of evil," a concept introduced by German and American philosopher Hannah Arendt, he says. In studying the trial of Holocaust perpetrator Adolf Eichmann, Arendt argued that many Nazis were not monstrous villains, but bureaucrats carrying out routine tasks.

Soto-Vásquez assures that, despite its heavy concepts, the game is fun, easy to play, and can lead to interesting introspection.



ABOUT UNLV'S CENTER FOR URBAN WATER CONSERVATION

Location: 4600 Horse Drive, North Las Vegas.

History: The center began in the mid-1990s as a joint effort between UNLV and UNR Extension.

Research focus: The site is a working research space for UNLV and UNR faculty and students, where irrigation output, soil moisture, and local weather conditions are monitored to better understand how plants respond to extreme heat and limited water.

Garden and orchard: The public demonstration orchard and garden, maintained by UNR Extension master gardeners, features hundreds of fruit trees, grapevines, and native plants, all grown using water-efficient methods.

Community outreach: The center hosts plant and produce sales and free workshops to help homeowners with plant selection, composting, and beekeeping. Seeds collected by volunteers are packaged and distributed at community events to encourage residents to plant native species.



@center4urbanwaterconservation



Finding Their 'Center' Through Service

Students connect with nature and community during Service Day at UNLV's Center for Urban Water Conservation.

BY BETH DEBOUCK

On an unusually warm February day, six students trekked 18 miles northwest of campus to UNLV's Center for Urban Water Conservation. The group, sporting bucket hats for sun protection, started by pruning dead blooms on desert globe-mallows, letting the clippings fall on the ground to fertilize future growth.

They were among the more than 100 student volunteers who spread across the Las Vegas Valley during UNLV's semi-annual Service Day. Others hit

sites such as a Cure 4 The Kids Foundation treatment clinic, Three Square food bank, and Project 150, which serves housing-insecure youth.

Mena Mejia wanted to be outside, however. "It makes me feel more grounded and present," said the third-year psychology major. Volunteering also connects to her long-term goal to work in schools helping children manage emotions and learn mindfulness and breathwork.

"Being in nature and doing hands-on

work helps me slow down and reconnect, and I want to bring that same sense of awareness and energy to the kids I work with in the future."

LEARNING THE DESERT LANDSCAPE

The globemallow is a native shrub that produces tiny flowers, and, as second-year environmental science major Aaron Smith noted, is a favorite snack of the desert tortoise. Smith was a return volunteer to the Center for Urban Water Conservation.

"I love the site," he said. "The work they do is so important for our home and community, and I really admire the research they undertake."

Biochemistry major Natalia Nowak stops to appreciate the tiny seeds of the "dollhouse flowers."

PHOTOS: JOSH HAWKINS



UNLV SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RECRUITING WORLD CHANGERS

“Education is a powerful tool for change. I enjoy empowering people to make healthy choices and lead happier lives by raising awareness about public health issues.”

Amanda Morgan, Ph.D.
Professor-in Residence,
UNLV School of Public Health

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After pruning the globemallows, the students got to work on a cluster of golden dyssodia blossoms. Then, they moved on to filling seed packets some wearing kneepads as they worked in the square flower beds. At one point, the group paused to watch a hawk soaring overhead.

Collecting seeds from native plants helped students see how their work supports outreach and education efforts. Prince Wiafe, a graduate student studying applied economics and data intelligence, said he learned how sensitive native plants can be to soil type, sunlight, and watering conditions.

Through the hands-on experience, he added, “You can see what you are learning in action, and it makes the lesson stick. It also helps you feel connected to your community and the environment around you.”

Which is the point to begin with.

“[Service Day] used to be organized by a single individual and held somewhat impromptu on the academic lawns, but it has since evolved into a broader institutional effort to connect our UNLV community with the larger Las Vegas community,” said Erick Ochoa, senior program coordinator for Service Learning & Leadership.

The office, with support from the student organization UNLVolunteers, handles logistics, including confirming volunteer sites, organizing shifts, and arranging transportation to locations farther from campus.

Like Mejia, Aubrey Rynne Mones, a fourth-year information systems major,

“wanted to spend time outside doing physical, hands-on work. Being at the water conservation center gives me the nature and physical effort I want while also knowing I’m contributing to something meaningful.”

Surrounding the center is UNR Extension’s Research Garden and Demonstration Orchard, where fruit trees, grapevines, and desert-adapted plants are grown using water-efficient methods.

Dale Devitt, a UNLV life sciences professor and director of the center, said experiences like these help students see how practical work connects to long-term sustainability goals.

“Even small efforts, like planting native species or learning how to manage bees and orchards, give [student volunteers] a better understanding of their role in the community’s sustainability,” he said.

REFLECTING ON THE EXPERIENCE

As their three-hour morning shift concluded, the students returned their tools, gathered their belongings, and prepared for the shuttle back to campus.

“With everything going on in the world, it’s been overwhelming,” Mejia said. “Being out here today actually felt really therapeutic.”

Smith added, “I believe it’s critical that everyone be involved in efforts to preserve Las Vegas for future generations. Educating ourselves about environmental impact and choosing native plants is vital, and volunteering to enrich our community is equally important.”

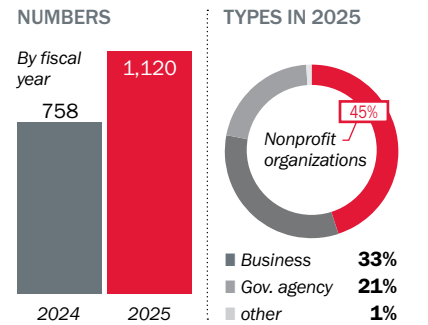


PHOTO: JOSH HAWKINS

Student-volunteers remove dead buds and collect seeds from a golden dyssodia shrub.

IN BRIEF

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



GOLD STANDARD FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In January, UNLV earned its second consecutive Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, retaining its status as one of the nation’s top community-serving higher education institutions.

The application process involved several years of data collection and an assessment by a national review committee.

UNLV’s application highlighted partnerships to shore up mental and physical health services, provide basic legal education to community members, and augment STEM education for local children.

One of UNLV’s partners, ReInvent Schools Las Vegas, works on elementary and middle school campuses in the city’s urban core. UNLV serves as the research and evaluation arm for the initiative, and the university secured grants to hire dedicated full-time specialists for the program. Since the partnership launched in 2012, literacy scores for more than 7,500 children have improved.

UNLV is among just 2% of all colleges and universities that hold the nation’s highest recognition for both its research and community engagement — underscoring its rise as a premier public university.

“We exist to lift up our region, and this designation is a testament to the work of UNLV faculty, staff, and students who support the needs and improve the lives of people in our community,” said UNLV interim President Chris Heavey. “UNLV has a profound impact on Southern Nevada and beyond, and our work is consistently shaped and strengthened through collaboration with community partners.”



On the Right Track

A series of fortuitous events helped former UNLV sprinters Kaysha Love and Azaria Hill fulfill their Olympic dreams.

BY MATT JACOB

It's late February in Milan, and Kaysha Love and Azaria Hill are high atop the Cortina Sliding Centre preparing for their fourth and final run in the two-woman bobsled event at the 2026 Winter Olympics.

Half a world away, the man who pushed over the first domino that led to this moment sits on the edge of his couch shouting some words of encouragement — as if his former pupils are within earshot.

"Believe me, I was trying to speak

through the TV like every coach does," says Larry Wade, UNLV's assistant track & field coach for sprinters and hurdlers from 2014-21.

The message Wade telepathically conveys to Love and Hill: "You go out there and you be you — be your vulnerable, strong selves and do the very best you can. And your very best will be good enough."

Moments later, Love climbs into her pilot seat, Hill pushes off and jumps into her brakewoman position, and the duo zips down the 1,445-meter, 16-turn track one last time.

Just two Rebels making their Olympic dreams happen.

FALLING IN 'LOVE' WITH UNLV

This story is as much about destiny as it is world-class athleticism. And it's a story that never would have unfolded without UNLV — or without that time-worn Vegas cliché: a roll of the dice.

It was 2016, and young gymnast-turned-elite sprinter Kaysha Love had just completed her record-setting senior year at Herriman High School in Utah. Scholarship offers flooded in from every major track & field program in the country. Love had narrowed her choice to five schools — including Georgia, Houston, and UCLA — and scheduled official visits to each.

Former UNLV track & field teammates Kaysha Love and Azaria Hill zoom down the track during the two-woman bobsled event at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan. The duo placed fifth in the competition, just a half-second shy of winning a medal.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Then Larry Wade picked up the phone and rolled those dice.

A two-time NCAA national champion as a hurdler at Texas A&M in the late 1990s, Wade had transitioned to coaching and training, mentoring numerous athletes in multiple sports at both the collegiate and professional levels.

In other words, Wade knew talent when he saw it. And what he saw in Love — Utah's 2016 Gatorade Athlete of the Year in girl's track & field — was a budding star.

"Kaysha was the most decorated female track athlete in Utah high school history, winning championships in multiple running and jumping events," Wade says.

He invited Love to come to UNLV for an unofficial visit and meet with him and his wife, then-head Rebels track & field coach Yvonne Wade.

In the first of several twists of fate, Love had family living in Las Vegas. So she figured why not make the short trek from Utah, see her family, check out UNLV, and get a sense of how college recruiting visits go.

"When I got there, I fell in love with Las Vegas, the [campus] culture, and Coach Larry and Coach Yvonne — both their marriage in general and also their coaching dynamic," Love says. "It was amazing. And when I met the women's team, I was really inspired."

More inspiration came when Love learned about the strength and reputation of UNLV's hospitality, psychology, and business programs — areas she was interested in exploring.

"That," Love says, "is when I really became intrigued."

She would go on to make her five official visits, all the while knowing she would turn them all down. "I knew UNLV was where I wanted to be."

SPRINTING INTO THE RECORD BOOKS

Love made her Rebels debut in fall 2017, competing in four indoor and seven outdoor meets as a freshman. Indoors, she competed in the 60 meters, 200 meters, and in the high jump. Outside, she ran the 100 and 200 meters, and was part of the UNLV's 4x100-meter relay team.

In addition to setting numerous per-



KAYSHA LOVE

Age: 28 (on left)

Rebels Highlights: 2017 & 2018 second team All-American (4x100 meter relay team, outdoors); 2017 & 2018 NCAA Outdoor Championship qualifier (4x100); four-time Mountain West All-Conference team member (2017 and 2018 outdoors, 2018 and 2020 indoors)

Bobsled Highlights: Competed for Team USA in the two-woman bobsled at the 2022 Winter Olympics, and the monobob and two-woman bobsled at the 2026 Winter Olympics

AZARIA HILL

Age: 27

Rebels Highlights: In 2020-21 season, competed outdoors in the 100 meters, 200 meters, 4x100 meter relay, and 4x400 meter relay; competed indoors in the 60 meters.

Bobsled Highlights: Competed for Team USA in the two-woman bobsled at the 2026 Winter Olympics

sonal-best records in her first season, Love competed in the Mountain West Conference championships (indoor and outdoor), as well as the NCAA West Preliminary and NCAA Outdoor Championships.

