

Theresa Chiang promotes a positive attitude

by Tami Hance

The sign on the door reads: Director of Student Services and International Students. The office is comfortable; the smile on the face of Theresa Chiang makes visitors feel welcomed. That smile accents the positive attitude of a very impressive woman.

"I like to keep busy. Everything I have done, I've done by choice," explained Chiang, who came to UNLV in July of 1986 as a Program Director.

In February 1989, she was promoted to Director of Student Services. The job includes being in charge of the staff that works directly with the students of the Program Council and Greek Affairs, to name a few.

Many things have changed at UNLV since Chiang took over her new position. The Moyer Student Union had just staff members in 1989, a director and a program

coordinator. Today, that staff has grown to eight including the addition of a Greek Advisor and International Students Director.

"Because UNLV is slowly becoming more involved in residential life, there is more of a demand for on-campus activities," stated Chiang. "Everyone wants something to do."

UNLV is growing and Chiang said she believes that when an institution grows, the staff needs to stay in touch with the students. The students need to be sure the staff cares.

"We need to make sure we are keeping in touch with the students," explained Chiang. "Those are steps that the university is taking. New faculty brings in new spirits."

Chiang's personal interest is not in profit making. "I cannot live with the value that money is everything," she said.



photo by Morgan Fisher

In a growing university, Chiang believes in the importance of keeping in touch with the students.

Her belief is that a person's job should be one he or she is comfortable with, and not one which is expected.

"You only have one life to live; you should live how you want," Chiang said.

Even though she doesn't have much spare time, Chiang enjoys reading, painting and working with Chinese watercolors. Her work, school and family keep her busy.

Chiang likes UNLV; she has

no regrets about coming here.

"UNLV is a very energetic university," Chiang said. "New people coming to UNLV makes things better. Things are happening at UNLV; nothing is stagnating!"

Student Spotlight: Rosette Wirtz

by Morgan Fisher

At the closure ceremony last Thursday when UNLV said goodbye to its ROTC unit, Rosette Wirtz was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. officer.

For four and a half months during the Gulf War, Wirtz was on active duty with the 6252 hospital unit in California. When Wirtz was activated she was given the rank of sergeant E5, and was in charge of food services for the hospital. She was stationed at Ft. Ord and Ft. Irwin for four months.

"People in the military call Ft. Irwin 'Planet Irwin' because most of the work is done by military personnel instead of contracted out like at other installations," Wirtz said. The closest town to Ft. Irwin is Barstow which is 35 miles away.

Wirtz had to get used to working as a non-commissioned officer (NCO) while on active duty because she had always acted as an officer during her reserve training. "I had not worked this particular field of study for about three years so it was kind of hard getting used to," Wirtz said. "I was in charge of telling the enlisted what to do and it was hard at first to get their respect because I had never worked this job from an NCO position."

Although Wirtz was called to active duty she still had to complete her studies at UNLV. During her spare time at Ft. Ord, she would lie on the beach in Carmel, CA and read her ROTC manual.

Joining the Army fresh out of high school Wirtz has spent five years in the Army and plans to be in for another 15 at least.

"When I first joined the military I kept asking myself why in the world did I do this?" Wirtz said. "While in basic training and Alternate Individual Training (AIT) it was just horrid, but the more I got away from the initial training phase the more I liked it; and now I love it. Sure the Army may be bureaucratic but there is a reason for everything."

Wirtz was born in 1968, in Bangkok, Thailand and lived in Laos for five years. "We were living in Laos at the time when they didn't have very good medical facilities so my mother flew to Thailand to have me," Wirtz said.

Her father was a Lt. Col. in the reserves and foreign service, and worked for the United States Agency for International Development.

"I've lived half of my life in Third World countries and have

visited many of the ones in between; Kenya, Sri Lanka, Portugal, Spain, and Singapore," Wirtz said.

Wirtz plans to go on to graduate school and study international relations. "My first stop is Officer Basic Course (OBC) in Fort Lee Virginia," Wirtz said. While at OBC she will be trained for the next six months to work in the Quartermaster Corp. "The Army needs me to be in the Quartermaster Corp, and after I receive my masters degree I'll change my job classification."

