

Green light and a push given for graduate school

by Bonar Tucker

For UNLV seniors contemplating their future with the "What am I going to do now?" query, Ron Smith offers a solution: Go on to graduate school.

More school? After completing the grueling years and finally making it up to the podium in cap and gown, some would rather jump off a cliff than consider more school. But reconsider.

"I can't think of one field of study where a higher degree wouldn't help," Graduate Dean Smith said.

Although Smith clarified that achieving a master's degree is not a guarantee to a

more comfortable lifestyle, he quickly added that "it definitely increases the probability."

Smith, who has been in his position for seven years, said, "I view a graduate degree as a piece of baggage you can always carry with you. Once you can put on your resume 'I've got a master's degree,' you have just opened up your possibilities and improved your chances considerably in the job market."

The Collegiate Employment Research Institute reported in *Recruiting Trends, 1990-91* that the estimated starting salary of a bachelor's degree graduate in the field of geology, for instance, was \$25,868. With a couple more

years of school and the completion of a master's, the new geologist would begin a job at an estimated average of \$37,000.

Geoscience is a good career opportunity, according to Smith. "Right now, most universities that have a doctoral program in this field are having a hard time keeping students after they complete their master's. The job market is so strong in geoscience that students are being lured away from obtaining their Ph.D by the career opportunities available to them," Smith said.

Security is increased in any field, however, with a master's degree, according to Smith.

The job market seems to fluctuate as fast as the stock market. Supply and demand play a large part in available jobs for students. During economic hard times, graduate enrollment almost always increases, according to Smith. UNLV had 28 graduate programs when Smith began as dean and today there are 65 such programs with a total of 3200 students enrolled.

"There is a much better possibility of moving up the ladder of any career and retaining that job in a recessionary period," Smith said, "providing you are holding a higher education degree."



Ron Smith, dean of the Graduate College, encourages students to stay in school for higher degrees.

Skill and innovation land the job

by Stephanie Holland

Here it comes. Graduation. It is looming ahead like an ominous cloud.

In the "good old days" recruiters were ready to snatch up fresh college graduates, provide them with a job and, with that, a little security about their future. Today it takes more than

a college degree and a pretty smile to be chosen for the few positions that are available.

Art Torcello, head of the Human Resources department at the California Hotel, is one of the people who may be affecting the future of some graduates.

Torcello will be participating in Career Day. Having worked in the hospitality in-

dustry for 15 years, Torcello knows what to look for in potential employees.

"I look for people who have innovation, good people skills and have a good grip on what's going to be expected of them," he said.

"Don't set your goals to high," Torcello advised. "You have to take an entry level posi-

tion, work real hard and take promotions that will help you toward what you want to do."

"I worked hard and had to

swallow my pride a few times, but that's what it takes sometimes," Torcello said about his own beginnings.

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT UNLV GRADUATE COLLEGE

Enrollment: The number of graduate students enrolled in the Fall semester, 1991, was 3,200. In the Fall semester, 1989, enrollment was 2,200. This is a 45% increase in two years. **Applications:** Since 1985 applications for admission have increased on an average of 10% each year. However, 1991-92 applications have increased substantially, up 15% (991) in the Fall semester of 1991 over Fall semester of 1990 (870). Applications increased 44% (646) in Spring semester of 1992 over Spring semester of 1991 (449). **Admissions:** Admission to graduate programs have also steadily increased on an average of 14% a year for the past three years. A record 553 were admitted in the Fall, 1991 semester. We had 646 applications for admission for the Spring, 1992 semester and anticipate a large Spring semester admission rate. **Graduation:** The graduation rate has also increased steadily. For example, in 1985 there were only 239 graduate degrees conferred. In 1991, 364 graduate degrees were conferred. This is a 52% increase. The graduation rate for 1991 was 11% higher (364) than that of 1990 (324). **Degree Programs:** In 1985-86 there were 28 graduate programs at UNLV. We now have 65 graduate degree programs. This is a 132% increase in the number of degree programs over a seven year period. Nine graduate programs have been approved by the Board of Regents since Fall semester of 1989, and 4 of these are Ph.D. programs.

Estimated Starting Salaries of 1991-92 New Bachelor's Degree Graduates

Estimated Average Academic Majors

	Starting Salary
Chemical Engineering	\$41,201
Mechanical Engineering	37,457
Electrical Engineering	37,257
Computer Science	35,997
Industrial Engineering	35,210
Physics	32,334
Nursing	31,893
Civil Engineering	31,840
Chemistry	31,360
Accounting	28,646
Financial Administration	26,438
Geology	25,868
Mathematics	25,739
General Business Admin.	25,691
Marketing/Sales	25,025
Personnel Administration	24,651
Agriculture	24,190
Social Science	23,989
Communications	23,958
Liberal Arts/Arts & Letters	22,911
Education	22,724
Hotel, Rest. Inst. Mgt.	22,396
Advertising	21,977
Retailing	21,377
Telecommunications	21,114
Human Ecology/Home Economics	20,707
Natural Resources	19,945
Journalism	19,926

Averages for Graduate Degree

Master's	\$37,950
M.B.A.	41,108
Ph.D.	41,174

Source: Estimates by John D. Shingleton, Director Emeritus of Placement Service, and L. Patrick Scheetz, Director of the Collegiate Employment Research Institute, Michigan State University, using data from *Recruiting Trends 1990-91*.

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