

# UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1951 James Dickinson and two part-time instructors begin teaching classes in a local Las Vegas high school. The library has 1,800 donated books in a closet. The population of Las Vegas is around 48,000. Twenty-eight students sign up for classes.
- 1954 University of Nevada Regents meet for the first time in Las Vegas. They tell a crowd of 300 that it is more important to build a university in Reno than in Southern Nevada. They change their minds a few months later after the population in the southern part of the state exerts political pressure and Estelle Wilbourn donates land for a campus. Enrollment grows to 310.
- 1955 The Nevada Legislature approves \$200,000 for a building for the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada. The Nevada Southern Fund is established. A door-to-door campaign led by Dr. R. Guild Gray raises \$35,000 to buy additional land.
- 1956-58 Retired school teacher, principal and Clark County Legislator, Maude Frazier, succeeds in obtaining legislative support for the southern campus. The first campus building, Maude Frazier Hall, is completed. Archie C. Grant Hall (named after the Regent and community leader) opens. Michael "Chub" Drakulich is the first head coach of the new Runnin' Rebels basketball team. Enrollment is 805 students.
- 1960-61 The Engineering Building (now called University Hall), the Gymnasium (now the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History), the Geoscience Building (now named for Lilly Fong), and the Technology Building are completed. The first floor of the round building of James R. Dickinson Library is finished. Two more floors are added in 1963. The population of Las Vegas is 127,000. Enrollment grows to 955.
- 1964-66 The Social Sciences Building, named for one of UNLV's pioneering professors, John S. Wright, is completed. The regents approve a new name for the campus, Nevada Southern University. Newly appointed campus Chancellor Donald C. Moyer, an educator from New Mexico, raises money for the performing arts center and lays the groundwork for intercollegiate football. He appoints the first dean of the faculty, Jerry Crawford (Professor of Theatre, Emeritus). The UNLV Alumni Association is incorporated. Tonopah Residence Hall and the Dining Commons are completed. The Division of Continuing Education is created to meet the demand for classes off campus. The campus confers its first 29 degrees.
- 1967-68 Students hang Gov. Paul Laxalt in effigy when he announces a budget that does not accommodate NSU's growth. Funding is provided and Nevada Southern University gains autonomy, and is renamed the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Faculty leaders no longer have to fly to Reno to attend Faculty Senate meetings. Students approve a \$27 per semester fee to build a student union. The Division of Science and Mathematics, formed in 1964, becomes a college. Rebel football starts under coach Bill Ireland. Enrollment grows to 3,902.
- 1969-71 Roman J. Zorn, a historian, becomes president of UNLV. Hotel Administration, which first offered classes in 1966, becomes a college. The Colleges of Education and of Business and Economics are also established. The Business Services Building is completed.
- 1970-71 The Chemistry Building is completed. The College of Arts and Letters is formed, merging the old colleges of Social Science, Fine Arts and Humanities. The College of Allied Health Professions is created from the General and Technical Institute, established in 1967. The Silver Bowl, now Sam Boyd Stadium, opens for Rebel football. UNLV enrolls 5,679 students.

