1984 UNLV UPWARD BOUND ALUMNI SWORN IN AS NEVADA STATE BAR PRESIDENT
by Lewis & Clark Law School

Growing up in North Las Vegas, Scott has been a resident of the Las Vegas community since 1970. He completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration (Management) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1988, after which he received his Juris Doctor from Lewis & Clark Law School.

LENDING A HELPING HAND
by Amris Henry, FSS Practicum Student

On November 15, 2016, Family Support Services (FSS) staff and practicum students volunteered with Project Homeless Connect, an annual event that provides services and resources for homeless and low-income individuals and families in the Las Vegas area. The event was hosted by the Nevada Homeless Alliance, which was established in 1992, and since then has executed over twenty-three Project Homeless Connects. Participants received haircuts, dental and eye examinations, clothing, food, and assistance from various service agencies. In the last five years over fifteen thousand homeless clients have been serviced at this event.

FSS assisted with the check-in process and had the opportunity to conduct initial assessments with clients and complete intake forms to determine eligibility. FSS staff also helped determine needs of potential services and served as guides by engaging in one-on-one discussions and assisting clients to locate the services selected. FSS practicum students were able to recognize the needs and circumstances of homeless and low-income individuals and families to ensure each person received proper services to meet their immediate needs. Through this experience, FSS practicum students were able to gain a first-hand account of the resources that are available through the organizations servicing the Las Vegas homeless and low-income population.
SSS Participant Recollects His Journey and the Resources That Helped Him

By Irwin Munoz, SSS Participant

Every student has their own story on what it took to attend and complete their studies at a college or university. Being able to participate in the first senior panel by TRIO’s Student Support Services (SSS) program was an outstanding privilege, and what was even more exciting was being able to share and talk about my college experiences to students with backgrounds similar to my own.

Our university prides itself on being different, diverse, and daring from other colleges, and it’s true that UNLV focuses on serving its students so they can be as successful as possible. I come from a family of immigrants, grew up in a low-income household, and am a first-generation college student. I remember feeling anxious and nervous, while at the same time excited about the unknown possibilities. The moment that I stood up to share my experiences to the SSS freshmen participants, I saw myself in them. I saw determined students who understood the importance of being a first-generation college student and had the drive to be successful for themselves and their families.

When I was asked by the moderator “what does attending UNLV mean to you?” I responded by saying attending UNLV means being given the opportunity to grow my character, become educated about my career, and give back to others whom have helped me along the way. As students, we all aim to attain a degree and land the job or career opportunity that we worked so hard for. Life has its complications and is unpredictable, and sometimes the goals we have as students become difficult to achieve. Yet, UNLV offers various support services to help students overcome challenges that arise during their undergraduate career.

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach (The Center) provides a variety of services to assist students seek out connections and opportunities across campus, while also providing financial aid guidance and academic support.

Seeking all the resources possible to aid students during their undergraduate career can make a profound difference on their college experiences—I know this firsthand. Like many students at UNLV, I began college while working a full-time job and enrolled in 15 credits. Over time, I realized that if I wanted to reach my full potential as a student I would need to make more time to be involved in my academics and the campus community. I interviewed for and was offered the position of program assistant working with the TRIO Upward Bound program. In this position I was exposed to various educators who focused on supporting students with academic resources. I joined the TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) program and took the time to talk to my counselors and pursue scholarships. I worked diligently to increase my academic progress and applied for various scholarships with the guidance from the SSS academic counselors. This resulted in being the recipient of the Wells Fargo First-Generation Scholarship and Latin Chamber of Commerce Scholarship.

Being a part of UNLV has been more than I had ever imagined. The resources and academic support are all here on campus. Whenever I think of this university, I think of its commitment to support educational opportunities for first-generation/low-income students. I highly encourage any student here at UNLV to seek the resources that our university offers. You will be surprised by how much support there is out there.
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) has become one of the fastest growing occupational fields and with the advancement of technology and the increase of its everyday use, it has become a hot commodity. Every Tuesday during the six-week Summer Residential Program (SRP), nicknamed STEM Tuesday, The Upward Bound Math & Science Center’s (UBMSC) participants explored the exciting field of robotics.

