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Biology Student Receives \$11,000 Research Grant

BY BECKY NORRIS
STAFF REPORTER

One of UNLV's brightest stars shines in the College of Science and Mathematics' department of biological sciences.

Marlon Mendoza, aided by Assistant Professor Marcia McClure, has become the first UNLV student to receive an \$11,000 National Institutes of Health research supplement to McClure's NIH grant. This supplement is specifically for ethnic minorities that are under-represented in the sciences.

The supplement funds Mendoza's salary for a year in McClure's research group, a \$1,000 travel allowance and a stipend for books, McClure said.

This duo complement and contrast each other. McClure, the teacher/mentor, is dynamic and outspoken while Mendoza, the student/learner, is soft-spoken and humble, yet explicitly proud. It is apparent they hold in common, however, mutual admiration and respect.

"I can't even find the words to tell you how grateful I am for this experience," Mendoza said graciously. "I never thought I would have this chance with Dr. McClure. She gave me the opportunity to learn. A year before this, I never thought I would be here."



Marsha McClure (r.) directs the research group that will benefit from Marlon Mendoza's grant. PHOTO BY STEVE HOBBS

Several requirements, McClure said, had to be met to apply for and receive this highly competitive NIH supplement. McClure had to be a NIH grant recipient. She had to be able to describe a project that Mendoza was capable of handling, and she also had to demonstrate that Mendoza's project would further the purpose of the group re-

search.

Mendoza said he had to write a statement of his career goals, his objectives in working with McClure, why he wanted to study with her and what he planned on doing in the group if he received the supplement. He also had to list his grade point average (3.51 at the time) and achievements. "Initially, I wanted to be an

M.D. since day one," Mendoza explained. "Dr. McClure has inspired me and opened a lot of doors. She showed me that there's another aspect to science, the research aspect. Therefore I am looking toward an M.D./Ph.D. program."

McClure was glad to help Mendoza. "I think one of the sad things here is that a lot of the

students don't know how good they can be, because they haven't been put in an environment with someone who will pay attention to their abilities."

The M.D./Ph.D. program is offered throughout the United States in selected medical schools, McClure said. It is a grueling program in which the student completes both the M.D. and Ph.D. at the same time. The program lasts about seven years, and the student is basically on-call as both medical student and researcher for the entire period. These people typically become doctor researchers.

"Marlon is highly qualified. He has several schools looking at him right now," McClure said.

She said that Mendoza has already had an informal meeting with Stanford that has guaranteed him an interview. From there he will have to compete just like everyone else. Johns Hopkins and Washington University in St. Louis are also interested in Mendoza.

McClure said her research group, funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases division of the NIH, the principal biomedical research arm of the federal government, studies viruses. In particular, they focus on how genes evolve

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Virus Hits UNLV Students

Several different respiratory problems have been seen at the Student Health Center recently.

Although the worst part of the cold and flu season is over, according to Lori Winchell, director of the SHC, they have seen allergies, colds, mono, strep throat and an upper respiratory virus.

The virus is characterized by headache, high fever and nausea. It moves to the sinuses and, in some cases, drops into the chest and can become bronchitis.

With a fever, Winchell warns, "It is communicable, whether it is a virus or bacterial infection."

Getting plenty of rest, increasing fluid intake (especially with fever) to six to eight

8-ounce glasses of water or juice a day and using a vaporizer or humidifier to relieve congestion at night are some of the guidelines Winchell offers for self-care. For sinus congestion, she suggests dissolving one teaspoon of salt in a mixture of 8 ounces of warm water, using an eye dropper to insert in each nostril.

If a fever of 101 degrees or more lasts longer than three days, Winchell suggests seeing a physician right away. She also explains that discolored mucous can indicate a bacterial infection.

For more information, please call the SHC at 895-3370.

—Becky Norris

Student from Purchasing Department Chosen Employee of the Year

BY HEIDI LIRGG
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Stephen Dacko was named 1995 UNLV Student Employee of the Year on March 20.

The award is open to students at UNLV who are also employed on campus. Candidates are nominated by their supervisors, and are selected by a committee based on both work performance and length of employment, as well as academic performance and class standing. The winner receives a savings bond and a commemorative plaque.