"As she started to compete for us, she immediately made an impact on UNLV history," Wade says. "She's one of the fastest 60-meter and 100-meter runners in school history. And she could also jump. She was very explosive."

With Wade as her tutor, Love continued to make strides each season, twice earning second team All-America honors in 2017 and 2018. Off the track, she relished academic life, having settled on hospitality as a major. "I genuinely loved the idea of being more than just an athlete," Love says.

As excited as she was about a potential hospitality career — she would earn

her degree in 2021 — Love remained laser focused on achieving her childhood dream: to be an Olympian.

At first, she thought it would happen in gymnastics. When injuries forced her out of that sport, she found track & field and began to envision sprinting for her country at the Summer Olympics.

Then a bystander at an NCAA nationals meet during Love's junior season approached her and Larry Wade. Soon after, her path to the Olympics shifted from one track to another.

PURSUING THE FAMILY BUSINESS

Usually, it's hyperbolic to suggest that something is "literally in someone's blood." When it comes to Azaria Hill and the Olympics, it's not an exaggeration.

Her parents — Virgil Hill and Denean Howard — met while competing for Team USA at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Virgil won a boxing silver medal that year, while Denean and her sister, Sherri, won gold on the 4x400-meter relay team. Denean also captured silver at both the 1988 and 1992 Summer Games, while Virgil Hill went on to become a two-division world champion over a 20-year Hall of Fame boxing career.

So it's no surprise that Azaria Hill grew up in Southern California determined to add her own chapter to the family's Olympic legacy: "For as long as I can remember, I've had that internal fire of wanting to be like my mom and dad — I wanted to become an Olympian."

Hill began running track in eighth grade and immediately took to the sprinting events. After a successful high school career, she accepted a track scholarship to Long Beach State, where she competed for three seasons. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic, which wiped out the 2020 outdoor track season.

That's when Hill decided to conduct a thorough self-evaluation. "I sat down and reviewed my track career and was kind of disappointed. I felt like I should've been further along."

Hill concluded that if she was going to reach her Olympic goal, she needed to move on. She researched schools and the times that female sprinters were logging. When she came across the numbers that Love and her Rebel teammates put up, Hill's eyes widened.

She found Larry and Yvonne Wade's emails and sent a blind inquiry. When neither responded, Hill turned to social media.

"I DM'd Coach Larry on Instagram," she says. "We ended up meeting, but he told me he had given away his last scholarship."

Wade offered a walk-on opportunity, and Hill took it "because I knew it would offer the best environment for me to progress."

Enrolling as a graduate student, Hill competed in the fall 2020 indoor and spring 2021 outdoor track seasons. Unfortunately, Hill's improvement didn't reach an Olympic-caliber level. So when her lone season at UNLV ended, so too did her lifelong dream.

Or so it seemed.

'COACH, YOU'RE CRAZY'

The bystander who approached Larry Wade and Kaysha Love at that national meet in 2019? It was a USA Bobsled coach who was there to scout talent. He was there to scout talent, as track sprinter skills often translate to bobsled.

After watching Love run, the bobsled coach said that with proper training, she could make the Olympic team.

Ironically, Wade had already mentioned bobsled as an option before Love's junior season. He remembered that his good friend Willie Gault — who twice qualified for the Summer Olympics as a sprinter and hurdler, and who had an 11-year career as an NFL wide receiver — transitioned to bobsled and made the 1988 U.S. team as an alternate.

"That's what gave me the idea," Wade says. "I told her, 'You know, you're kind of built more for this.'"

Love's response: "Coach, you're crazy!"

That sentiment didn't change months later when she met the USA Bobsled coach.

"He kind of told me that I was doing the wrong sport, and I wasn't having it," she says. "Even though I brushed it off, he continued to have conversations with Coach Wade."

And Wade continued to lay out the reasons why Love should at least go to the USA Bobsled facility in Lake Placid, N.Y., for a tryout. She eventually relented, leaving UNLV in October 2020 to attend a 12-day push camp.



Says Love of Wade: "He's one of the most persuasive coaches and people I've ever met."

Although she immediately fell for the sport during her time in Lake Placid, Love admits that her first trip down the bobsled run weeks later in Park City, Utah, had her stomach in knots.

"It was quite intimidating and one of the scariest things I've ever done," she says. "But by my second run, the bobsled coach told me I had pushed national team-like times, and that if this was an Olympic year, I would've made the team. That was all that I needed to hear."

"I honestly didn't care how it happened — gymnastics, track, or bobsled. The goal was to make the Olympics."

She did just that, competing as a brakewoman for Team USA at the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing.

"I genuinely couldn't believe it, because [athletes] just don't make Olympic teams within the first couple of years of trying a sport," Love says. "It was really cool that the previous eight years of training relentlessly on the track paid off through bobsled."

REBELS REUNITE ON BOBSLED TRACK

When Azaria Hill transferred to UNLV, she was a stranger in a strange land. One of the first Rebels to extend a welcoming hand? Kaysha Love, who invited Hill to her birthday party just weeks before departing for Lake Placid to begin her bobsled journey.

"I was new and a little bit shy," Hill says. "But Kaysha was super nice from the get-go."

Kaysha Love (center) races down the track during an outdoor sprinting event as a UNLV student-athlete.

When Love returned to UNLV for the spring 2021 outdoor season, she once again competed on the Rebels' 4x100 relay. This time, one of her teammates was Hill, who was impressed that her friend was pulling double duty on two completely different surfaces.

"I thought it was a super cool opportunity for her," Hill says. "But [bobsled] was nowhere on my radar — not even a thought."

That would change a couple of years later, all thanks to a stream-of-consciousness social media post.

After her competitive athletic career came to a halt, Hill struggled to find a fulfilling replacement. So one day, she shared her feelings on Instagram. The post found its way into Love's feed, who reached out to her former teammate directly: "Hey, would you consider bobsled? You're so powerful and so fast that I think you would be an amazing bobsled athlete."

Says Hill: "My initial reaction was 'I haven't been training. I'm two years removed from competing at an elite level. I don't think I can do it.'"

A USA Bobsled rookie camp in fall 2023 was looming, so Love nudged Hill in the same way Larry Wade had nudged her four years earlier. The encouragement worked: Hill accepted a camp invitation at the 11th hour, excelled in much the same fashion as Love, and quickly established herself in a brand-new sport.



"Kaysha had so much belief in me," Hill says. "She definitely saw potential even when I didn't necessarily see it myself."

IN PURSUIT OF OLYMPIC GOLD

While Hill was developing her skills as a brakewoman, Love was making her move from the back of the two-woman sled to the front (while also taking off as a "solo artist" in what's known as the monobob).

It seemed only a matter of time before the erstwhile sprinters who once tore up the track on the Rebels' 4x100 relay team raced down a bobsled run together. Sure enough, in December 2023, the pair joined forces at a two-woman World Cup race in La Plagne, France. It was Love's first competitive experience as a pilot and Hill's first race ever.

Six weeks later came another first: a podium appearance after placing third

"I honestly didn't care how it happened — gymnastics, track, or bobsled. The goal was to make the Olympics."

Kaysha Love
2023 UNLV graduate

at another World Cup event in Lillehammer, Norway.

Jump ahead two years, and the duo were flying down track at the Cortina Sliding Centre as Olympic teammates.

With their former UNLV track coaches watching from afar, Hill and Love placed fifth at the 2026 Winter Games — just a half-second shy of bronze medalists (and U.S. teammates) Kaillie Armbruster Humphries and Jasmine Jones.

Love also competed in Milan in the monobob, finishing seventh overall and third among Team USA competitors.

Having fallen just short of reaching the medal podium in Milan, you can be sure that Love and Hill now have another box to check as they eye a return to the Olympics in 2030 — although it may not be in the same sled. Hill will soon participate in a two-week driving school for a potential move to the pilot's seat. So, the two might compete against each other in both the monobob and two-woman events.

Then again, it would be fitting — one might even say fateful — for the friends to pair up again at the 2030 Winter Games. After all, they would be doing so in La Plagne, France, on the very same track where they raced together for the first time.

"I've realized my dream of joining my parents as an Olympian," Hill says. "Now I've got to get me a medal! And I hope to do it with Kaysha. Because we've got some unfinished business."

Keeping the Lights on with Nuclear Waste

How radiochemistry is salvaging material from nuclear dumps to make it useful as an energy source.

BY JOHNNY DOMOL

Enriching uranium began heating up in the Cold War era. As a result, there are stockpiles of uranium hexafluoride (UF6), or depleted nuclear waste better known as “hex.”

It’s long been viewed as a hazardous hot potato. But this waste — if treated — could be part of the solution to future-proofing the Southwest’s power grid.

“It’s particularly nasty stuff that sits in containers above ground. And if you come into contact with it, you could die,” said David Hatchett, vice president of research and professor of radiochemistry. “That’s where we come in as a university: We can work with that material. And we were asked if we could make it safe.”

Over the past 25 years, Hatchett’s lab at UNLV has become a national leader in the complex field of electrochemistry, with projects focused on the recovery and recycling of strategic materials, including rare earth metals and lithium. The lab pioneered a technique that employs ionic liquids — which are non-volatile, thermally stable solvents that can control chemical reactions — making recovery of the materials safer and more useful.

That got the U.S. Department of Energy’s attention: Could Hatchett apply those same patented techniques to making UF6 safe? Not only did his team accomplish that feat, it went a step further.

“We don’t just make it safe; we actually recover the material for future use,” said Hatchett. “Rather than mining our way into more materials and damaging the environment, we can reuse what we already have sitting there

in high abundance.”

The ionic liquids can convert UF6 into more stable, manageable chemical forms while minimizing the risks associated with the material’s volatility and reactivity. The process enables the recovery of valuable materials, including uranium and fluorine-containing compounds, that can be repurposed for industrial applications.

And there is plenty of radioactive waste to go around — about 1.2 million metric tons globally, with 700,000 metric tons (about 1.5 billion pounds) in the U.S. alone. Converting this waste into useful material at an indus-



The U.S. Department of Energy is offering \$900 million to support the construction of small modular reactors in the country. This is an effort to reduce U.S. dependence on overseas markets for critical materials.

“Small modular reactors are basically what power our Navy — they’re tried and true,” Hatchett said. “They’re much smaller than old-school reactors, not apt to go critical, and provide a more reliable source of energy than what we’re accustomed to.”

And they can produce enough energy to power a city, Hatchett said, or any energy-hungry data center.

“It’s particularly nasty stuff that sits in containers above ground. And if you come into contact with it, you could die. That’s where we come in as a university: We can work with that material. And we were asked if we could make it safe.”

David Hatchett
vice president of research
and professor of radiochemistry

trial scale stands to revolutionize the future sustainability of the region.

“In a place like Las Vegas, for example, we can have solar energy while the sun’s on,” he said, “but what do we do at night? If water is an issue for hydroelectric power at the Hoover Dam, how are we going to produce all of the energy we need? Nuclear can provide stable, high-density power for things like data centers, AI, and other industries needing reliable energy.”