Partnering with Skybot Challenge’s Chairman, Alphesia Thomas, and fellow board members Catherine Schell and Gabe Quiroz, UBMSC students learned to code and fly parrot and UDI drones. A drone competition was held during the third week of the summer program to test the students to code and successfully fly drones around obstacle courses. During the weeks leading up to the competition, students worked tirelessly in groups assigning roles, such as pilots, coders, builders, etc., and making calculations based on obstacle dimensions. One obstacle in particular was composed of two parts: building an arch bridge with using only wooden pieces, and the second part entailed flying a parrot drone over and around the bridge. There were many moving parts and numerous UNLV faculty, staff, and students who helped make this competition a success. Dr. David James, UNLV Associate Professor and Director of the Solar and Renewable Energy Programs, along with Dr. Donald Hayes, UNLV Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction Chair and Professor, as well as UNLV’s Howard R Hughes College of Engineering Department’s Student Ambassadors all assisted in facilitating the event.

Following the drone competition, students were exposed to another aspect of robotics and technology. UBMSC students had the opportunity to work exclusively with Jimmy Marlett, County Surveyor, and his team of land surveyors from the Clark County Department of Public Works to survey the New York New York Hotel & Casino, Paris Hotel & Casino, and the Stratosphere Tower. Students used surveying equipment to calculate the distance and height of each building, incorporating geometry and trigonometry in real world applications. Additionally, students were able to work with Cooper Medraza, UNLV Department of Engineering’s Lab Assistant, to program and code miniature robots to travel on command.

STEM Tuesdays concluded with a symposium where students presented their group business models and plans for their drone businesses, incorporating the concepts they learned during Backpacks to Briefcases and the SRP overall. From professionally developed business pitches to catchy jingles, it was evident that students took an interest in and enjoyed learning about robotics and STEM in general. With the popularity of STEM Tuesdays, the UBMSC is excited to reveal next summer’s STEM Tuesday theme.
During the summer of 2016, thirty-four McNair and AANAPISI Scholars from a variety of disciplines conducted research. The fruits of their labor were showcased at the 2016 McNair and AANAPISI Undergraduate Research Symposium on Wednesday, November 3, 2016. The event, well-attended by faculty, staff and students, boasted a record number of presenters, and was comprised of both oral and poster presentations. Photos on the next page capture the event’s success.

2016 McNair Scholars & Mentors

Victoria Copeland – Psychology—Dr. Janice C. McMurray,
Psychology “Coping With the Psychological Effects of Racial Microaggressions in College”

Andrea Darby, Biological Sciences—Dr. Allen Gibbs, Life Sciences “The Effect of Gut Microbiota on Starvation Resistant Drosophila melanogaster”

Bridgett Giordmaine, Anthropology—Dr. Carollee Dodge-Francis,
Community Health Sciences “Native American Identity: A Review of Twenty-first Century Research”

Briceida Hernandez-Toledo, Gender & Sexuality Studies—Dr. Anita Tijerina Revilla, Gender Studies “There is No Such Thing as Single Issue Struggles: Undocuqueer Students in Higher Education”

Mark LaRubio, English—Dr. Evelyn Gajowski, English “Hamlet, The Price of Denmark: Socioeconomic Change in Shakespeare’s Hamlet”

Ana Lesquives, Psychology—Dr. Andrew J. Freeman,
Psychology “Gender Influences in Dynamic Risk-Taking and Loss Aversion”

Claudia Chiang Lopez, Sociology & Interdisciplinary—Dr. Jennifer Guthrie,
Communications “You Need the Words?: Portrayals of Romantic Anxiety in Film”

Yessenia Madrigal, Sociology—Michael G. Curtis (Dr. Stephen Fife), Marriage & Family Therapy “Healthcare Limitations Available to Transgender Teenagers: A Systematic Review of the Literature”

Summer Millwood, Psychology—Dr. Marya L. Shegog, Community Health Sciences “An Evaluation of Perceived Ideal Body Types and Their Respective Impact on Self-Esteem and Attitudes Toward Eating Among Women”

Angel Mims, Psychology—Dr. Gwen Marchand, Educational Psychology “Racial Coping Among African American Students in Academia”

Blaine Pennock, Gender & Sexuality Sociology—Dr. Georgiann Davis,
Sociology “Please Select One: Availability of University Services and Facilities for GenderQueer Individuals”

Katie Randolph, Biology & Psychology—Dr. Rochelle Hines,
Psychology “Investigating Mechanisms of Neurodevelopmental Disorder Genesis”

Amber Stephens, Psychology—Rachael D. Robnett,
Psychology “Advantage or Obstacle?: Associations between women’s romantic relationship involvement and their academic outcomes in STEM”

Sarah Werman, Sociology—Dr. Kerie Ann Francis, Sociology “Homeless Community: Las Vegas Strip”