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

- 1972-77 Dr. Donald Baepler, academic vice president since 1968, becomes president. The College of Hotel Administration introduces UNLVino. Charles Vanda, director of the concert hall program, starts the Master Series. The Life Sciences Building, named for former Regent Juanita Greer White, is completed. Judy Bayley Theatre, Flora Dungan Humanities Building, William D. Carlson Education, Building, and the Paul C. McDermott Physical Education Center are also completed. The first Doctor of Education degrees are awarded.
- 1979 Dr. Leonard E. "Pat" Goodall, chancellor of the University of Michigan, Dearborn, becomes president. More than 1,000 degrees are conferred. UNLV employs 315 faculty, 84 professional staff, and 315 classified staff. Enrollment grows to 9,447 students.
- 1981 The James R. Dickinson Library addition is completed. Claus Oldenburg's sculpture, "The Flashlight," is brought to campus. The School of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance is established within the College of Education. The Environmental Research Center is organized within the Museum of Natural History. The UNLV Foundation is created.
- 1982-83 Alta Ham Fine Arts & Frank and Estella Beam Halls are completed. UNLV confers 1,200 degrees. Enrollment is 11,452.
- 1984 Dr. Robert Maxson, senior vice president for academic affairs at the University of Houston, becomes president. The Howard R. Hughes School of Engineering is formed within the College of Science, Mathematics and Engineering. The University Forum (lecture) Series is started. UNLV implements a new general education requirement. The 251,450 square-foot Thomas & Mack Center is completed and opens with a fund-raiser featuring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Diana Ross. UNLV student Sheila Tarr is the NCAA Heptathlon Champion.
- 1985-88 The Honors Program is established. UNLV assumes responsibility for the Silver Bowl (now known as Sam Boyd Stadium). Yehudi Menuhin performs in the Master Series. The academic program at Nellis Air Force Base produces its first graduate. The Student Health Center, Public Safety, and the Beam Engineering buildings open. UNLV honors its first Distinguished Professor, Sheilagh Brooks, professor of Anthropology. Nearly 1,300 degrees are conferred. Enrollment tops 14,000.
- 1989-90 UNLV is named one of U.S. News and World Report's "up-and-coming" universities. The UNLV Runnin' Rebels become NCAA National Basketball Champions under coach Jerry Tarkanian. The College of Hotel Administration is named for William F. Harrah, long-time Nevada gaming leader. Residence halls (named for university supporters Claudine Williams, Kitty Rodman and William Boyd) and the Richard Tam Alumni Building are completed.
- 1991-93 The Rod Lee Bigelow Health Science Building is completed, as is the Frank and Vicki Fertitta Tennis Complex. A gift from Jean Nidetch provides funds to start the Women's Center. The first Ph.D. is awarded in English. Warren Schutte is the NCAA Individual Golf Champion. Enrollment is over 19,000 students.
- 1994 Kenny Guinn, elected Governor of Nevada in 1998, serves a year as interim president. The population of the Las Vegas Valley exceeds 1 million. UNLV confers nearly 2,500 degrees.
- 1995 Dr. Carol C. Harter, president of State University of New York-Geneseo, becomes president. The Classroom Building Complex, Donald W. Reynolds Student Services Complex, Robert L. Bigelow Physics Building, Alumni Amphitheater and the Earl E. Wilson Baseball Stadium are completed.

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

- 1996 University reorganization creates the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. The Lied Athletic Complex is completed. Campus-wide strategic planning meetings result in a new mission statement and the publication of "University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Premier Urban University: A Public Agenda for the Decade 1996-2005," the guiding document for UNLV development.
- 1997-98 The William S. Boyd School of Law opens its first class in temporary quarters in an old elementary school. The Paul B. Sogg Architecture Building is completed and the School of Architecture is accredited. UNLV confers more than 3,000 degrees, including 19 doctoral degrees. Enrollment is above 21,000.
- 1999 The William S. Boyd School of Law receives the largest charitable gift pledge in Nevada history—more than \$28.5 million from James E. Rodgers and the Rodgers family. UNLV offers its first courses in Henderson. UNLV Athletics joins the Mountain West Conference. The Nevada Legislature and the Board of Regents authorizes a School of Dentistry.
- 2000 UNLV's College of Liberal Arts receives a multi-million dollar pledge to create an Institute of Modern Letters and to endow a chair in Creative Writing. Nobel Prize-winning playwright Wole Soyinka is appointed to the newly created endowed chair. The Foundation Building and International Gaming Institute Building are completed. The library collection is moved to the completed 302,000 square foot Lied Library. The \$55.3 million library, one of the most technologically sophisticated in the U.S., features hundreds of computer workstations and an automated storage and retrieval system.
- 2001 The Beam Music Center, containing the Artie Shaw Music Collection, is completed. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching moves UNLV to the ranking of Doctoral/Research Universities-Intensive category. More than 3,300 degrees are conferred, including 31 doctoral degrees and 89 juris doctorates. Enrollment is over 23,000 students.
- 2002 UNLV receives a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Health and Human Services Administration for the University's Cancer Institute and new Biotechnology Center. President Bush nominates Jay Bybee, a professor for the William S. Boyd School of Law, as assistant attorney general. Mr. Bybee is appointed to advise Attorney General Ashcroft on the constitutionality of legislation and executive orders. The Greenspun family pledges \$9.7 to build a new facility to house the university's Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. A new 1,600-space parking garage opens.
- 2003 The William S. Boyd School of Law, with an enrollment of 454 students, is granted full accreditation and moves into its permanent home on campus—the newly renovated (former) James R. Dickinson Library. UNLV acquires the Shadow Lane Campus, the future home of the School of Dental Medicine, the Cancer Institute and other biomedical centers. The School of Dental Medicine welcomes an entering class of 76 students and receives initial accreditation. More than 3,600 degrees are conferred, including 35 doctoral degrees. Enrollment is 24,965.