NEXT STEPS OF NUCLEAR

“Nuclear power plant” might call to mind large-scale towers with steam coming out of the top, reminiscent of Homer’s workplace in *The Simpsons*. But the future is much smaller.

“How is Nevada going to diversify our economy beyond mining and gaming if we don’t have the energy density to support that?” Hatchett said. “In terms of corporate relocation, nuclear power could provide options that we don’t currently have. We could provide stable energy and new opportunities with the nuclear waste that’s been sitting around for 50-plus years.”

Nevada is not currently investing in nuclear, though its neighbors are. Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah are each looking into ways to tap into nuclear energy.

“Nobody recovers uranium from UF6. This is all new,” said Hatchett. “If we start processing materials like this in the U.S. — those are jobs.”

PHOTOS: JOSH HAWKINS (HATCHETT); BECCA SCHWARTZ (RIGHT)

A team of UNLV radiochemists has patented technology capable of converting depleted UF6 into a safer and more stable form while also recovering strategically beneficial materials for future energy needs.



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REBELS MAKE IT HAPPEN

THE UNLV DIFFERENCE

UNLV is one of the few universities licensed to work with radioactive materials and the only one with access to UF6. Its radiochemistry program ranks among the nation's best, thanks to hands-on training with radioactive elements and state-of-the-art facilities. The program blends advanced research in the nuclear fuel cycle, forensics, and fundamental chemistry with rigorous education, preparing students for vital roles in national labs.

Renee Olney is one of those students. She's a graduate research assistant in the radiochemistry program.

"This waste processing has never been looked at before, and it's awesome to be part of a brand-new area of research," she said. "Even though uranium is one of the most highly-studied elements in the periodic table, no one has really done what I'm doing yet, and that's really exciting."

UNLV's Office of Economic Development has handled the university's patents and technology from the work with UF6. There is an ongoing working relationship with Hatchett's team, as it helps push this work across the finish line for real, practical use.

"Our economic development team is the mechanism to connect university innovators with industry and entrepreneurs who can apply UNLV research in ways that will change lives for the better," said Zach Miles, who heads UNLV's Office of Economic Development. "The work happening in laboratories throughout UNLV has the potential to solve some of the world's most pressing challenges."

For Hatchett, that's a more sustainable energy future.

"Whenever we can recover useful materials from waste, that is a positive step forward. It's in our best interest to ask, 'How do we utilize what's in front of us to prepare and shape the industries that aren't here yet?'"

THREE Q'S

LIUBA PAULINE WILLIAMS

When Liuba Pauline Williams was in middle school, her dad gave her a hand-me-down UNLV jacket. It was too big, but she still wore it every winter. By the time she started her first semester as an undergrad in chemistry, the jacket fit perfectly.

While attending UNLV might seem predestined, her entrance into doctoral studies happened more by chance. She had planned on medical school until she stopped by an open house for the program.

"It completely opened my eyes to the world of nuclear science," said Williams, who earned her bachelor's in biochemistry in 2018.

"I'm grateful for the experience of attending a [Carnegie] R1 university — full of super diverse students and teachers, engaging classes, clubs and activities — while still being able to be close to my family and the city I proudly call home."



"It's been an incredible experience to contribute to research that bridges nuclear science and space exploration."

How does your research help the everyday person?

I study nuclear explosive debris from the [Nevada National Test Sites], specifically looking at how materials like concrete and steel, which are common in urban environments, alter the forensic signatures found in the glass formed by a nuclear detonation. My work helps improve the accuracy and speed of nuclear attribution — pinpointing the source of nuclear material.

At its core, my research supports national and global security. The goal is to make it extremely risky, and therefore unappealing, for bad actors to use nuclear materials for harmful purposes.

What excites you about the research?

First, I get to use an arc melter to create surrogate nuclear debris. It's a powerful tool [for] simulating the extreme conditions of a nuclear detonation. I'm basically shooting lightning at my samples. It's both super cool and really useful.

Second, I've had the opportunity to intern at the Nevada National Security Sites, where the U.S. conducted many of its nuclear tests during the Cold War. Visiting the site and studying craters formed by past detonations is both fascinating and humbling. It's given me a deeper appreciation for the scale and impact of nuclear weapons, and it's reinforced why this research matters.

What do wish people knew about your work?

The word "nuclear" often triggers fear, and understandably so. Its history is tied to secrecy, weapons, and the kind of early research that earned its pioneers the nickname "cowboys." But nuclear technology has also quietly contributed to major advances in energy, medicine, and science in ways that are both safe and incredibly valuable.

Knowledge itself is a form of protection. When both scientists and the public better understand nuclear science, we're more equipped to design safer systems, regulate them responsibly, and respond effectively to any risks.

— Erica Corliss

PHOTO: JOSH HAWKINS

VIDEO

UNLV's nuclear research could power future communities.





Saving Sea Lions with Soft Robotics

How a 3D-printed pelvis is helping train veterinarians – and what this could mean for human health.

BY JOHNNY DOMOL

Scores of sea lions have been beaching themselves along the Southern California coastline, stricken with sickness. Toxic algae blooms are to blame. To help veterinarians shift the tide in favor of the marine mammals, they're turning to a mechanical engineering innovation developed by a UNLV-led research team.

UNLV mechanical engineers have developed a synthetic California sea lion pelvic region, mimicking its bone and soft tissue. This allows medical professionals to conduct blood collection training on anatomically authentic models, improving efforts to treat the live animals. Their work was published in *Scientific Reports*, a Nature Portfolio journal. "The sky is the limit with this project," said Daniel Fisher, a graduate researcher and the study's lead author. "We're trying to lay the groundwork for novel implants or procedures that can



A 3D-printed sea lion pelvic region in the Active Materials and Smart Living Lab

improve both human and animal lives, along with the environment."

The 3D-printed models are made possible through heaps of Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) data, the standard file format for medical scans. The models look, feel, and carry blood flow like a sea lion's actual pelvic region, the typical site for their blood collection.

"I believe that through careful simulation and anatomical modeling of our DICOM data, we're able to 3D print any vein or arterial structure of a body," said Fisher. "Through the use of micro-CT scans or MRIs, we're able to get more detailed in our manufacturing, giving surgeons and veterinarians a way to practice any procedure."

Fisher is part of UNLV's Active Materials and Smart Living Lab run by his mentor Kwang Kim. The mechanical engineering professor and the publication's co-author is regarded as one of the world's leading experts in soft robotics.

And that's exactly what these pelvis models are: smart materials that react to electrical stimuli or mechanical pressure the same way muscles do.

"This study was on sea lions, but it could effectively be something else," said Kim. "There are many applications where this soft robotics research will benefit society at the end of the day."

The 3D models simulate the tactile response a medical professional would experience with the live subject – and that can vastly improve their medical training. "You can imagine or read something, however, that can only take you so far. Having an authentic structure to train with is a unique opportunity with boundless potential. I think this is the tip of the iceberg."

The researchers are continuing to build on their existing work, testing structural interactions with their soft robotics in water that could prove useful in further advancements.

"My hope is to look at biocompatible materials that could restore a person's hand function, or using an implanted artificial muscle," Fisher said. "The more immediate impact is improving these veterinary procedures and benefiting the sea lions, but hopefully benefiting humans one day, too."

PUBLICATION DETAILS

"Scalable DICOM 3D-printed phantoms mimicking marine mammal bone and soft tissue" was published Jan. 21, 2025, in the journal *Scientific Reports*. The work was supported by UNLV, the U.S. Army Research Office, Office of Naval Research, and the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program.

tradwife

a married woman, especially one who posts on social media, who stays at home doing cooking, cleaning, etc. and has children that she takes care of.

— from the *Cambridge Dictionary*



THE #TRADWIFE MOVEMENT LINKED TO HOSTILE SEXISM

BY KEYONNA SUMMERS

Men who generally perceive women through a negative lens are more likely to view the #tradwife movement positively, according to the findings of the world's first study into men's attitudes surrounding the social media trend.

Tradwives are social media influencers who advocate for traditional gender roles in heterosexual marriage. A UNLV-led study published in the Sage journal *Psychology of Women Quarterly* found that men with higher levels of "hostile sexism" – or those who espouse negative, adversarial perceptions of women in general – are particularly likely to support the #tradwife movement relative to other men.

Researchers say that's because men who are high in hostile sexism tend to believe most firmly in adhering to

"Our findings suggest that men who perceive the tradwife movement favorably believe that they rely on women for intimacy and simultaneously resent that this is the case."

Rachael D. Robnett

UNLV psychology professor

gender roles, and thus support tradwives' messaging. Yet, these men also begrudge and derogate the women who fulfill traditional roles. The researchers link that to the men's core worldview that women use sex to manipulate, control, and undermine men's power.

The researchers also tested links between #tradwife movement and "benevolently" sexist attitudes rooted in chivalry, but found these links to be weaker than those involving hostile sexism.

The data surprised lead author and

UNLV psychology professor Rachael D. Robnett and her co-author, Matthew Hammond of Victoria University of Wellington.

"Our findings suggest that men who perceive the tradwife movement favorably believe that they rely on women for intimacy and simultaneously resent that this is the case; this finding runs counter to social media portrayals of the tradwife lifestyle, which tend to emphasize subtle forms of sexism that are more aligned with chivalry," Robnett explained.

"This mentality could put tradwives in a precarious position, considering the personal and financial autonomy that they yield to their husbands."

Robnett and Hammond surveyed 595 U.S. men ages 18-29 about their familiarity and attitudes surrounding the movement, and whether sociodemographics like political and religious affiliation or race play a role. They initially hypothesized that the subtle and seemingly well-intentioned views aligned with benevolent sexism would explain the views of men with favorable impressions of tradwives.

Instead, the team found that hostile sexism played a powerful role in men's positive views of the tradwife movement. This includes derisive and derogatory descriptions of women's caretaking role as "easier than the breadwinning role" and exploitative of their husbands' provisions.

The link between hostile sexism and positive tradwife attitudes persisted across demographic background, political affiliation, religiosity, and other forms of sexism. Although several of these control variables were statistically associated with men's tradwife attitudes, hostile sexism played the most prominent role in the statistical model.

The study also found that the centrality of religion in men's daily lives (regardless of specific affiliation) and being married were key factors in predicting whether men supported the tradwife movement.

ABOUT THE STUDY

"Ambivalent Sexism Theory as a Framework for Understanding Men's Attitudes About the #Tradwife Movement" was published March 25, 2026, in the Sage journal *Psychology of Women Quarterly*.



FROM RINK TO RESEARCH

Doctoral student Daniel Fisher's research began during his undergraduate years while he also played on the Skatin' Rebels hockey team. Balancing sports and academics required discipline, he said. "The time management and work ethic that came from hockey helped me succeed academically. Those habits really carried over." > [Read more on hockey alums p38](#)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

AN OUT OF THIS WORLD EXPERIENCE

UNLV engineering and science students test an experiential course partially designed for NASA astronauts returning to the moon.



IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

Story by Matt Jacob | Photos by Nevada National Security Sites

The invitation landed in Luis Burrola Bueno's inbox, and it took but a nanosecond for the physics major to fire back a two-word reply: I'm in!

"When I got the email, I was so excited," Burrola Bueno said. "I knew I was going to have the time of my life here."

