

Desert Research Institute Gets New V.P.

Chancellor's wife gets nod as V.P. of Finance

BY LISA ADAMS
STAFF WRITER

Marilou Jarvis has been appointed vice president for finance administration at the Desert Research Institute.

Jarvis has 30 years experience in educational administration and research. She is also the wife of Chancellor Richard Jarvis, which raised questions of conflict

of interest, nepotism and impropriety at last Thursday's regent meeting.

"I'm not trying to make this into a gender issue," said regent Nancy Price. "But clearly there's a conflict of interest here."

Newly-elected regent David L. Phillips echoed Price's objections. "There is a look of impropriety here," he said. Phillips suggested more discussion was needed.

Regents Shelley Berkley, Mark Alden, and Jill Derby were enthusiastic about Jarvis' appointment. "This is a two-fer," said Berkley. "Without one, we may not be able to keep the other very long."

Alden said that Nevada is fortunate to

have such a talented husband and wife team. The Jarvises worked together in New York.

DRI President James Taranik, who recommended Jarvis, said he was surprised by the opposition raised by Price. He said he told all concerned that he was available to answer questions and discuss any issues involved. Taranik said Price didn't contact him before the meeting.

Jarvis was selected through a nationwide search from 186 applicants. Regent Madison Graves II asked Taranik if he was pressured by anyone in the university system to select Jarvis. Taranik insisted he hadn't been.

For the past five years, Jarvis has served as deputy to the chancellor of the State University New York system. In January of 1994, she became deputy to the chancellor of administration, where she was responsible for the office with a staff of over 900 and a yearly budget exceeding \$20 million.

The position Jarvis assumes later this month will replace Dale Schulke, who is retiring after 30 years with DRI. Jarvis will oversee a \$25 million budget.

DRI has conducted environmental research for the last 35 years. The institute's scientists have worked throughout the United States and around the world.

Opportunities for Physics Fiends

BY GENA BERLETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Just in case anyone is wondering if there is any opportunity at UNLV for physics research, there is.

The Summer Undergraduate Research program provides a unique chance for students to get an idea of what real research is like. According to Professor Farley (project director), "the chance to practice in real research is highly valuable and very important for those who will go on to become researchers."

The program is open to all physics or science-based majors who have completed their sophomore or junior year. An interest in science and research, of course, is an absolute must.

The National Science Foundation funds the program under its Research Experience for Undergraduates program. The NSF is a government agency functioning as a tool for the development of national science policy and for education in the sciences.

The program is designed to encourage students to understand the vast difference between classroom training and actual work involving research. UNLV is one of 22 U.S. universities awarded such a grant by the physics division of NSF.

Since much of research theory can be done via computer, the Cray supercomputer is used as an aid for research. This computer is extremely expensive, but exceptionally fast, capable of performing an enormous number of theoretical and mathematical calculations and large-scale scientific modeling.

Some of the hot topics for research are experimental laser physics, astronomy or astrophysics, theoretical atomic/molecular physics and condensed matter physics.

Lasers have a multitude of uses, from medicine, communications to welding. A laser can be a semiconductor, gas, solid state or liquid. Due to the highly directional and monochromatic properties of laser light, extreme-

ly small amounts of light scattering or small frequency shifts caused by matter can be easily detected. Lasers are used to measure such changes in the research and study of molecular structures of matter and also provide the most up-to-date technology to study the properties of atoms and molecules.

For astronomy or astrophysics buffs, a telescope is available on campus for use in research. A great addition to the program is the possibility of travel to other observatories, such as Kitt Peak National Observatory near Tucson, Ariz. Other observatories and NASA trips have been funded by the program in the past.

Any students interested in an opportunity to meet fellow colleagues and research the summer away are encouraged to apply before the March 1st deadline. Applications are available in the Physics Department Office.

For more information, please contact the Physics Department at 895-3563.

Health & Nutrition

Blood Supply Serious Concern for Health Officials

BY JUDITH SHELDON

How safe, really, is our blood supply? Are there risks involved either in donating or getting blood, and do those risks involve not only AIDS, but hepatitis and other conditions?

According to the American Medical Association, a blood transfusion may well be one of the safest procedures in medicine today. Harvey Klein, M.D., Chief of the Department of Transfusion Medicine at the National Institute of Health, told participants in an AMA conference that more Americans are likely to die from eating bad chicken than from a transfusion-transmitted disease.

Klein notes the change from a partially paid to an all-volunteer blood donor supply is an important factor in the improvement in blood safety. He points out that offering "incentives" (money) to donate blood caused some (people) to be less than totally candid about their histories.

However, the plasma industry continues to rely on paid donors. While this could raise the chances of finding infectious agents in plasma greater than in donating blood, Dr. Klein explains, "The concern about infection is less trou-

blesome with plasma because, unlike blood, (plasma) can be treated to inactive viruses."

Is blood from a relative safer than blood from a stranger? Dr. Klein says, not necessarily. After all, Uncle Charlie may not have told you things about himself that make him a risky donor.

As for risks in donating blood, Klein says there are none.

Is butter really better? Carol in Denver, Colo., questions whether switching from butter to margarine is really a change for the better since some researchers claim margarine is not actually a more healthful food choice. As Carol says, "My family and I really miss the taste of butter since I started using margarine and we'd love to have an excuse to switch back."

Well, you won't get the excuse here. The fact is, the research singled out margarines made with hydrogenated vegetable oils as posing a possible health risk. The hydrogenating process, which turns the oils into a solid form, produces trans fatty acids which could be a factor in heart disease. One suggestion: Buy margarine in liquid form for your cooking, and use the solid form as a spread.

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Free Computer Classes Offered

BY GENA BERLETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

System Computing Services offers computer seminars for any one interested. Signing up in advance to guarantee a spot is a wise choice, however. Many students have trouble learning about basic software that is used in the library Computer Center. If you are one of these many confused people, please take advantage of the free seminars while you can. Classes on Word 6.0 for Windows, Excel 5.0 for

Windows, Internet Tools for Researchers, and Wordperfect 3.0 for Mac are just a few of the many seminars that are available. Registration for seminars is available up to 30 days in advance.

To assist students in becoming more efficient as computer users, experienced professionals teach each seminar. Whenever possible, hands on training is emphasized to promote a greater understanding of the material covered. Several computer systems are covered in the seminars

such as Windows, Macintosh, and UNIX. Each student has the choice of picking the appropriate seminar for the computer system that he or she will be using. A seminar on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. will be available to help students (and others) with basic Internet operations like E-Mail and World Wide Web.

If interested, stop by the User Liason Office in UCS, Room 200 to pick up a catalog.

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Binge drinking common at colleges

Ominous findings in a new survey of 17,600 students at 140 colleges:

Binge drinking in past 2 weeks?
(50% of men; 39% of women)

Yes 44%

Frequent binge drinkers

19%

Binge drinking most common at:

- Colleges in Northeast, North Central states
- Residential colleges (10% or more of students live on-campus)
- Co-ed colleges

Binge drinking least common at:

- Colleges in West, South
- Traditionally black colleges
- Commuter colleges
- Women's colleges

Think they are problem drinkers

Frequent binge drinkers describe their past 30 days:

- 63% did something they regretted
- 61% missed a class because of drinking
- 60% of men (49% of women) drove after drinking
- 54% forgot where they were or what they did while drunk
- 46% got behind in school work
- 22% did not use protection during sex
- 11% got into trouble with campus or local police

"Binge drinking":
Five or more drinks in a row (men) or four or more in a row (women)

"Frequent binges":
Three or more in past two weeks

SOURCE: Harvard School of Public Health study, Journal of American Medical Association