

Professor overcomes illness and becomes father

by kim rutowski

guest writer

A man stands in the delivery room as his wife gives birth to their first child. Five years ago, he tells the television audience, he was in an emergency room after suffering a major heart attack. Now he is a father.

The scene is fiction; it's for a commercial, but Dr. Anthony Ferri, assistant professor of communication studies, can identify with it.

In late March 1985, Ferri was jogging in Fort Wayne, Ind. A dull, burning pain forced him to stop after about five miles.

"I literally could not move," he said.

He said he thought he looked stupid just standing there. Fearing that someone would stop to offer help, he bent over to tie his shoe. He wanted to make it look like he was standing there for a reason.

When he was unable to move, he walked the remaining two miles home. He took a shower and mowed the lawn.

The pain continued another four hours. When his wife came home, she insisted that he go to a clinic.

"I thought it was just a cold," Ferri said. "I felt

guilty in the clinic. There were children with real wounds."

He was placed in a room and hooked up to an EKG machine. Within minutes, he said, it seemed like every doctor and nurse was in my room.

"The doctor hits my chest, looks at me, looks at the monitor," Ferri said. "At this point, I was scared to death."

Moments later he was rushed to the hospital.

Ferri had suffered a heart attack because of a closed artery.

The doctors sent him home to "get healthy."

After five weeks Ferri was to be re-admitted for

bypass surgery, but he continued to have severe pain. Ten days later he had quadruple bypass surgery. He was only 34 years old.

Ferri has a strong family history of heart disease. His older brother died a month before Ferri's heart attack. He died of cancer, but the autopsy revealed hardening of the arteries.

Unfortunately, many people are not aware of their predisposition to heart disease.

"If they're lucky, they find out like I did," Ferri said. "If not, they find out when they die."

Heart patients must follow a rigorous diet, Ferri

said. Cholesterol intake must be under 200 milligrams a day. One egg contains 230 milligrams of cholesterol.

"I haven't had a french fry from a fast food place since 1985," Ferri said, adding that he eats very little saturated fat and plenty of fish and vegetables.

"You don't have to eat bad food to eat healthy," he said.

Ferri said that he is healthier now than when he was 18. He has changed his entire lifestyle.

"Three years, I was almost dead and now I have a brand new life," he said.

Ferri's new life culminated with the birth of his son, Steven Anthony, on Feb. 19, 1988.

"He's number one," Ferri said.

The legacy of the heart attack remains with the young professor who said he now spends more time enjoying the "important things" in life. He enjoys looking at the mountains and watching airplanes.

"I get a charge out of seeing them -- just because they are there."

And he must deal with stress in order to maintain his health. He tries not to take the "short strokes" seriously. "I feel lucky every day to be alive,"

UNLV instructors discuss implications of march

by roy theiss

staff writer

Is it really history? For what? Beginning June 14, the International Peace Walk will start from

Washington, D.C., and finish in San Francisco, California on July 18. The walks are produced by International Peace Walk, Inc. (IPW) in cooperation with the Soviet Peace

Committee.

For the first time ever, 200 Soviets will be on American soil walking with 200 Americans to protest the arms race. The walks are intended to create bet-

ter understanding, trust and cooperation between the people of both nations.

Dr. Dina Titus, Political Science, said "the International Peace Walk is one more thing in a step towards the test banning and that we are moving in that direction." She added that she doesn't think the protestors will get any support from Southern Nevadans because the local economy is linked to the test site.

Titus said she thought it was remarkable for the U.S.S.R. to allow the 1987 International Peace walk in their country. She added she also thought it interesting to find the lack of news medium coverage in the U.S. about the event.

When the peace marchers carried the

American flag into Red Square for the first time ever, the U.S. News Medium did not cover it even though 65 other nations did.

Dr. Anthony Ferri, Communications Studies, said from a public relations point of view the peace marchers are limited by the grassroots aspects. He said that he doesn't think the press is being restrictive or actively political and they are affected by their own organizational needs. "Profit, ratings and to be able to satisfy a professional journalist taste (what is a good story) come into play. Another factor is the complexity of the story," he added.

The event was probably covered but given very lit-

tle attention because of the other things happening at that time, Ferri said. "When the German teenage pilot flew into the Soviet Union it made news because there was drama, clear sides and a definable shape of news (who's doing what and why). The Iran-Contra hearing were just getting underway also."

Ferri said it is very difficult to predict the historical importance of this event. "There are very few singular events that shape history; World War I was precipitated by an assassination. But whether or not this peace march will shape history is tough to tell."

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advice he would give to upcoming graduates would be to use their imagination. "Get excited about the future, but don't let people

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squench your ideas. You may not be qualified to become an astronaut, yet there is a field connected with the aerospace industry in which you could work. Don't become discouraged, play with options within the field you like," he added.

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