



FACULTY FOCUS

Professor optimistic about engineering department

by Shawn Black

"We are looking at an exciting future in the engineering department," said Robert Boehm, who is a professor of mechanical engineering.

Mechanical engineering deals with power and the design of machines and processes used to generate power. Its applications, however, are immense and span many areas in and out of the engineering field.

"Some of the ongoing research projects and some proposed for the future include work in acoustics (the transfer of sound), robotics, solar cars, power towers and models and designs for nuclear waste storage," Boehm said.

"We are currently working on expanding our research department in order to delve into these and other varied kinds of renewable energy sources such as geothermal and solar."

Boehm's personal interests and research goals lie largely in the environmental areas.

"We have to be concerned as a nation at the



photo by Jennifer Elledge

Dr. Robert Boehm says UNLV is expanding their research department.

amount of oil we import," Boehm said. "We could be in a very precarious situation if we don't pursue and develop alternative energy sources."

He added that these sources also have to be studied for their safety and feasibility.

Boehm's current research measures the flow of moisture through an unsaturated media such as the ground, to see how fast it travels and how it breaks

down. This could have important implications with toxins and the state they are in when and if they hit the water table below Yucca Mountain.

Boehm came to UNLV from the University of Utah where he also held the position of chair of mechanical engineering. Upon his arrival, the College of Engineering split into its current four departments which include mechanical, electrical, civil and computer science.

The growth of the departments is looking to include an aerospace program and more research projects, Boehm said.

"Although I love research and administration, teaching is an absolute necessity for me," Boehm said. "I wouldn't like a job that didn't allow me time to teach and get to know the students. A commuter campus like UNLV is nice because you often have more time to get to know the people."

According to Boehm engineering is an exciting field and one that currently is driven a lot by environmental concerns.

Boehm can often be found on a bicycle rather than in a car. He likes show cars and is proud to be the second owner of a 1934 Chevrolet.

"Tinkering on cars is a hobby of mine which I got into after becoming an engineer," Boehm said. "But then that's what engineering deals with—engines, power and things that move the world."

The Center for Religion and Life offers fellowship and guidance

by Tamia L. Dow

religious beliefs.

The University Center for Religion and Life (UCRL) is a non-profit organization which houses three different religious presences; Protestantism, Roman Catholicism and Judaism. The staff consists of Chaplain Gretchen Stamos, a Protestant minister, the Rev. Patrick R. Leary, a Catholic priest and Darren T. Student, a Jewish student coordinator.

UCRL aims to provide fellowship for college students, faculty and staff. Enrollment at UNLV is not required. UCRL offers services on Sunday and also plans meetings during the week for students of the different faiths. All center activities involve the three faiths.

The center provides counseling for all students regardless of reli-

"I feel we should support one another and not go around tearing one another down," Stamos said.

The center caters to both in-state and out-of-state students. It provides year-round fellowship for in-state students and a home-away-from-home fellowship for out-of-state students. Often, students attending out-of-state schools are unable to return home. UCRL provides holiday fellowship meals or connects the student with a family to spend the holidays.

"We want everyone to feel welcome at the center. We have an open door policy," said Leary.

The Center for Religion and Life is located across from the dorms at 4765 Brussels Avenue.

For more information on activities and counseling call 736-0887.

HSUS says college life is not 'fido-friendly'

College life can be very lonely, and many students believe that adding a pet to their curriculum will take away the blues, but the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) says pet ownership should be a lifetime commitment, not a short-term fling.

"At first a dog or cat might make an empty dorm room seem like home or a fraternity or sorority seem more like a family," said Phyllis Wright, HSUS vice president for companion animals. "But once the glow of a new pet ownership has worn off, and students become involved in studying and other activities, the pet may find himself

wondering where his next meal is coming from."

Wright said students should not think of pets like a textbook that can be traded in or thrown away at the end of the semester.

Instead, pet owners must make a lifelong process to feed and care for the animal.

"Animals can not take care of themselves," Wright said. "They depend on people for food, shelter, companionship and veterinary care."

Wright says if you are considering adding a pet to your college routine, there are several factors you should consider:

Location—Does your

apartment or dormitory allow pets? Many college living areas do not permit pets and you risk losing your lease and your companion if you violate this policy. Also, consider your roommate in this decision. Does he or she like animals? If you're both getting this pet, who is ultimately responsible for its care?

Money—Will you have enough money to care for your pet? The cost of pet care is enormous. Depending on the size of the animal, food can cost up to a dollar a day. Licensing fees average \$10. Yearly vaccinations cost between \$75 and \$125, and the cost for emergency care can be as high as \$500.

Breaks—What will you do with the animal during semester breaks and vacations? Your family may not

want the added burden of a pet when you come home, and your new pet might not get along with the other animals in your family's household. Boarding can be expensive, and many breaks are too long for your pet to spend in a kennel.

Time—Do you have enough time to play with your pet? Studying and activities can consume most of a college student's time. Meanwhile your pet sits at home and waits for you to cuddle him and take him out for a walk. Dogs and cats are social animals, and they

depend on you for play and exercise. Also a pet has the same

needs as you. He cannot wait to relieve himself until you decide to come home. Landlord's biggest complaints concern the mess made by pets that are not properly housetrained.

Group living—How many people are involved in the animal's care? Yes, pets can have too many owners.

In a group situation such as a fraternity or sorority, pets have a hard time knowing who to turn to for love and care.

Who will take the animal to the vet?

For that matter, who will monitor the animal to determine when

health care is needed? Also, group animal ownership doesn't necessarily mean

that everyone in the group loves animals.

Your ideas about animal cruelty may not be the same as others in your household. Many fraternities use chapter pets in initiation pranks or other abusive situations.

Wright says the bottom line is long-term commitment: Do you see yourself owning as this animal's owner in five years? In ten years? As a student, you can no longer expect someone else to pick up the burden of responsibility for your pet.

"Animal shelters are already overcrowded," Wright said. "Students only add to the problem by getting a pet on a whim. There's no reason to own a pet unless you are willing to take on the responsibility for the rest of its life."