"Here" would be the Nevada National Security Sites (NNSS), once known as the Nevada Test Site. The federal facility, located about 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas, opened in 1951. It's famous for being a hotbed of nuclear weapons testing throughout the Cold War.

Today, the NNSS is a multifaceted U.S. Department of Energy facility that focuses on — among other things — nuclear stockpile certification, counterterrorism training and support, environmental stewardship and cleanup, emergency response training, and research and development. It partners with other government agencies, including NASA, to help develop and enhance their own agency offerings.

Such a partnership with NASA is how Burrola Bueno — along with 13 fellow UNLV undergraduate students, two doctoral candidates, and three faculty members — found himself trekking in the dark across federally secure locations that are otherwise off limits to ordinary citizens.

In early 2025, NNSS scientists and engineers began to develop a four-day geoscience training course designed to teach space industry participants how to conduct operations on the surface of the moon.

This would evolve into the NNSS' Lunar Surface Operations Course at the NNSS' Nevada Space Proving Grounds, where the cratered terrain makes for a good simulation of conditions on the moon's surface. The course was designed in part for astronauts involved in NASA's Artemis program. This spring, a NASA crew aboard Artemis II successfully orbited the moon, setting the stage for Artemis III's lunar landing — the first in more than a half-century — sometime in 2027.

In preparation for these explorations, NNSS turned to a trusted longtime partner for support: UNLV. For decades, the university's engineering and science programs have cultivated partnerships with NNSS to develop new technologies for defense and energy. The NNSS also sponsors student scholarships, internships, and workforce development programs.

THE MOON MISSION

The latest offer from NNSS: Have a group of UNLV science and engineering students come out to the site, take the 13-module course, and provide feedback that would be used to fine-tune the finished product.

UNLV's response: We'd be happy to be your guinea pigs.

Early in the fall 2025 semester, an email was distributed to science and engineering students asking for volunteers, and Burrola Bueno was among the first to reply.

In mid-October, the participants packed their bags and embarked on what geoscience Ph.D. student Dalton Pell described as a "one-of-a-kind opportunity in a one-of-a-kind area."

The jam-packed, pre-dawn to post-sunset schedule included daily briefings and both day and night treks to such NNSS landmarks as Icecap tower, Schooner crater, and Frenchman Flat.

With clipboards in hand, students took copious notes as they observed large rock formations, gazed into expansive craters, collected samples, and traversed the bumpy terrain in nighttime "extravehicular activities" (EVAs, in

"Employers can be assured that UNLV graduates with these types of experiences will be highly qualified employees who understand how complex, high-stakes projects function from day one."

Jacob Thompson
Associate vice provost for undergraduate education and high-impact practices



2 WAYS WE'RE HELPING OUR GRADS GLOW UP THEIR RESUMÉS

Advancements in nuclear technology, especially around nuclear medicine and power, mean demand for workers in these fields is high.

In its 2024 U.S. Energy & Employment Report, the Department of Energy noted the nuclear workforce is retiring, creating opportunities for young workers with the necessary skills. Many of the technician and operator positions do not require graduate-level degrees. UNLV is responding with new programs for its undergrads.

1. Bachelor's + Microcredentials

To rise above as job candidates, students can supplement their degrees in chemistry, health physics, and engineering with two new credit-bearing microcredentials specific to nuclear technology. Developed with input from industry and government partners, the Foundations and Applications in Nuclear Technology microcredential gives students conceptual knowledge, practical skills, and workforce insights. The Nuclear Engineering and Technology microcredential introduces students to reactor design, radioactive decay, waste management, and fuel cycle processes.

This coursework gives undergrads access to state-of-the-art facilities run by faculty in nuclear fuel cycle, nuclear forensics, isotope production, and more. They also get a jump on their career through networking events — the same ones that have made the Ph.D. grads so successful.

2. A NuScale of Learning

Like a pilot learning to safely land a plane on a flight simulator, one of UNLV's newest labs puts students in the virtual seat of a nuclear power plant control room operator. UNLV is one of just nine universities in the world to house the NuScale Energy Exploration Center. Modules explore human factors engineering, human-system interface design, advanced diagnostics, control room automation, integrated nuclear plant operation, and more.



space parlance), mimicking the experience of the Apollo crews that trained at the site to traverse the moon's surface more than a half-century ago.

"The experience was nothing short of incredible," said Saaya Parikh, a junior in mechanical engineering. "My favorite part was our night hike out to one of the craters.

"Our instructors and mentors provided a lot of information about what exactly we were doing, why we were doing it, and why it's important to space exploration. I learned so much — more than I could've ever imagined."

Making the opportunity all the more memorable: Students were literally walking in the footsteps of past astronauts and helping prepare others for the next moon landing.

"We took the students out and gave them remote sensing data sets and let them plan and traverse, then we gathered everyone and said, 'Compare your remote sensing data sets with your boots-on-the-ground experience,'" said Kevin Ruewer, an NNSS scientist. "So they got to see everything from the classroom module to the field execution — including hitting all the stops that Apollo did and the stops that we expect the Artemis astronauts to hit, as well."

That reality left many students in

awe, including Gabriela Motta, a doctoral candidate in geoscience whose research focuses on volcanoes and magma generation on Mars.

"As a planetary scientist, I don't get to do that much field work," she said. "So it was really cool to actually see craters and what they look like up close — not to mention we take the same course and essentially walk in the same steps as other scientists and future astronauts."

CAREER-LAUNCHING MEMORIES

The weeklong excursion was not without a few challenges. For instance, students had to endure brisk and windy weather, long days, and limited cellular reception. Perhaps the greatest sacrifice: Not a single selfie was snapped, as photography was strictly prohibited.

Such inconveniences were more than tolerable, though, given the memories created, the new friendships formed and — perhaps most importantly — the gained knowledge that they will carry forward into their respective careers.

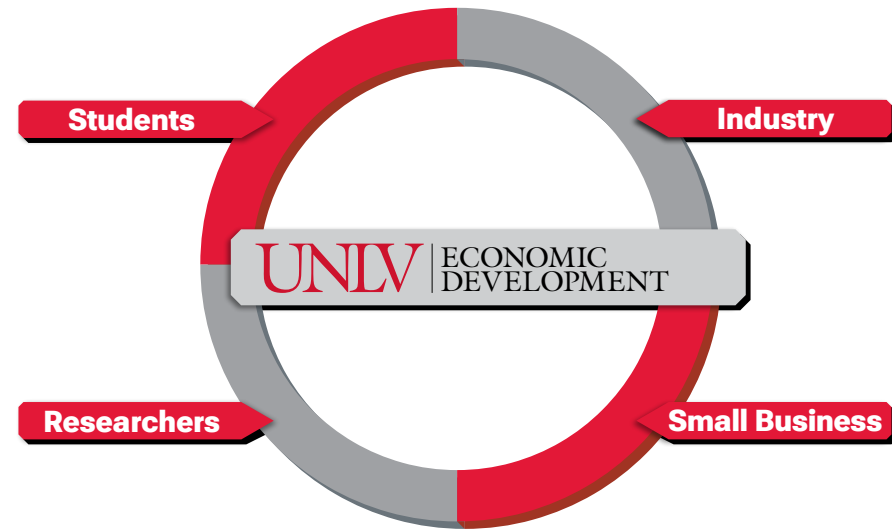
"Not only did this provide a wealth of new perspective of what it's like for astronauts on the ground — I got to view things that few other people will ever have the opportunity to do — but it's also incredibly motivating for me to keep working toward my goals," said

"As a planetary scientist, I don't get to do that much field work. So it was really cool to actually see craters ... and essentially walk in the same steps as other scientists and future astronauts."

Gabriela Motta
Geoscience doctoral candidate

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“Not only did this provide a wealth of new perspective of what it’s like for astronauts on the ground – I got to view things that few other people will ever have the opportunity to do – but it’s also incredibly motivating for me to keep working toward my goals.”

Lucas Wiseman
Junior double-majoring in electrical and mechanical engineering

Lucas Wiseman, a junior double-majoring in electrical and mechanical engineering.

“I cannot express how much I enjoyed being surrounded by people who share the same passion and drive that I do for space.”

Added Motta: “Honestly, I wasn’t expecting to have so much fun with what is essentially a group of strangers. Anyone who is thinking about participating in something like this, I would say definitely go for it.”

The good news is future students may get that chance.

Jacob Thompson – UNLV’s assistant vice provost for undergraduate education and high-impact practices who helped facilitate last year’s trip – said the College of Sciences, College of Engineering, and Office of Economic Development are working to develop a related interdisciplinary undergraduate course.

The goal is for the course to be offered every semester and culminate with an in-person experiential learning opportunity at the NNSS, similar to what these students experienced in October.

Thompson noted that UNLV’s unique location, status as a top-tier research university, and many industry partnerships give Rebels resume-building advantages.

“Experiential learning opportunities like this genuinely set UNLV graduates apart,” he said. “They give our students unique and highly sought-after practical skills that directly translate in the workplace. Employers can be assured that UNLV graduates with these types of experiences will be highly qualified employees who understand how complex, high-stakes projects function from day one.”

Through a partnership with the Nevada National Test Sites, UNLV students got uncommon access to the geological wonders at the Nevada National Security Sites. Here they study ejecta field core samples from the Schooner crater.

RAD GRADS

STORIES BY WENDEE JOHNS | CARICATURES BY ERICA DEUTSCH

UNLV's doctoral program in radiochemistry has long been a powerhouse for nuclear science, producing experts who now lead the nation's most critical security and research missions. The program celebrated its first Ph.D. graduate in 2008 by commissioning a caricature. The tradition has stuck, and now all 45 graduates are featured on the RadChem Wall of Fame. Here, we highlight five of them.



THE INNOVATOR

Kiel Holliday, '09

In the program's early years, founding director Ken Czerwinski broke barriers by allowing students to work directly with radio-nuclides like plutonium and technetium. Keil Holliday embraced this "Ka-Boom!" level of innovation from the start. Today, Holliday serves as the associate superblock director for plutonium at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) — one of two facilities in the country dedicated to defense plutonium research and development.



THE GLOBAL STRATEGIST

Cassara Higgins, '22

Known for her love of ultimate frisbee and her dog, Bailey, Higgins' research under David Hatchett, a biochemistry professor and now vice president of research, was as visually stunning as it was scientifically significant, featuring samples that shifted into vibrant blue-green hues. After presenting award-winning research in Sydney, Australia, she now serves as the Acting First Line Manager for the Aqueous Nitrate Team at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), ensuring the reliability of the U.S. nuclear stockpile.



THE MYSTERY SOLVER

Bradley Childs, '17

Specializing in volatile technetium oxide compounds under chemistry professor Frederic Poineau, Childs' doctoral studies were marked by a "mysterious red compound" that defied immediate identification. His curiosity, backed by a DOE Fuel Cycle Innovations award, propelled him to his current role as a research scientist in the Chemistry of Nuclear Materials Group at LLNL.