2016 AANAPISI Scholars & Mentors

Nir Herscovici, Pre-Computer Science & Pre-Mechanical Engineering—Dr. Shubhra Bansal, Mechanical Engineering “Computational Simulation of Perovskite Single-Junction Solar Cells using SCAPS”

Joyce Hsu, Journalism & Media Studies—Dr. Benjamin Boroughs,
Journalism & Media Studies “yelp: Future of Online Digital & Mobile Advertising”

Matthew Khumark, Biology—Dr. Dustin Hines,
Psychology “Pharmacological Modulation of TSP0 Affects Brain Oscillations in C57BL6 Mice”

Abcd Joy Lamug, Computer Science—Dr. Justin Zhan,
Computer Science “System-on-Chips Analysis of Cyber Physical Systems: A Smart City Prototype”

Jeong Lim Lee, Biology & Psychology—Dr. Dustin Hines,
Psychology “Spontaneous Seizure Analysis in the Brains of GABAa2 Wildtype, Heterozygous, and Homozygous Mice”

Kendall Lyons, Psychology—Dr. Erin Hannon & Jessica Nova Blodgett,
Psychology “Tempo Perception Across Cultures: The Beat is all it Takes”

Andrea Mandrel, Health Care Administration and Policy—Dr. Darren Liu, Health Care Administration “The Use of Smartphone Applications for Intervention and Relapse Prevention Associated with Bipolar Disorder: A Systematic Review of the Literature”

Niroshini Moodley, Anthropology—Alesha Pettit (Doctoral Student), Anthropology “The Teshik-Tash Child: Evolutionary Montage during the Middle Paleolithic”

Eric Ng, Pre-Mechanical Engineering—Dr. Shubhra Bansal, Mechanical Engineering “Analyzing Data of Thin-Film Photovoltaic Cells”

Timothy Ogburn, Biology—Dr. Nada Lukhahatai, Nursing “Cancer-Related Fatigue Trajectory and Biological Correlates Of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Patients During Chemotherapy”

Andrew Ortiz, Psychology—Dr. James Hyman, Psychology “Construction and Assembly of a Hyperdrive Recording Implant”

Emily Pham, Biology—Dr. Hui Zhang, Chemistry & Biochemistry “Regulation of Cancer Stem Cells by Protein Post-Translational Modifications”

Vivian Sam, Biology—Dr. Scott Abella & Ms. Lindsey Chiquoine, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology “Improving Germination Rates for Select Native Perennial Seeds of the Sonoran Desert”

Devlyn Scarpati, Political Science—Dr. Tiffany Howard, Political Science “A Paradigm Shift Polarizes the United States: The Generational and Demographic Divide”

Philip Hyunbae Son, Biology—Dr. Ai-Sun Tseng, Life Sciences “The Effects of Methylsulfonylmonozinone (MT) on Neural Behavior in Frog Tadpoles”

Olivia Tsang, Biology—Dr. Katherine M. Howard, Dental School “Presence of Platelet-Activating Factor Receptor and Platelet-Activating Factor Acetylhydrolase in Control and Melatonin Treated Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma Lines”

Termaine Turner, Sociology—Chris Wakefield, (Doctoral Student) Sociology “Homelessness in the Valley”

Pang Vang, Interdisciplinary Studies—Dr. Sean Neiswenter, Life Sciences “What effect does naturally occurring asbestos have on Mojave Desert mammals?”

Kenisha Wilson, Psychology—Dr. Gloria Wong, Psychology “Examining Differences Between Asian Americans and Whites for Gambling and Drinking”

Shannon Zayas, Psychology—Dr. James Hyman, Psychology “Increases in Theta Coherence Between Anterior Cingulate Cortex and Hippocampus for Delayed Spatial Recall”
UBMSC STUDENTS AND PARENTS KICK OFF NEW ACADEMIC YEAR
by Geannine Jordan, Assistant Director for UBMSC

The UNLV Upward Bound Math & Science Center (UBMSC) kicked off the 2016-2017 academic year with its annual student and parent fall orientation on Saturday, September 10, 2016. The orientation marks the beginning of a new academic year for UBMSC and reunites UBMSC students, families, and staff through workshops focused on funding postsecondary education through scholarships and grants, college preparation, and career planning for new and returning high school students.

Prospective student workshops focused on the Upward Bound admission process, high school graduation requirements, and services provided by the Upward Bound Math & Science Center. UBMSC encourages participants to challenge themselves academically, maintain good grades, seek out volunteer opportunities, and stay active in their school community.