The money that she will save from OBC will help pay for her graduate school. "I want to pay for my own schooling and I don't want to be a burden on my parents," Wirtz said.

While wearing a Grateful Dead T-shirt, shorts, and sandals, Wirtz said even though she was in the Army she would love to go to San Francisco to visit Haight Ashbury and blend in with all the Dead Heads and hippies.

"I'm 5 feet 3 inches tall and an officer told me once that I was too small and looked too young to be in the Army," Wirtz said. "But if that were true, I would never have made it this far."



photo by Morgan Fisher

Rosette Wirtz is commissioned as 2nd Lt. officer during the closure ceremony.

Teaching: a wise investment

by Teri Askew

Making millions is only a dream for some, but for others, it's a favorite pastime.

Dr. Jagadish Mehta, UNLV finance professor and certified financial planner, spends a large portion of his time studying Wall Street price fluctuations. If it's not the *Wall Street Journal* or *Barron's* that Mehta is focusing on, it's one of his students' finance papers or investment projects.

Mehta observes his students' work carefully, making sure they understand all the basics from his two classes, *Personal Financial Planning* and *The Fundamentals of Investing*.

"My satisfaction doesn't come from making money for myself; it comes from teaching students how to make money, and how to keep a steady flow of it for later on in life," Mehta said.

Mehta attends classes himself to keep up with modern finance. This enables him to become a better teacher and provide valuable up-to-date financial advice for students.

One wouldn't think that a bachelor's and master's degree in chemical engineering would lead a person into finance, but they did for

Mehta. He then received his master's and doctorate in business administration from Michigan State University.

Mehta became a certified financial planner in New Orleans, La. There he taught Management Science at Loyola State University.

After moving to Las Vegas in August 1990, Mehta became a visiting professor at UNLV. Unfortunately his visit was only for one year. Mehta said, "Teaching and helping others understand money and how to use it effectively is what I enjoy the most. The challenge of getting young people to learn about money and effectively manage it is the exciting part."

He wants to step out of theoretical teaching and make ideologies more practical for students. Mehta boils the theories down to the students' level so they can understand them and use the concepts now and in future financial activities.

"Though more money can be made from investing in stocks and bonds, and from planning a client's large volume investment portfolio, I prefer to teach and make a significant contribution to society," Mehta said.

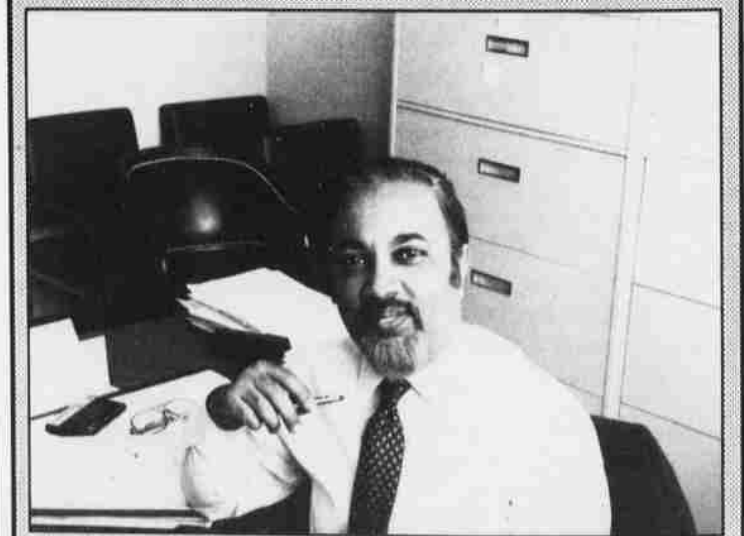


photo by Morgan Fisher

UNLV finance professor Dr. Jagadish Mehta receives satisfaction out of teaching students how to make money.

Please help the environment: Canisters located near the EPA building. Or contact Silver State Disposal about curb-side recycling.