THE EXPLORER

Joel Castillo, '24

Whether he's outdoors or in the lab, Castillo is always ready for an adventure. Working with Art Gelis, Castillo used MRI technology to measure uranium at temperatures as low as minus-90° degrees Fahrenheit. His award-winning research, supported by the Nuclear Science and Security Consortium, has led him to a postdoctoral fellowship at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory within the Nuclear Chemistry and Engineering Group.



THE MOLTEN SALT GIRL

Hannah Patenaude, '24

With a dissertation focused on electrochemistry techniques for uranium and plutonium in molten salt fuel systems, Patenaude's caricature as the "Molten Salt Girl" is fitting. During her graduate studies, she founded the Women in Nucleus group and secured a prestigious Nuclear Energy University Program fellowship that supported her research. This path led Patenaude to Los Alamos National Laboratory as a Glenn T. Seaborg Institute Fellow, where she completed her doctoral work. Upon graduating, she accepted a Director's Postdoctoral Fellowship to continue her specialized research on molten salts.

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Actions for the Earth: Art, Care & Ecology, curated by Sharmila Wood. Lhola Amira, *IRMANDADE: The Shape of Water in Pindorama*, 2018-2020, film still. Image courtesy of SMAC Gallery, copyright Lhola Amira; Katie West, *Clearing*, 2019, installation view; Sayan Chanda, *Deity 8*, 2021; Zarina Muhammad, *Calendrical Systems for the Afterlife*, 2021; Photos: Krystal Ramirez.

BUILDING **THE FUTURE** OF BUSINESS

LEE BUSINESS SCHOOL IS CONSTRUCTING A NEW, TECH-HEAVY ACADEMIC HOME TO KEEP PACE IN THE EVER-CHANGING ENVIRONMENT BY CAROLYN KRESSER

When people think of Las Vegas, they often think of gaming or entertainment.

But the reality is businesses in all industries choose to call Las Vegas home, drawn by the region's business-friendly environment, a diversifying economy, and access to a growing talent base.

Las Vegas has become a global business crossroads, a place where commerce is built, operated, and scaled every day. And a city like this deserves a business school to match.

That responsibility is embraced by Lee Business School, now UNLV's largest

academic unit and one of its fastest growing, with more than 4,700 undergraduate and graduate students.

"Las Vegas is one of the most important centers for business and innovation in the country — an international city where the world convenes to form partnerships and launch innovations — and UNLV sits at the heart of that momentum," said UNLV Interim President Chris Heavey. "This is our moment to invest in a future where our students don't just participate in that growth, they help lead it."

Yet, as enrollment has grown and



The new Lee Business School building will sit prominently at a main entrance to UNLV's Maryland Parkway campus — a much more accessible location for the Southern Nevada community.

"There is no better research laboratory for business than Las Vegas, where corporations exhibit their entrepreneurial energy and vision every day. We want the business school front and center, and our students fully engaged to learn from the best."

— Chris Heavey
interim president





programs have expanded, the school's current home in Frank and Estella Beam Hall has become outdated. It was built in 1983 — long before the Consumer Electronics Show became an annual Las Vegas staple, before computers were placed in every student's hands, and before The Mirage kicked off the city's corporate casino boom with its new model for the modern megaresort.

"We are bursting at the seams," said Lee Business School Interim Dean Anjala Krishen. "There's nowhere for our students to go."

Enter the Building Business Together campaign. Through the community-based initiative, UNLV is raising support for a new academic home for the Lee Business School, a four-story facility designed to bring students, faculty, and industry partners together in ways the current building cannot.

A BUILDING DESIGNED FOR HOW STUDENTS LEARN TODAY

Beyond simply creating more space, the new building is designed to transform the way business education happens at UNLV.

The current building lacks many elements that define modern academic spaces — collaborative areas, dedicated research labs, and technology infrastructure that supports emerging fields like artificial intelligence and data analytics.

Most noticeably, it lacks places where



students can convene.

"There's no community space here," said Krishen. "There aren't easy places for students to get to know each other, and there's no space to connect with industry."

Krishen says the new building's design will create those spaces that foster impromptu interactions.

"Right now, our faculty are physically separated from students," Krishen said. "That means you don't get those collisions where students run into a professor and start a conversation — that's where a lot of learning happens."

The building will house six specialized labs focusing on financial markets, professional sales, computer teaching, data analytics, cybersecurity, and tutoring.

"For example, students in the professional sales lab will be able to practice sales pitches and be observed by the class through an observation window," said Michele Brigida, principal and project lead with the architecture firm



Carpenter Sellers Del Gatto. "The data analytics lab will allow students to look at data immersively around the room and share information between computer screens."

Technology will be embedded in every classroom, with features such as writeable walls and interactive screens designed to support collaborative learning. Students and faculty will have access to a recording studio to produce podcasts or record lessons, reflecting the growing role of digital communication in today's business environment.

FOUR LEVELS BUILT FOR CONNECTION AND COLLABORATION

Located at the corner of Maryland Parkway and Harmon Avenue, the new 130,631-square-foot building will serve as a visible front door to campus. Its four floors are organized around distinct themes that reflect how students learn and collaborate.

The first floor, known as the Business

(Top) The two-story main lobby is designed as an open, central gathering space. Its flexible layout also allows for hosting events to further engage business leaders in the school's programs.

(Bottom) Six specialized learning labs for professional sales, data analytics, cybersecurity, and more will provide business students with immersive learning experiences for today's most in-demand fields.

Plaza, will be the most public-facing space. It will include a 180-seat lecture hall, several specialized learning labs, and offices for Lee's research centers and undergraduate programs.

"The entire project is student-centered," says Brigida. But it will also be a statement to the business community. "The business plaza is designed to engage the community around the project. It's outward facing and will open onto a plaza. And we built flexibility into the design so the school could use the space to host events."

A café with outdoor seating will provide that central gathering point missing in the current building.

"I might be most excited about the café," Krishen says with a laugh. "That's the kind of space where people will naturally connect."

The main floor will also house the Career and Professional Development Center, placing career preparation at the center of the student experience.

The second floor will serve as the Learning Hub and focuses on teaching and academic programs.

This is where students will find large, medium, and small classrooms designed for active learning. Many will feature flexible layouts and technology that support both in-person and virtual instruction.

Surrounding the classrooms will be small study rooms, huddle spaces, and informal seating areas where students can continue discussions outside of class.

"We know students learn and study in different ways," Brigida said. "Some want casual spaces to work together, while others need quiet rooms to focus. There will be spaces for all types of learning."

The third floor, known as The Collab, shifts to teamwork and student life. In addition to classrooms, the floor will include quiet study areas, group meeting

rooms, and an office for student organizations. Three outdoor decks will provide additional space for students to gather.

"This level is about finding more moments to create organic meeting points," says Brigida.

The Executive Hub on the fourth floor will be home to administrative offices as well as the executive program. This level will include a conference center with boardrooms and meeting spaces designed to host industry leaders and guest speakers.

An additional two outdoor decks will provide space for networking events and alumni gatherings, helping the school bring more business leaders directly into the academic environment.

A FRONT DOOR TO CAMPUS — AND THE COMMUNITY

The building's prominent location along Maryland Parkway is more than a matter of visibility — it reflects a deliberate effort to position Lee Business School at the center of both campus life and the region's broader business community.

UNLV planners have prioritized placing community-facing programs along this corridor, creating a more accessible, welcoming entry point for industry partners and visitors.

"We want to highlight our schools that have community forward relationships," says Deborah Bergin, director of planning and facilities partnerships for Planning & Construction at UNLV. "The Lee Business School relies on a lot of community partnerships for teaching moments, mentoring, and job opportunities, so there was something magical about placing their new building at the forefront of the campus."

With the building at the edge of campus, the university is making a clear statement: Collaboration with industry is core to how the business school operates and how students learn. The increased accessibility will translate into stronger connections with local employers, creating more opportunities for internships, mentorship and career pathways.

"There is no better research laboratory for business than Las Vegas, where corporations exhibit their entrepreneurial energy and vision every day," Heavey said. "We want the business school front and center, and our students fully engaged to learn from the best and become the next generation of leaders."

The university's community con-



nections already have a measurable impact. According to data from UNLV's Center for Business and Economic Research, the university generates more than \$3.2 billion in total annual economic output and supports more than 20,000 jobs across Southern Nevada. Nearly one in five bachelor's-educated workers in the region earned their degree at UNLV.

A new Lee Business School building will only help those numbers grow.

LOOKING AHEAD

The new business building has an estimated cost of approximately \$180 million, with \$80.9 million already committed through the state and university funds. University leaders are seeking to raise at least \$60 million through philanthropy, with the remaining balance anticipated to be financed through bonds.

"We are extremely grateful to the Nevada Legislature and Gov. Joe Lombardo for allocating nearly \$75 million toward this project," says Krishen. "That investment reflects a belief in the importance of preparing the next generation of business leaders and strengthening the talent pipeline that will help drive Nevada's economy forward."

If fundraising continues on schedule, UNLV hopes to break ground in late 2027 or early 2028, with construction complete by June 2030.

For Krishen, the building represents an opportunity not just to expand, but to redefine the student experience.

"We want this to be a place that brings people together, and where you can feel the energy from the moment you walk in," she said. "A dynamic, engaging space that inspires students to collaborate and grow."

The new 130,631-square-foot Lee Business School building will be located where UNLV's first building, Maude Frazier Hall, once sat.

PHOTO: CARPENTER SELLERS DEL GATTO ARCHITECTS (RENDERINGS); BRANDEN BRUMBLE/CORE CONSTRUCTION (DRONE)



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ALL IN THE FAMILY

From the football field to the basketball hardwood to the volleyball court, the Harris family beam with Rebel Pride.

BY MATT JACOB

As the east side of the stands fill up ahead of a late-season women's volleyball match at The Pavilion, Merlelynn and Adrian Harris settle into their seats halfway up the less populated west side of the gym.

It's a very strategic move. Not because the couple is antisocial. Rather, this vantage point allows the Harris family to keep one eye on the UNLV sidelines and the other on the court.

The reason? Family.

Deja Harris — the second of Merlelynn and Adrian's five daughters — is an assistant coach on the Rebels' volleyball squad. One of the players Deja coaches: her little sister, Jaida, who had a sensational first season at UNLV.

As has been the case for every home game this season, Merlelynn and Adrian are here to support their daughters and cheer on their Rebels.

Yes, *their* Rebels.

In fact, not only are Merlelynn and Adrian Harris UNLV alumni and former student-athletes, they're members of the UNLV Athletics Hall of Fame.

Now they get the privilege to watch not just one but two of their children represent the scarlet and gray.

"It's tough to put into words," Adrian Harris says.

Adds Merlelynn: "It's such a blessing."

This particular legacy story goes back more than four decades to 1983 — the year Adrian Harris left his hometown of Los Angeles after accepting a UNLV



Above, with daughter Jaida Harris' face on a stick, Merlelynn and Adrian Harris cheer from the stands at The Pavilion.

At left, Jaida Harris (left) poses with her sister, UNLV assistant volleyball coach Deja Harris before a match.

football scholarship.

It was a decision the onetime linebacker never saw coming: "I didn't even know UNLV had a football team."