The senior class, referred to as “Bridge”, attended workshops geared toward graduation, college admission, scholarship deadlines, and FAFSA information. As a highlight of the UBMSC, senior class participants can earn six college credit hours, along with free tuition, fees, books, room and board, and participate in activities the summer after they graduate from high school.

BACKPACKS TO BRIEFCASES
by Ivore White, Academic Counselor for UBMSC

Backpacks to Briefcases is an Upward Bound Math & Science Center (UBMSC) summer residential program initiative created by UBMSC director, Jennie Johnson, in conjunction with Mr. Uri Clinton, vice president and deputy general counsel at MGM Grand Resorts International. The goal of Backpacks to Briefcases (B2B) is to expose UBMSC students to the business leadership and operation side of the legal profession.

On Thursday afternoons during the summer residential program, Mr. Clinton presented on a variety of business topics, with emphasis on the art of debate and negotiation. Dressed in business attire, the UBMSC students split into teams, adopted companies such as IBM, Apple, and Google, and decided on each individual’s business role within the company. The students were then given real world application of how businesses function and operate by playing Monopoly. Students realized the importance of not only their individual responsibilities, but how the roles and responsibilities of those around them allowed the company to run properly and ultimately flourish. The winner of the Monopoly game was determined by the amount of money the team’s company earned multiplied by the company’s net worth.

To showcase the business concepts learned, the residential program concluded with a debate competition and an essay contest. The winner of the essay contest received a one-thousand-dollar scholarship. The UBMSC staff eagerly anticipates hosting the Backpacks to Briefcases program next summer.
UNLV HOSTS WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE FIRST FOLIO EXHIBIT
by Flavia Erickson, Curriculum Coordinator for UBMSC

The UNLV Lied Library hosted a rare traveling exhibit of the original First Folio of the works of William Shakespeare from 1623. This First Folio, printed seven years after Shakespeare’s death in 1616, includes thirty-six of his plays such as “Macbeth”, “As You Like It”, “Julius Caesar”, “The Tempest”, and “Twelfth Night”.

On September 24, 2016, the UNLV Upward Bound Math & Science Center (UBMSC) had the opportunity to receive a private tour of the exhibit. Dr. Su Kim Chung, head of special collections public services, reserved the entire afternoon for UBMSC. She provided a thirty-minute tour to four UBMSC groups of students and staff. Students actively participated and they were allowed to take pictures of this once in a lifetime event.

EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH PARTICIPANT NAMED PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE ESSAY CONTEST WINNER
by Elsa Macias, Academic Counselor for ETS

Genesis Mobley became a TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) participant at Marvin M. Sedway middle school and is still an active participant as a freshman at Canyon Springs High School Leadership and Law Preparatory Academy.

During the fall semester, Clark County School District high school students were given the opportunity to enter the Presidential Debate Essay Contest. Students were asked, “are Presidential debates necessary: why or why not?” while analyzing how debates impact public opinion, past elections, as well as how communications sway the debate process. There would be one winner chosen out of each grade level.

Genesis decided to participate in the contest and out of one hundred fourteen students, she won in the ninth-grade category. Genesis was recognized at a luncheon with UNLV President, Dr. Len Jessup. Genesis plans on attending UNLV for her undergraduate degree and applying to the William S. Boyd School of Law Juris Doctor program.

GEAR UP STUDENT SPOTLIGHT ALONDRA GARCIA
by Lorena Guzman, GEAR UP Coordinator

Alondra Garcia is an eighth-grade student at Mike O’Callaghan Middle School. Alondra moved to the United States in July 2015 from Michoacán, Mexico. Due to her inability to understand English well, Alondra struggled academically during her first semester, earning a 2.67 GPA. She was encouraged by a GEAR UP tutor to join the UNLV GEAR UP program in the fall of 2015. Since becoming a participant, Alondra has received assistance with her homework and has increased her understanding of English. As a result, her GPA has increased from 2.67 to 3.0.

Of the numerous academic activities offered through the GEAR UP program, Alondra benefited most from the college tours, specifically the UNLV college tour. Alondra originally planned to move back to Mexico after graduation, but since learning of the financial aid opportunities and academic programs available, she has decided to stay in Las Vegas and study medical forensics and nutrition at UNLV.

Within a year of arriving in the United States, Alondra has excelled both academically and socially. She is a motivated student and driven to succeed. With support from her family and her passion for learning, Alondra feels confident pursuing postsecondary education.
UNLV appreciates the leadership and support of our Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents.

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