

That was then...

Three who have dedicated their lives to UNLV

by Tricia Ciaravino

For most of us, it's hard to imagine staying at UNLV for our required four years. It's almost impossible to imagine people devoting their entire life to the University. But Billie Mae Polson, Charles Adams and James Deacon have all worked at UNLV for over 30 years.

Polson came to the university as a cataloger in the James R. Dickinson Library 32 years ago. Today she is the head catalog librarian. "I think I'm the oldest living fossil on campus," she said.

In her time at UNLV, Polson has seen tremendous changes.

"The library has grown from 30,000 books to half of a million," she said. "There are a lot more buildings, staff and students. UNLV went from being out in the country, to being surrounded by a city."

Polson said that she is still happy at UNLV but misses the peace and the little animals that left with the country.

"It's been enjoyable watching UNLV get bigger and better," she said.

Adams, an English professor, has been on campus since 1960. He was the dean of the Graduate College for seven years. He also served on the faculty Senate for seven years when UNLV was still a part of the University of Nevada, Reno and participated in UNLV's fight to become independent.

"It's been very exciting watching the university grow," Adams said. "It's a lot of fun being associated with something growing this rapidly. I think we'll continue to grow."

Adams said that he laughs when he hears all of the talk about UNLV finally becoming an up and coming university.

"We've known it for years," he said.

James Deacon, distinguished professor of biology, came to UNLV in 1960 also.

He said that when he arrived on campus it consisted of Archie C. Grant Hall, Maude Frazier Hall and the gym, now the Marjorie

Barrick Museum, which was under construction.

Deacon said that he has remained at UNLV for over 30 years because, "it has always been a pleasant, exciting place to be."

Deacon said that the weather has also been a factor. "The first year I was here, the day before Christmas, I was in shorts and fishing at the Virgin River and decided this must be heaven."

He said that he feels UNLV has grown enough for right now.

"I think that we have steadily made a real effort to improve quality and probably too much effort to increase quantity," said Deacon. "At this point, the campus is about the right size and almost too large to produce quality education. I think we will keep growing to our detriment. The state isn't willing to pay the cost you incur as you grow."

Deacon also said that with large classes, it's impossible for professors to personally know students.

Former president commends UNLV's success against tremendous challenge

by Tricia Ciaravino

Donald Baepler, professor of biology and director of the Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History, has been on campus since 1968. He was hired as the dean of academics and went on to become president of the university from 1973 to 1978. At the end of his term, Baepler became chancellor of the university system until 1981.

Baepler said he feels UNLV's current president, Robert Maxson, is doing a fine job, especially in view of

what he is up against.

"The challenge President Maxson faces is a tremendous challenge," Baepler said. "Today and in the past decade, we're faced with the same kind of problems universities across the country were faced with in the 1950s and 1960s. Every university in the United States was growing like mad."

However, there is a major difference between then and now.

"There were millions and millions of federal dollars that got done supporting growth in the '50s

and '60s," he said. "But when the universities stopped growing during the 1970s, the federal programs disappeared. UNLV faces all the growth problems without the federal resources to meet the need. It's surprising we're doing as well as we are."

Baepler attributes the success of UNLV to teamwork.

"You never accomplish anything as an individual," he said. "Most of the things that get done require group effort."

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UNLV in the early 1960s.

Some alumni never lose that lovin' feeling for UNLV

by Tricia Ciaravino

For some alumni, UNLV is like a magnet which just keeps pulling them back.

Russel A. Kost III, director of annual giving at UNLV, is happy to be back.

"It feels great," he said. "I get to work for my institution. As I improve the value of the university, so rises the value of my degree."

Kost graduated in 1983 and returned to work for the Alumni Association in 1985. He said that the most dramatic changes in the university have taken place in the last seven years. The biggest difference is academic standing.

"The academic standing of the university has improved," Kost said. "I no longer have to defend the university's academic image. When I graduated, I was happy with my degree, now I'm proud of it."

Marcia Koot, a '68 graduate, said that she never really left UNLV.

Koot has been on the Alumni Association Board of Directors for eight years and editor of the *Alumni Journal* for six years.

"Significant for the students are the dorms," she said. "For years UNLV was a commuter college with older students. Today there is a much younger attitude. It's more collegiate."

Greg McKinley, president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, said that being involved in student activities helped him become successful in the real world. He is the vice president of Craigon and Pike, the oldest business in Las Vegas.

"Employers are more impressed with a 3.2 grade point average and outside activities, than a 4.0 GPA with none," McKinley said. Get involved."

McKinley said that he thinks the changes at UNLV are for the better. "It was a good education then and it's a better one now."

Lisa Story, an '84 graduate, had her first day back last Monday. She is now the publication/events coordinator for the UNLV Foundation. It is her third time working for the university.

"I came back to UNLV for the third time because I really believe in the univer-

sity and I enjoy working here," she said. "I really like being part of the university environment."

Story said that she felt President Robert Maxson had made a big difference in UNLV. "I think he's had some foresight that has helped to push the university. There's been a big difference since he came."

Story, who was managing editor for *The Yellin Rebel* and editor of *Quicksilver*, said that she keeps up with what the students are doing.

"I still feel a connection with the students," she said. "I get excited by their progress."



UNLV alumni Russel A. Kost III and Lisa Story.