

Professor compares campuses in exchange program

by robert danner

staff writer

When Dr. Richard Harp returned to Kansas University to teach a one semester course in World Literature, both students and faculty were more interested in a book which he and professor Joseph McCulloch had co-authored. The literary work on which attention is focused was *Tarkanian-Countdown of a Rebel*, written in 1984.

Harp, recounting his experiences as a National Faculty Exchange professor, said, "After a week in which to adjust to my new surroundings, a student for their campus newspaper suddenly called me for an interview. I was prepared to answer questions as to the benefits of being an exchange professor."

"Instead, I was bom-

barded with questions pertaining to the Running Rebels and our basketball team. Needless to say, my ego was slightly deflated."

Harp, a Professor of English and Dr. Jim Frey, Sociology, recently returned from other schools as participants in the National Faculty Exchange Program.

As a part of this program, Dr. Carlos Bell, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, is currently teaching civil engineering classes this semester at UNLV.

The three professors discussed their experiences as participants in the exchange.

UNLV is one of 156 member institutions throughout the United States and Canada belonging to the National Faculty Exchange. Grants from the Exxon and Ford Corporations allow visiting

professors the opportunity to teach and exchange ideas while they are on a scholastic leave of absence.

During the short time that Bell has been at UNLV, he said he has observed many positive aspects of the campus.

"Because there are 16 campuses within the North Carolina university system, my state legislature does not have the money to allow us to expand as rapidly as UNLV," he said. "I also get the impression that the wealthy community of Las Vegas has been very generous in their donations of money. That, of course, is an enormous help to UNLV."

Harp noted that returning to his alma mater "was like a new experience because the life style at Kansas University is so conservative and the pace

of life is slower than at UNLV."

Frey noted that one of the major benefits of the exchange program for him was to enhance his professional development. "It allowed me to teach at American University, to interact with their faculty members, and to share ideas as to what I am doing."

Harp said he noticed that there were 35 to 40 students per class at Kansas University, whereas at UNLV, classes are kept at a ratio of 25 students. "UNLV," he said, "is at a very good size now because classes are smaller and students get more personal attention."

"Kansas University, on the other hand, has become such a large school. As a result, students do not get the individualized attention. Older and larger schools,

in this aspect, lose out."

Frey remarked that the schools share similar problems of budgets and faculty salaries and said that American University is "re-vamping its curriculum which we did several years ago."

Harp said Kansas University has received large sums of money from private funding, and that its undergraduate body "has done well in getting distinguished scholarships. The school has an established honors program which UNLV is now starting."

Bell felt that UNLV would quickly become "a dominant university because the state is behind the school. UNLV President Robert Maxson has an ear for the legislature and that is an essential ingredient for getting things done."

Frey reflected on the

benefits he received from participating in the program. "Hopefully," he said, "I and future UNLV participants can communicate to others the normal side of life in Las Vegas. We will be able to eliminate the stereotyped impression that Las Vegas live in hotels and eat at buffets."

"This, in turn, would help to legitimate UNLV as an institution in the eyes of faculty across the country who have a stilted conception of our school."

"I remember one conversation I had with an administrator over the phone prior to leaving for American University. The lady asked me if people really live in Las Vegas. Her remark made me realize that people from other parts of the country seem to share myths of the old Las Vegas."

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Engineering building coming along nicely

by seamus brennen

staff writer

The construction of UNLV's new engineering complex is proceeding

smoothly, however, it appears it will not be completed by the original projected date of August, 1988.

"There haven't been

any major problems; the original construction schedule might have been a bit ambitious", stated Dr. Wells from the UNLV Engineering Department.

He predicted that the facility would be finished within two months of the original date, although an effort would be made to utilize classrooms for the start of the Fall, 1988 semester.

UNLV's four-year old Engineering program has been accredited for both Civil and Mechanical engineering degrees. Last month, officials arrived on campus to inspect the facilities and program for

Electrical engineering accreditation. Wells was optimistic that their findings, which will be made public this coming July, would be positive. He commented that they were very impressed with the University's commitment to the program.

Still very young, the department has already begun attracting grants. Currently, they are working on a 3.5 million

research grant from the Army. The research is focused on software design, computer assisted engineering design, computer graphics, and the control of robots equipped with elastic arms.

The engineering complex is being built with State funds to the tune of 14.7 million. Six million has been pledged by the community for support in the coming years.

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