

Gordon is appointed chair at UNLV's department of dance arts

"There is an opportunity here to build a dance program unique in the world," said Lonny Gordon, newly appointed chair of the Dance Arts Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Gordon brings 25 years of touring the world and performing in first-class theatres, art series and museums as a solo concert artist.

"This year we are building towards offering Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees in dance," Gordon said.

In addition to being a recipient of three different

Fulbright grants, Gordon was awarded the Japan Foundation Professional Fellowship and a Mobile Foundation Grant as well as a National Endowment for the Arts Grant. Prior to accepting the position at UNLV, Gordon was a tenured full professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was graduate dance coordinator and Dance Program coordinator.

Lonny Gordon has created a body of more than 80 dance and theater works for commissioning sponsors as diverse as the World Exposition—Osaka, Japan, Cul-

tural Dancers of Malaysia, Museum of Modern Arts in Stockholm, Museum of Modern Art in New York City, Museum of Fine Art in Japan and Star Dancers Ballet of Tokyo.

His work as a teacher, choreographer, director and soloist has received acclaim from many publications, including *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Dance Magazine*.

"I was excited about the faculty and the depth of their

experience, both academically and professionally," Gordon said. "Very few dance programs other than New York or Los Angeles have the advantage of a professional entertainment world. This is a crucial factor in training for professional careers. Students can experience first hand about unions, night after night performances, the media, agents, contracts, auditions and the visual presentation of one's self."

Drug awareness program receives federal grant

The UNLV Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program has been awarded a \$77,214 drug prevention program grant by the U.S. Department of Education.

The grant will be spread over a two-year period beginning Sept. 1.

Rex Purkins, program coordinator and counselor, said the grant will greatly assist the fledgling program, which is less than two years old.

With the grant money, the program will be able to hire a part-time certified substance abuse counselor and a full-time graduate assistant, he said. Additionally, the program will be able to buy more equipment and

obtain more brochures and other educational materials.

The Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program, which operates out of the Student Development Center on the second floor of UNLV's library, works to educate students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, Purkins said.

Staff and students also are taught how to detect warning signs that would indicate someone has a drug or alcohol problem, he said.

The program itself provides only limited counseling services, but is able to refer students in need of counseling to a variety of community agencies, Purkins said.

School refusal clinic offered

Parents who are having trouble getting their children to attend school soon will have a new resource available to them.

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 3, UNLV's psychology department will offer an ongoing clinic to evaluate and treat children and adolescents who refuse to attend school or who have difficulty going to or staying in school for the entire day.

Those problems often are the result of specific fears, general anxiety, social difficulties or family problems, said Christopher Kearney, a UNLV assistant professor who will serve as director of the School Refusal Clinic.

Children and youths ages 5-17 are eligible for assessment and possible treatment of their prob-

lems. However, children who have been chronically absent from school for more than one year are not eligible for treatment.

Fees for the service vary, based on each family's ability to pay.

Parents interested in the clinic are encouraged to contact Kearney at 739-3305.

An initial assessment session will be scheduled for each child whose situation is compatible with the clinic. This initial assessment process often lasts between one and two hours and typically includes separate interviews with the child and parents.

Following an evaluation of the information gathered, treatment options will be discussed.

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