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

- 2004 The preschool moves to the new Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center, benefiting from 30,000 square feet of playground space and 21,000 square feet of classroom and administrative space. The preschool accommodates up to 400 families, and employs 125 student assistants. The School of Dental Medicine screens patients for the school's clinic, opening in the summer of 2004. The school's orthodontic residency program is approved as part of a public/private partnership that includes the building of a new facility for clinical research at UNLV's Shadow Lane Campus and a major scholarship program. UNLV's new Division of Health Sciences houses three schools: Allied Health Sciences, Nursing, and Public Health. The Board of Regents approves Ph.D programs in Nursing and Radiochemistry. UNLV offers 106 graduate programs, including 30 doctoral programs. UNLV grants 133 law degrees and 48 doctoral degrees.
- 2005 Construction of the new Moyer Student Union and the Student Recreation Center begins. The facilities will add nearly 320,000 square feet of program and recreation space for students. UNLV launches "Midtown UNLV," a large-scale public-private partnership to redevelop the areas surrounding the campus designed to create a university district of restaurants, cafes, outdoor gathering places, small scale galleries, and residential/retail opportunities. Planning begins for a 640 acre campus in North Las Vegas. The Board of Regents approves Ph.D programs in Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Therapy and Public Affairs. UNLV offers 117 graduate programs, including 34 doctoral programs. Enrollment is 27,334.
- 2006 Dr. Carol Harter, UNLV's longest serving president thus far, retires from the presidency of UNLV and assumes the role of executive director of the Black Mountain Institute, an international center dedicated to advancing literary and cross-cultural dialogue. Dr. Harter continues to provide leadership for the capital campaign, UNLV's *Invent the Future*, bringing in more than \$310 million towards the \$500 million goal set for the end of 2008. Dr. David B. Ashley, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost of the University of California, Merced, becomes UNLV's eighth president. The School of Dental Medicine graduates its first class. The William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration begins construction of the college's first international campus in Singapore, accepting applications for fall 2006. Construction of the Science, Engineering and Technology building begins. The Barrick Lecture Series and the Performing Arts Center celebrate their 25th and 30th anniversary, respectively.
- 2007 UNLV celebrates its 50th Anniversary, beginning with the formal inauguration of Dr. David B. Ashley as the university's eighth president and the launch of a new comprehensive planning process "Focus 50 to 100." In conjunction with the 50th anniversary celebration, Professor Eugene P. Moehring publishes "The University of Nevada, Las Vegas: A History" chronicling the decisions and controversies that influenced the university during its formative years. Dr. Christine Clark is hired as UNLV's first Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion. The new Ombuds Office, established to provide confidential, informal conflict resolution services to the university community, falls under her purview. President Ashley allocates \$2 million in research awards to enhance campus research and scholarly efforts. A new multidisciplinary undergraduate degree program in Entertainment Engineering & Design is approved. The new Student Union and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center are inaugurated.