



## Higher education at UNLV doesn't include a language lab

by La Rae Bringham and Gary Puckett

Students taking language courses at UNLV may find facilities lacking. This university does not have a language lab.

According to Catherine Bellver, chair of the Foreign Language department, this is because of the lack of space, money and the necessary supervision a lab would need. A new teacher or supervisor would need to be hired to staff such a lab.

"As I understand it, there really isn't anything definite in the works yet," said Ralph Buechler, assistant professor of German. Plans for a new lab are only in the formative stages, however, they will

be elaborate.

A new lab would not only need audio tapes, but would also need videotapes and state-of-the-art computer programs to help students learn languages. Bellver is forming a subcommittee to study the feasibility of starting such a lab.

"I think the new technologies have such exciting possibilities for a language lab. Most students today are primarily interested in being able to speak a new language and a language lab will help them to realize that goal," Bellver said.

The university did have a language lab for 15 years from the 1960s to the early 1980s. It consisted primarily of audio tapes

students could run through to get the feel of the spoken language.

When the lab room was given to the English department for office space, a new system was put into use. That new system allowed students to tape the audio tapes via a high speed recorder onto their own tapes to take home and listen to. However, it should be noted that this system is deficient in any attempt to allow the student to hear himself speak the language immediately following the instructional tapes, and make immediate corrections in pronunciation.

"In regard to speaking and listening to a foreign language, and to its pronunciation, students would be

greatly assisted by a language lab facility," Buechler said.

The facilities now available to all students are not as convenient or as effective as a lab would be. The current system does cover all the necessary basic materials that are needed.

Of students who were asked about the need for a foreign language lab, those planning to make foreign languages their main field of study feel the need for a language lab most acutely. Some said that they felt they are being left behind and do not have the advantages in foreign language studies that those students who are at a university with a language lab enjoy.



Paul Stuhff and Cathy Antonello.

## Undergraduate Students teach class at UNLV

An introductory undergraduate instructed course on campus.

The enrollment in the Honors Introductory Seminar, just completed its second successful year. This is seemingly uneventful, unless one knows that this course is instructed by Paul Stuhff and Cathy Antonello, both UNLV undergraduate students. The course is worth one credit and is graded on a pass/fail basis.

The course began as the brain-child of a small group of honors students last year. Stuhff, Julie Wolf, Tammy Bruns and Michael Logue developed the concept and ran with what may be the first un-

dergraduate instructed course on campus. The enrollment in the class has experienced surprisingly little fluctuation. Approximately 30 students have registered for it each fall.

"The course is a preclusion to everything freshmen should experience on a college campus," said Stuhff, a two-year instructor. "We bring in representatives from different organizations and services. We give an accounting of honors vs. standard course equivalents and then talk about study skills and time

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## UNLV attracts a variety of students

by Gina Atkinson

A high school diploma with a 2.3 GPA and the completion of certain high school courses are the admission requirements for UNLV.

Students without a high school diploma can still come to UNLV by scoring a composite score of 20 on the ACT or 890 on the SAT. These figures are comparatively lower than some other state universities whose requirements for admission range from ACT scores of 28, or SAT scores of 1,100, in addition to the requirement that applicants graduate in the top 25 percent of their high school class. One wonders what caliber of students UNLV attracts and what quality of education they can receive.

The consensus among

administrators and students alike is that there is a diversity of UNLV students and educational opportunities offered at UNLV.

Jeff Halverson, registrar, describes UNLV as having a "cross-section of students. UNLV is a typical state funded institution with some excellent students and some students who shouldn't be in college."

Halverson also said that in comparison to other universities, "UNLV has students from age 18 to 80. Some are part time, some are full time, some are degree students and some are non-degree students."

"The variety of students makes college interesting," said Len Zane, director of the Honors Program.

As director of the Honors Program, Zane has daily contact with high caliber

students who might seem happier at a more prestigious university, yet chose to come to UNLV.

Several students in the Honors Program have transferred to UNLV from such universities as Brown University, Georgetown University and Occidental College, and find very little difference in the education.

For some students the decision to choose UNLV is based on economic factors. Mischa Stuhff, the newly elected senator for the College of Engineering, turned down admission offers from Boston University, University of California, Santa Barbara and UCLA to come to UNLV. Lack of funds to pay high priced tuition brought her to UNLV, but what Stuhff found may keep her here. Stuhff said that she feels UNLV offers a low

cost undergraduate education equaling that of most other universities.

"Students can get out of UNLV what they want by becoming involved in extracurricular activities," said Stuhff, a senator in her academic college, assistant in the Student Alumni, and also a student in the Honors Program.

Wesley Allan attended Occidental College his freshman year, before transferring to UNLV.

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Nicole Shaul tees off at CampusFest, Wednesday.

photo by Ray Hulterman