That changed when Harris learned that Kirk Jones — a heavily recruited Southern California running back — revealed that he was going to be a Rebel.

Jones' decision was the first thing that piqued Harris' interest in UNLV. Then Rebels assistant coach Wayne Nunnely paid Harris a visit.

"I was recruited by a lot of different schools," Harris says. "But Coach Nunnely actually showed up at my door."

After redshirting as a true freshman, Harris took the field in 1984 for what arguably remains the best team in school history. Behind future NFL star quarterback Randall Cunningham, the '84 Rebels finished 11-2 and appeared in (and won) the school's first bowl game.

Although that season was later vacated because of NCAA rules violations,

PHOTOS: LUCAS PELTIER/UNLV ATHLETICS

the 1984 squad was honored with a 2012 induction into the UNLV Athletics Hall of Fame and again during a 40th anniversary celebration at a 2024 game at Allegiant Stadium.

Harris worked as hard in the classroom as he did on the field with the goal of becoming a doctor. “But taking so many science courses while also playing football was really tough,” he says. “Still, I had stocked up on the science [credits], so I decided to become a science teacher.”

After graduation, Harris headed north — way north — in an effort to secure a spot on a Canadian Football League team. Quickly realizing it wasn’t meant to be, Harris put away his cleats, returned to Las Vegas, and landed a job with the Clark County School District. He is now a PE teacher at Dean Peterson Elementary School, less than three miles east of the UNLV campus.

As for that decision to settle in Las Vegas after a brief sojourn to Canada? It didn’t just result in what has been a long and rewarding career; it led Harris to his soulmate — who, ironically enough, is Canadian.

Merlelynn Harris uses words like “regimented” and “organized” when describing her formative years. It’s easy to understand why, considering that — even as a young teenager living in Toronto — she had her life mapped out in four-year increments.

That wasn’t an arbitrary number, either.

A talented basketball player who topped out at 6-foot-6, Harris was 16 years old in 1985 when she earned a spot on Canada’s national team. That accomplishment immediately put her on the four-year Olympic cycle.

During Harris’ 11-year run with the national team, Canada qualified for the Olympics only once (in 1996, her final year with the squad). However, the experience allowed her to travel and play all around the globe. That included games throughout North America in the mid-1980s, which exposed the teenager to universities on both U.S. coasts.

In turn, coaches from those universities were exposed to the center’s talent, and the scholarship offers soon followed.



Jaida Harris goes for the ball during a game against Wyoming. The sophomore transfer earned Mountain West Newcomer of the Year honors for the 2025 season.

When I was younger, I was like, ‘Nah, I’m not going to UNLV.’ Now that I’m here, though, it’s an honor to wear No. 15 and represent the Harris family, including my sister.

Jaida Harris Junior, UNLV volleyball team

“One thing I knew was I didn’t want to be in the snow,” she says. “So that cut out the entire East Coast.”

The geographical mandate gave Lady Rebels head coach Jim Bolla and his then-wife (and assistant coach) Sheila Strike-Bolla a shot at landing Harris.

Alas, it was a long shot. That is until Harris — who had been living on her own in Toronto since she joined Canada’s national team — learned that UNLV didn’t require freshman student-athletes to live in what was then the lone dorm building on campus.

“I was like, ‘Oh yeah, I can keep living on my own!’” she says, laughing. “The fickle decisions you make when you’re young and don’t have any mentoring!”

THE CANADA CONNECTION

Two other important factors that convinced Harris to sign with UNLV: Her scholarship came with a larger stipend than what other schools offered, and the Lady Rebels had a strong Canadian connection. Not only was Sheila Strike-Bolla from north of the border, but so was Misty Thomas, a star point guard for UNLV from 1982-83 to 1985-86 who played alongside Harris for Team Canada.

Harris — then known by her maiden name, Merlelynn Lange — went on to play in 111 games for UNLV over four seasons from 1988-89 to 1991-92. Her finest season was her last, when she returned from a major ankle injury and averaged 10.6 points, 8.1 rebounds, and made 62.3% of her shot attempts.

The latter still stands as a single-season school record, as does Harris’ career 58.1% field-goal percentage. She also was a key contributor to the 1989-90 team that posted a school-record 28-3 record, finished No. 5 in the national rankings, and earned a 2006 induction into the UNLV Athletics Hall of Fame.

As impressive as Harris’ career was, what she accomplished off the court might have been more remarkable: While fulfilling her basketball commitments for both UNLV and (in the off-season) Team Canada, Harris double-majored in psychology and pre-med.

Her intention upon graduating from UNLV: play professionally overseas, then begin pursuing a medical degree in psychiatry.

The first box got checked: Harris played two seasons in France and one in Germany (and even played for the WNBA’s Phoenix Mercury in 1999).

As for her post-playing-career goal? It got tweaked following a chance meeting with then UNLV professor Dr. Wayne Lanning on the eve of Harris’ initial journey to France.

During that meeting, Lanning asked Harris to describe an ideal day on the job as a professional psychiatrist. She did. His reply: “You will *never* do that a day in your life if you continue on the path that you’re on.”

The blunt assessment left Harris frazzled. Then Lanning mentioned UNLV’s newly launched marriage and family therapy program, and encouraged her to look into it. Harris took the

advice, enrolled in the program in the mid-1990s, and earned her graduate degree from UNLV.

Soon after, Harris opened her own marriage and family therapy practice in Henderson, which she has operated for the past two decades.

“It was my last day on campus, I had already sat for my MCATS, applied to medical school, and signed my contract to play overseas when I had that divine meeting with Dr. Lanning,” Harris says. “I can’t imagine where I’d be today had that not happened.”

As it turns out, that was the *second divine*, life-changing encounter that Harris would experience in a span of two years.

Merlelynn Harris admits she was dismissive, if not downright rude, the first time she met her future husband in 1990.

The backstory: Merlelynn’s roommate had a crush on a UNLV student-athlete who happened to be renting a room at Adrian’s house. One day, the quartet gathered at the home of Merlelynn’s parents (they were snowbirds from Canada who spent winters in Las Vegas).

As Merlelynn sat at a table clipping news articles written about her, Adrian began peppering her with questions about her classes. “I wanted to know what her [career] plan was,” Adrian says. “And she mentioned that she was pre-med.”

Merlelynn: “I don’t even know that I was making eye contact — I was *that* rude.”

Later, on the ride back to his apartment, Merlelynn’s roommate asked Adrian what he thought of Merlelynn. His reply: “I’m going to marry her.”

“Two weeks later, we went on our first date,” Merlelynn says. “And the rest is kind of history.”

The two Rebels made their union official in January 1995, at which point Merlelynn became the bonus mom to Adrian’s daughter, Kassandra. Then, in spring 1996 — just weeks before Merlelynn began training for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta — the couple welcomed Deja. And not long after returning from the Olympics, they learned that another daughter, Alexis, was on the way. Jaida arrived nearly a decade



Assistant volleyball coach Deja Harris exhorts her team.

later, followed by Aliyah.

At that point, the Harris girls technically could’ve fielded a basketball team on their own. However, all eventually gravitated toward volleyball.

Deja and Alexis played four years together at San Diego State (with Deja becoming the Aztecs’ all-time career leader in blocks); Jaida initially decamped to Long Beach State; and Aliyah completed her first season at Tennessee State late last year.

That’s right: All four girls played Division I volleyball — though none initially chose their parents’ alma mater.

A REBEL HOMECOMING

After wrapping up her playing career with a brief stint overseas, Deja returned to her hometown in 2021 when UNLV offered her an assistant coaching position. “It was a no-brainer, because there’s a family legacy,” she says. “If the circumstances were different back when I was being recruited, it would’ve been a no-brainer to play here.”

Like her big sisters, Jaida also launched her collegiate volleyball career in Southern California.

“I received an offer from UNLV, but like most kids, I wanted to leave my hometown for college,” she says.

Following a redshirt sophomore season at Long Beach, though, Jaida decided it was time to move on.

Of course, when her sister’s name hit the transfer portal, Deja put forth her best sales pitch — it is, after all, part of her job. But she didn’t push *too* hard.

“The ball,” Jaida says, “was in my court.”

In the end, though, it was a pretty easy decision to not only to play *for* her sister but to play *in front* of her parents.

“It’s been so good for me, not only as an athlete, but good for my mind and my heart to be back home with my family,” says Jaida, who is working toward her psychology degree.

With that family cheering her on from the stands and on the sidelines, Jaida started all 28 games this season and led the Rebels in points, kills, attack attempts, and service aces.

And she did it all while wearing No. 15 — the same number Deja wore at San Diego State. And the same number their mother wore for four years on the UNLV basketball court.

“When we played in alumni games a long, long time ago, I often wondered, ‘If I ever have kids, will I get to see them in a UNLV uniform playing on campus?’” Merlelynn says. “So to see one of my daughters as a UNLV coach while my little one is on the court, it’s very, very fulfilling. We’re so, so grateful.”

That gratitude is echoed down the family line.

“Our parents are an amazing support system and our wise counsel, and we try to represent them the best we can,” Deja says. “So there’s a little bit of us doing this for them.”

Adds Jaida: “It’s an honor to wear No. 15 and represent the Harris family, including my sister. And I want to continue to do it well. Because I’m not just playing for myself anymore.”

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

CAREER BREAKAWAYS

How playing competitive club hockey gave these grads a foundation for professions beyond the rink.

For many players on UNLV's club hockey team, wearing the Rebel crest is more than a chapter in their athletic careers; it's the foundation for what comes next. As the Skatin' Rebels wrap up their 20th anniversary season, we caught up with former members of the club team to find out what happened after they hung up their UNLV jerseys.

NICOLAS FLANDERS



'24 *BSBA Business Administration*
Forward Nicolas Flanders played 115 games for UNLV (2019-24), recording 70 points and helping the team reach its first national championship game in 2024.

Now he's a financial advisor with West-Pac Wealth Partners. "We always talked about leaving the program better than you found it. That mentality translates to work." He also coaches youth hockey and teaches private lessons. "I'm on the ice at 5:30 some mornings," he said. "For most people, that might not be fun, but I love it."

MATTIAS DAL MONTE



'25 *BSBA Economics*
Defenseman Mattias Dal Monte joined UNLV in 2022 and became one of the program's top players, recording 89 points in 86

games over three seasons. As captain, he led the Rebels to a conference title and the 2025 national championship. He also made the shootout-winning goal against NCAA Division I powerhouse Denver in a dramatic 7-6 upset that made national headlines.

Dal Monte now works in mergers and acquisitions for The Exit Group. "One of the biggest things I took from UNLV is that compete level," he said. "You apply that same mindset in the workplace."

Dal Monte still plays in a local men's league with other program alumni. "[UNLV]

became such a special place because of the people and the standard that we set," he said.

ROBERT MCCOLLUM



'25 *Criminal Justice*
Defenseman Robert McCollum played two seasons at UNLV (2022-24), recording 57 points in 59 games and serving as an assistant captain.

After helping the Rebels reach a national championship game, he began his pro career in Italy before moving to France's Division 2. "Playing hockey in Europe was always something I hoped would be possible after college," McCollum said.