Committee chair Susan Sanders, UNLV's student employment coordinator, said that although there were only five nominations this year, they were all very worthy, and it was very difficult to choose one. Dacko's nomination

will be entered in the Western regional competition.

Dacko, 21, is majoring in math and minoring in chemistry, and wants to be a secondary school teacher. He is in the Honors Program at UNLV, and will graduate in Spring of 1996. He received both an academic scholarship and grants from the Math and Science departments. He is from Nevada, and graduated from Basic High school in 1991.

Originally hired at UNLV's purchasing department as a data entry clerk in June of 1992, his job duties have expanded, and he said he now "does a little of everything."

"I was very pleased to have my bosses think that way of my performance," Dacko said. "I was flattered that they would choose me."

Bring On Number One

The UNLV baseball team battles top-ranked Cal State-Fullerton in a three-game series beginning tonight at Earl E. Wilson Stadium.



Mark Kotsay

The Titans have a record of 32-6, 7-2 in the Big West, while the Hustlin' Rebels have a record of 25-12, 6-3 in conference.

CSF is led by sophomore center fielder Mark Kotsay, a player-of-the-year candidate.

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Communications Decency Act of 1995: Will Censorship Be Legalized?

BY GENA BERLETT
STAFF REPORTER

The Communications Decency Act of 1995 (S.314) will be voted on in Congress soon.

According to the Electronic Freedom Foundation (EFF) this "Decency Act" destroys the Constitutional premise of the First Amendment rights to Freedom of Speech by promoting censorship of all communications between individuals.

The EFF purports that the "Decency Act" encourages censorship of any form of electronic communication now in use, and is the greatest threat to Freedom of Speech rights on the Internet.

It also states that the act would make the sending of "obscene" material illegal over the Internet in any form. The definition as to what constitutes "obscene" uses the most vague guidelines, in a strictly legal sense, so that even ordinary, private discussion between individuals would be monitored. The legal ramification is that the Internet, as well as other electronic devices, may be censored and even banned.

"This violation of the Constitution is yet another attempt by majority leaders to use the current political climate as a base for governmental control over the Internet," Matthew Gordon, writer for the Internet Section of the *Princeton Spigot*, pointed out.

Gordon further stated that service providers such as Compuserve or America Online will be held liable if their facilities are used to pass along material that falls under the definition of "obscene."

The effect of this legal liability is that the smaller Internet providers will cease to exist because the insurance costs would be too high for them to operate and the restrictions would require all Internet users to pay fees for the implementing of the restrictions on the Net.

The Internet has for some time been developing its own protocol laws. "The real issue to the government, though, is the question of whether the Internet as a whole, and its constituent information access—ways, should fall under current laws governing free speech and federal regulation thereof, or whether the tech-

nology demands new laws of its own; but, the answer that has been known to Net users all along is the fact that the Net defines its own rules," Gordon said.

"The government's fear of this possibility of panarchic information access is what has prompted them to try to take control in many ways, this being just one of the manifestations," Gordon continued.

EFF filed suit against the Federal Government on February 21, alleging that the Government's attempt to regulate the export of cryptographic information and algorithms is unconstitutional and in violation of the First Amendment. The EFF is representing plaintiff Daniel J. Bernstein, a graduate student at the University of California at Berkeley.

According to Gordon, Bernstein developed an encryption equation, or algorithm, but when he wished to publish it in a mathematical journal the federal government resisted the licensing process. If he had published the algorithm without permission, Bernstein could have faced serious penalties for arms trafficking.

The government currently operates

under the policy that any cryptography is a physical weapon and strictly regulates its production and dissemination. Bernstein's mathematical paper describes the algorithm and a computer program runs the algorithm. He also desires to discuss his algorithm publicly at mathematical conferences in the United States, but the federal government will not allow him.

Cryptography is defined as the "science and study of secret writing." In Gordon's view, this does not justify the heavy restrictions that have been placed on cryptographic information that private individuals have produced and wish to disseminate using their rights to free speech.

The government requires that any individual or company that wants to export or publish any encryption software or algorithms (especially on the Internet) must obtain a license from the State Department.

The terms of the license, issued by the State Department, include that each recipient of the licensed software or infor-

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