He adapted to a new style of play and culture. "At first, it was a huge culture change," he said. "But once I embraced it, I realized how lucky I am to experience life in Europe."

JARED ERICKSON



'22 *Business Administration*
Jared Erickson (2019-22) captained UNLV during a historic run that included a 16-game winning streak and a national semifinal appearance.

Now he's a competitor from the bench. In his first year as head coach at Oklahoma State's ACHA Division II program, he led his team to a 23-1-0 record and a championship game appearance this past season.

"My experience as a leader at UNLV definitely shaped the way I coach," Erickson said, emphasizing culture and accountability. "One thing I always stress is leaving the program better than you found it."

BRENDAN MANNING

'24 *Hospitality Management*
Forward Brendan Manning (2019-23) recorded 52 points in 79 games and served as team captain. He now runs his own alternative investment firm in Miami.

"My work revolves around both investing and advising in the lower middle market of private equity, real estate, and infrastructure," Manning said.

Adjusting after hockey was difficult. "The transition was a very weird thing," Manning said. "One day you're doing everything with 30 of your best friends — living, eating, practicing, traveling together — and the next day it's gone."

Manning said his big takeaway from UNLV hockey was learning about the importance of community involvement. "Sometimes a kid just needs a high five or a quick interaction to fall in love with the sport the way we did," he said. "Being part of that meant a lot to me."

— Kayla Faasse

PLUS

Read how former forward and now Ph.D. candidate Daniel Fisher, '24 Engineering, is scoring breakthroughs in the lab.

> Page 22



MOM IN THE MIDDLE

WHEN WE PUBLISHED THIS PHOTO with a story in the fall 2025 issue, we couldn't identify the woman posing with the Fremont Cannon and members of the 1977 football team.

Thanks to a couple readers, we now know she's Edith "Edie" Kraemer and once served as president of the UNLV Boosters Club.

"She was called 'Mom' by many of the players who were far from home," wrote Cindy Cunningham, whose husband Hugh Cunningham, '79 BS Hospitality Administration, was a linebacker from 1973-76.

Kraemer was the actual mom to Jennifer Margison, '05 Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, who wrote: "You couldn't imagine the shock I experienced when I flipped to the back page and saw a picture that was always in a frame at our home."

Edie and then-husband Ralph Kraemer were prominent community leaders and ardent supporters of UNLV Athletics. Ralph, who died in 2016, owned a local engineering firm, and Edie, who died in 1997, was its office manager.

Margison remembers the letterman jacket, trophy football, and commemorative clock that players presented to Edie over the years. "All the guys would come over for the holidays if they couldn't get home," she said. "We always had a house full of Samoans on the holidays."

Cunningham remembers attending a player's wedding in the Kraemers' backyard. "She and Ralph went to every game, home and away."

The couple even headed to Yokohama Stadium in Japan for UNLV's 1978 regular-season finale. It was the Rebels' first season as a Division I team and the first time they played Brigham Young University (the Cougars prevailed 28-24).

"I could tell you many stories of their kindness," Cunningham said. "The Kraemers were our West Coast family. Hugh and I were thrilled (and a little teary eyed) at seeing Edie's picture."

As for that 1977 team in the picture? They were coached by Tony "Silver Fox" Knap and led by quarterback Greg Van Ness, running back Raymond Strong, and receiver Henry Vereen. They also defeated UNR in the annual Battle for Nevada rivalry game, ensuring that the Fremont Cannon rivalry trophy stayed with the Rebels another year.

—Cate Weeks



PHOTOS: UNLV HOCKEY

1980s

Francis J. Beckwith, '83 BA Philosophy, is a professor of philosophy and church-state studies at Baylor University. In May 2025, he was appointed to the White House advisory board of legal experts for the Presidential Religious Liberty Commission and in July received the Russell Kirk Paideia Prize from the CiRCE Institute.



Ahmed, '84

Zahoor Ahmed, '84 BS Hotel and Restaurant Management, is chief financial officer and vice president of hotel operations for R.C. Hedreen Co., a Seattle-based hotel developer. He worked at Hyatt Corp., rising from CMT to regional controller. Based in the Pacific Northwest for more than 26 years, Ahmed enjoys ocean fishing and serves on the boards of Visit Seattle, the Downtown Seattle Association, and the Washington Hospitality Association.



Barbusca, '84



Beat, '84

Juergen Barbusca, '84 BA German and '02 MPA, left a demanding corporate job for a gap year living in a camper van. In December 2025, he published his memoir, *No Overnight Parking: A Year of Vanlife, Discovery, and the Open Road*. *Midwest Book Review* called it "an original, exceptional, and fascinating read from start to finish."



Monk, '99

Larry Beat, '84 BA French, worked 20 years in the U.S. Air Force as an intelligence analyst and 13 years as a planning administrator for the City of Destin, Florida. He now produces surreal photographs at Bad Habits Lounge Studio.



Lopez, '00

1990s

Shawn Danoski, '93 BS Construction Management, is founder and CEO of DC Building Group and also a member of the Junior Achievement of Southern Nevada Board of Directors. He brings more than two decades of construction leadership, strategic planning, and community engagement experience to the nonprofit organization that empowers young people to own their economic success through programs in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship.



Murray, '02

Willie Romero, '95 BA Political Science, is a flight attendant at SkyWest Airlines after a 30-year career in higher education fundraising and philanthropy.



Aviles, '04

Thomas Monk, '99 BS Secondary Education, is assistant principal at a middle school for Los Angeles Unified School District.



Mallen, '06

Introducing the UNLV Learning Center for the Arts.



The UNLV Learning Center for the Arts, a contemporary, transformative new academic facility designed to meet the growing needs of Nevada's students, creative industries, and community.

This project advances UNLV's mission to foster innovation, cultural vitality, and workforce development through the arts. As one of the university's most dynamic and interdisciplinary colleges, the College of Fine Arts serves as a creative engine for Southern Nevada – strengthening education, entertainment, and community engagement through artistic excellence. This bold initiative invites alumni, patrons, partners, and community members to help create a state-of-the-art environment where creativity, collaboration, research, and artistic innovation thrive - preparing the next generation of artists, performers, designers, educators, and cultural leaders.

"This stunning building, which has now been completely pre-designed, will profoundly reshape the landscape and ecosystem of arts and culture in the state of Nevada and will prepare our students for the most compelling 21st and 22nd century careers," said Dean Nancy Uscher. "The building will have the flexibility required to match the trajectory of art studies over the next 100+ years."

Learn more about the CFA Vision:
unlv.edu/finearts/about

UNLV COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS



Kimberly Stein, '92 BS Finance and '95 MBA, is a partner at Flangas Law Group, focusing on entertainment, securities, intellectual property, and real estate law. With her recent trip to Antarctica, she completed travel to all seven continents with her husband.

2000s

Adam Lopez, '00 Hotel Administration, is president of CMIT Solutions of Las Vegas, providing IT support, cybersecurity, and engineering for casinos, hospitality groups, law firms, and local businesses. He has held roles at Goodwill, Golden Entertainment, Hard Rock, Caesars Entertainment, Bally Technologies, VizExplorer, and Crystal Cruises.

Joseph Wagner, '00 BS Hospitality Administration, is general manager and SVP at Seminole Hard Rock in Tampa, Florida.

Iliana Murray, '02 Hotel Administration, has worked from Wall Street to Deloitte LLP in Georgia. She now leads IT project management for the ERP platform at Lennar Homes in Miami. Her hobbies include travel, music, and supporting UNLV Rebels football.

Jennifer Hunter, '03 BA English Literature, is a classroom educator for grades 8–10 in the Clark County School District. She helped open Shadow Ridge High School and later taught at Leavitt Middle School and Centennial High

School. Now retired, she serves as Nevada partnership manager for Discovery Education.

Kent Kay, '03 BA Film, began his career at KTVN in Reno and later worked at KTNV-TV in Las Vegas, KHOU in Houston, and WITI in Milwaukee. He served 13 years as creative director at KESQ News Channel 3 in Palm Springs, California, and now teaches digital design and film at College of the Desert. In November 2025, he was inducted into the Silver Circle of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Gustavo Alonso López, '04 BS Architecture, is a flamenco guitarist and composer. He released his third full-length studio album, *Sonanta Con Metales*, in April 2026 with trumpeter Jay Roulston.

Ericka Aviles, '04 BS Hospitality Management, is founder of EAC, a marketing and communications firm celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2025. She leads campaigns for the College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas Raiders, and Clark County School District, and supports the Public Education Foundation. In November,



Taylor, '06

she received the Vegas Golden Knights' Exemplary Women in Business Award.

Joshua Mallen, '06 Hotel Management, built a portfolio of 20 companies spanning marketing, recruitment, and lead generation.



Hattersley, '07

Nathan Taylor, '06 Political Science, is CEO and founder of Taylor Consulting Group, a Las Vegas firm specializing in government affairs, land use consulting, and liquor and gaming licensing. He previously worked with the Clark County Business Licensing Department, City of Las Vegas, and former Nevada State Sen. Mark James. He serves on the UNLV College of Liberal Arts' Industry Leader Advisory Council.



Perez, '07

Iris Hattersley, '07 BA and '12 MA English, wrote *Lucky Thirteen*, a memoir, and *My Name is Jimmy*, a crime novel. She is working on a biography of her cousin, Harry Reid.



Andresen, '09

Pj Perez, '07 BA Journalism, joined Southern California Edison as senior manager of integrated communications planning. He is in production on his second feature-length documentary, *Murdered on the Fourth of July*, and recently produced the Las Vegas short film *Constant Hum*.



Ethelbah, '09

Jeannie Andresen, '09 BSBA Marketing, is a partner at Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP, representing government taxing authorities in federal bankruptcy cases. She serves on multiple bankruptcy committees and mentors young lawyers. She earned a J.D. from Saint Mary's University School of Law.



Hughes, '09

Kyle Ethelbah, '09 MPH, was appointed associate vice president for institutional engagement and experience at UNLV. He brings more than 25 years of leadership experience in higher education and will guide universitywide engagement efforts.



Luinetti, '09

Brandon Hughes, '09 BS International Business, worked in Beijing and earned an LL.M. from Tsinghua University. He served in the U.S. Army, founded FAO Global consulting, and has performed stand-up comedy in New York. He is married with three children.



Orozco, '10

Alessio Luinetti, '09 BA Psychology and BS Biology, is a board-certified psychiatrist and USAF veteran. He owns Rinnova Psychiatry in Colorado Springs and is an equity partner at Zephyr Behavioral Health and Wellness in Denver. He has also expanded his practice to Las Vegas. He is licensed for psilocybin-assisted



Brumble, '12



Woolf, '12



Kular, '13



Tu, '17



Geyrozaga, '18



Park, '24



Gutierrez, '25

psychotherapy and opening Zephyr Collective, a legal psilocybin healing center in Denver.

Calvin J. Pouncy, '09 M.Ed. Special Education and '13 Ed.S. Special Education, retired from the Clark County School District after 16 years in special education and social work. He earned an MSW from Arizona State University and a DSW from the University of Southern California, and coached varsity football at Canyon Springs High School.

2010s

Jose Orozco, '10 BA Criminal Justice and '24 EMBA, is an adjunct professor in UNLV's Lee Business School and co-founder of Broches for a Cause LLC and the Orozco Siblings nonprofit. He has worked in international business and entrepreneurship while mentoring students and investing in communities.

Alexandra Williams, '11 BA Theatre Arts, was promoted to vice president and lead writer for WWE Raw, overseeing creative development for the flagship weekly program. She joined WWE in 2020 as a writer and producer, and was later promoted to senior writer and producer before stepping into the new leadership role.

Branden Brumble, '12 BS Construction Management, works for CORE Construction as a project manager and is part of the team that built the Advanced Engineering Building at UNLV. He also helped complete the UNLV Harry Reid Radiology Lab HVAC remodel. Brumble is currently managing the UNLV Lynn Bennett preschool project, set to open in August. Other upcoming projects include the Student Union remodel and Lee Business School.

Neil Woolf, '12 Ed.D. Higher Education Leadership, serves as president of New Mexico Highlands University. He also served as executive vice president at Southern Oregon University, associate vice president at Eastern Washington University, director of enrollment services at Nevada State University, and senior policy analyst for the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Bruce Johnson, '13 MFA Creative Writing, published a short story collection, *Love, Dirt*, exploring diverse narratives and settings from a Nebraska farmhouse to South America.

Meghan Kular, '13 BA Elementary Education and '15 MA Curriculum and Instruction, opened

Kiddie Academy of Mountains Edge with her husband, **Gurdev Kular**, '12 BA Business, in 2023.

Daniel Waqar, '16 BA History, was named a 2025 Emerging Scholar by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation. He is a Ph.D. candidate at Tufts University studying British colonial-era unlawful assembly laws in South Asia.

Vanessa (Haroan) Tu, '17 BA Psychology and '18 M.Ed. Special Education, is the founder of Bright Minds, a California-based behavioral health agency serving children with autism through a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and technicians. Since graduating from UNLV, she has co-founded two startup ventures, launched behavioral services in California public school districts, and published a workbook for parents of nonverbal children on the autism spectrum. Her husband, **Cheng Yang Tu**, '20 DPT, is also a UNLV alumnus.

Kurt Geyrozaga, '18 BA Criminal Justice, is an imagery analyst in the Army National Guard supporting special operations forces missions and a federal civilian imagery analyst focused on peace-building efforts in the Indo-Pacific. He is the founder and president of Veterans in Emerging Technology and AI Governance (VET-AIG), a nonprofit focused on AI governance in national security, and serves on the Clark County Law Library Board of Trustees. He was recently admitted to Harvard Kennedy School's MC/MPA program. He also writes on defense policy, AI governance, and veteran advocacy through LinkedIn and his nonprofit work.

Rosemary Q. Flores, '19 MPA, is associate director of the Teacher Academy Pipeline Project at Nevada State University. She is pursuing a doctoral degree at UNLV. Her daughter **Tanya Amaranta Polanco**, '04 BA Elementary Education, is a public school teacher in California.

Katie Streit, '19 BA Journalism & Media Studies, is a national correspondent for Spectrum News. She previously reported for Spectrum News 13 in Orlando and continues to travel and play tennis. She is training to walk the Camino de Santiago from Portugal to Spain.

2020s

Brad Solomon, '20 BA and '24 MA Nutrition Sciences, is director of football nutrition at Penn State University. He previously worked at the

University of Texas and University of Wyoming and held roles with the Las Vegas Raiders and UNLV. He and his wife, **Lana Solomon**, '17 BA Kinesiology and '20 DPT, are parents to two young sons.

Jordan Hayes, '23 BA Psychology, is a lead registered behavior technician and is about to sit for her BCBA licensing exam. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis in December 2025 and released an EP with her band, Joobilee, in October 2025. Joobilee was featured in *Las Vegas Weekly* (Feb. 25-Mar. 5).

Joseph J. Marino, '24 J.D., has joined the law firm of Christian & Barton, L.L.P. in Richmond, Virginia, as a litigation associate.

Amy Park, '24 BA Graphic Design & Media, is a promotions coordinator. She moved from Las Vegas to Niagara Falls, New York, to pursue opportunities in the marketing industry and is now authorizing graphic design work for a Niagara Falls-based casino.

Davy Phrathep, '24 Ph.D. Clinical Psychology, came out of athletic retirement to make his international debut with the Lao National Baseball Team at the Southeast Asian Games in Bangkok. Returning to competition allowed him to apply the mental skills and performance psychology training he developed during his doctoral work at UNLV. He is a licensed clinical psychologist with Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, supporting elite youth athletes at IMG Academy. A member of the UNLV AAPI community, he said representing Laos internationally was a meaningful way to connect his cultural identity with his UNLV education.

Yazmin Flores, '25 MSW, works in child welfare and is pursuing licensure as a master social worker. She and her husband opened a new food truck business, Tres Niñas Café, serving coffee to the community.

Cristina Gutierrez, '25 BS Secondary Education, began her teaching career in January 2026 after being selected for a full-time secondary English position with Coral Academy following the completion of her student teaching at UNLV. While at the university, she served as a Global Ambassador and substitute teacher, experiences that helped strengthen her sense of community, adaptability, and cultural awareness. Gutierrez is passionate about teaching and enjoys reading, writing, and travel.



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Obituaries

Gerald Paddio, '92 BA Criminal Justice, a member of UNLV's 1986-87 Final Four basketball team and a former NBA and international professional player, died April 4, 2026. He was 60. Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, Paddio starred at Seminole State before transferring to UNLV, where he helped that Final Four team reach a record of 37-2. Paddio was drafted in 1988 by the Boston Celtics and played three seasons in the NBA with the Cavaliers, SuperSonics, Pacers,



Knicks, and Bullets. He later played professionally overseas in France, Spain, Italy, Israel, Lebanon, Japan, Mexico, and Argentina.



Mark Yoseloff, founding executive director of UNLV's Center for Gaming Innovation, died Feb. 18, 2026, at age 79. Originally from Queens, New York, Yoseloff moved to Nevada in 1997 and was appointed chairman and CEO of Shuffle Master, a role he held for more than a decade. During his career he held more than 60 U.S. patents. A CEO, prolific inventor, and member of the American Gaming Association's Hall of Fame, Yoseloff helped establish the Center for Gaming Innovation. The center gives students hands-on experience designing and developing casino games.

Paul Ross Aznarez, '73 Business, died Feb. 22, 2026, at age 75. A longtime Las Vegas educator and coach, Aznarez worked with student-athletes at Indian Springs, Valley, and Palo Verde high schools and coached at UNLV, earning respect for his mentorship and dedication. He enjoyed fishing, camping, sports, and cooking, and cherished time with his three children and four grandchildren.

Henri "Hank" Day, former manager of UNLV's Mail Center, died Jan. 3, 2026.

Day joined UNLV in 1990 and spent 28 years with the university, including 17 years as Mail Center manager before retiring in 2017. He was a member of the National Association of College and University Mail Services and the Rocky Mountain Association of College and University Mail Services. Day was an avid dart player and a devoted baseball fan.

John Filler, professor emeritus of early childhood and special education, died Jan. 3, 2026. Filler joined UNLV in 1989

and served in the College of Education, where he was a faculty research advisor for the UNLV/CSUN Preschool. Known for his research, mentorship, and advocacy for young children and individuals with disabilities, he published in journals focused on child development and special education. He also served as chair of the UNLV Faculty Senate.

Kay Kindred, William S. Boyd School of Law emeritus professor, died Jan. 28, 2026. Kindred joined the law school from William & Mary Law School. At UNLV, she taught contracts, remedies, family law, education law, children's law, and law and society, and her research included constitutional law and conflict of laws. Kindred published extensively on family law, children's rights, and education law.

Gerda Malamud, died Feb. 19, 2026. Malamud moved to Las Vegas in 1968 when her husband, Bernard Malamud, joined the economics faculty. The Malamuds became part of the university's close-knit faculty community and supported campus cultural programs, including the UNLV Chamber Music Society and Nevada Conservatory Theatre.

Clarence George Ray, former economics and statistics instructor, died Nov. 16, 2025, at age 84. Ray taught at UNLV from the 1970s-1990s, and was known for engaging students and mentoring colleagues. He graduated from the College of Charleston and earned his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina. Ray was an avid world traveler, later enjoying winters in Thailand and summers at his cabin in the mountains of southern Utah. He enjoyed a good Scotch and telling many tall tales (or were they?).

Brad Rothermel, former UNLV athletic director who guided the Rebels through a defining era of success, died March 30, 2026. He was 88. Rothermel led UNLV Athletics from 1981 to 1990, a stretch marked by conference championships and the men's basketball team's 1990 NCAA national title. Working closely with coach Jerry Tarkanian, he helped build a high-profile program that elevated the university's reputation across multiple sports. After stepping down, he remained a fixture at UNLV as a professor and



Aznarez



Malamud



Day



Rothermel



Filler



Sohrt



Kindred



Stefanelli

later a special adviser to the athletics department. He was inducted into the Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

Vernon L. "Mac" Sohrt, '90 BA Hotel Administration, a longtime Nevada gaming and convention sales executive, died Jan. 31, 2026. He was 70. Born in Rapid City, South Dakota, and raised in Reno, Sohrt began his career at the Tropicana Las Vegas in the late 1970s. He later spent much of his career as executive vice president of sales at John Ascuaga's Nugget and also held leadership roles at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino and Grand Sierra Resort.

John Stefanelli, an emeritus faculty member in the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality, died Friday, Dec. 12, 2025. He joined UNLV in 1978 and spent 33 years teaching and mentoring students. He served as chair of the Department of Food & Beverage and held the Claudine Williams Distinguished Chair from 1992-94. Stefanelli also authored the widely used textbook *Purchasing: Selection & Procurement for the Hospitality Industry*.

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Back Story



THE CLOCK'S KEEPERS

UNLV's clock tower may not be as famous as Big Ben, but it's a campus landmark with a story all its own — one where silence can fall until a dedicated caretaker steps in.

"People leave, and the knowledge doesn't get passed on. That's how things like this get forgotten," says Armando Campos, a 16-year veteran of Facilities Management.

Campos became the tower's primary caretaker in 2018. He inherited the original electrical blueprints, now yellowed at the corners, but no instruction manual. To get the clock ticking again, he relied on old documentation, YouTube tutorials, and plenty of trial and error.

Today, electrician Dan Fry carries the baton. Maintaining the clock requires creativity and steady hands. "It's not just fixing things; it's knowing how everything connects and making sure it all runs smoothly," he says.

Original parts are no longer made, the hands and music run on separate systems, and tunes must be programmed and adjusted by hand. But thanks to Campos and Fry, the tower now chimes with seasonal melodies on the hour.

— Beth DeBouck

Photos: Josh Hawkins



Top: Dan Fry, an electrician for Facilities Management, is the newest caretaker of one of UNLV's oldest landmarks.

Middle: Dan Fry adjusts the hands on the UNLV Clock Tower as part of routine maintenance.

Bottom: Dan Fry, left, and Armando Campos look through the clock tower's original electrical blueprints.



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