

# 1998 Nevada Medal lecture focuses on environment

The Rebel Yell

Imagine a process involving 30 million species of flora, fauna and microorganisms that interact automatically to regulate the Earth's temperature and the chemistry of the air and oceans. That's the basic premise to be outlined in "Gaia To Microcosm," the 11th Nevada Medal Lecture by Dr. Lynn Margulis at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on April 23.

The Nevada Medal Lecture, which is free to the public, begins at 4 p.m. in room 106 of the Bigelow Physics Building. Margulis will formally receive the 1998 Nevada Medal in an award dinner at Caesars Palace following the lecture. The medal and \$10,000 prize are sponsored by the

shareholders of Nevada Bell and are awarded annually to an outstanding scientist or engineer.

Dr. Margulis is internationally known for her research on the evolution of the small forms of life, including the role of bacteria in influencing and regulating biological processes and environmental conditions. She holds a prestigious Distinguished University Professorship on the Amherst campus in Massachusetts and has been a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences since 1983.

She is also a member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, holds six honorary doctorates from other universities, and is fluent in Spanish and French. The Massachusetts microbiologist,

with support from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation of New York City, also contributes extensively to science education from the primary through university levels with the distribution of written and multimedia instructional materials.

The debate on the Gaia hypothesis is only Margulis' most recent challenge to the scientific status quo. In the 1970s, she introduced the radical Theory of Endosymbiosis, arguing that early microbial evolution included the combining of simple organisms to create higher lifeforms, a departure from the Darwinian concept of survival by more successful mutations. Her book, "Symbiogenesis in Cell Evolution" (1993), is now

considered a classic of 20th century biology.

Considered revolutionary when first proposed, this concept has since become widely accepted among scientists. It is also a fundamental part of the "Gaia hypothesis" of the Earth which she has developed in concert with British scientist James E. Lovelock.

Initially met with skepticism in the mid-70s, the Gaia concept, named for the Greek goddess of the Earth, is now gaining worldwide attention from researchers. It proposes that life, especially microorganisms and plants, provide the Earth with natural, self-regulating mechanisms for such factors as surface temperature and the

chemistry of the atmosphere and oceans.

Margulis' current research interests, mainly sponsored by NASA, are focused on trying to reconstruct the nature of microbial evolution to help assess what might be discovered on other planets. She has also published more than 130 scientific papers, as well as co-authoring several popular books on science for non-technical audiences with her son, Dorion Sagan.

In announcing the award, Governor Bob Miller said, "Dr. Margulis has truly advanced the scientific world into a new frontier. Her work is a major step toward understanding many of the mysteries of our earth and the planets of our solar system."

## TUITION: A look at how increase could affect students next year

Nevada's universities are near the bottom on a list of Western public university systems in terms of in-state undergraduate tuition. The state ranks 14th out of 16 states, based on this year's numbers, with an average tuition (based on 30 credits) of \$1,995. Only Idaho and the California State University system are lower. The University of California system ranks as the most expensive, with students paying \$4,212 this year (see chart).

Non-resident students will also see their tuition costs rise at UNLV and UNR, but at a much higher rate. This year, non-residents paid \$5,435 in tuition on average, with the total increasing to \$7,430 once all fees are added in (30 credits). This was a 6 percent increase from 1996-97. Next year, this figure will increase to \$5,770 in tuition, with a total of \$7,840. But the system's proposed budget, which will go to

the Nevada Legislature next January, calls for these figures to increase another 10 percent for the 1999-00 and 2000-01 academic years (see chart).

This total still ranks Nevada in the lower half of Western university systems in terms of non-resident tuition. The state ranks 11th out of 16 systems in this regard, costing just over half as much as the most expensive system, the University of California, which costs \$13,196 for non-residents (see chart).

Part-time, non-resident students will see their tuition and fees rise from \$102 per credit this year to \$144 next year, \$149.50 in 1999 and \$155 in 2000.

Students who fall under the Good Neighbor Policy with the states of California and Arizona will see their costs rise from \$3,915 this year to \$4,320 next year. This total, which

is based on 30 credits, includes both the tuition and the per credit fees. The per credit fee will continue to rise at 4 percent per year for each of the next two years under the state's proposal to the Legislature.

Resident graduate students also will pay more in upcoming years. Their costs will rise from \$90 per credit this year to \$93 in 1998-99. This will raise the average cost from \$2,160 to \$2,232 next year. The costs will rise to \$96.50 per credit in 1999-00 and \$100 per credit in 2000-01.

Non-resident graduate students currently pay \$5,435 in tuition, with the total increasing to \$7,595 including fees. This will increase to \$5,770 next year. The total, including fees, will be \$8,002. This is a 5.4 percent increase, which will jump to a 10 percent increase in both 1999 and 2000 (see chart).

Part-time graduate student costs will increase from \$166 per credit this year to \$190 next year. This total will rise to \$205 per credit for the 2000-01 academic year.

Jarvis also provided information on the cost of education to the state of Nevada. The two universities in the state spend an average of \$9,143 per full-time student attending UNLV or UNR.

The Chancellor's Tuition and Fee Advisory Committee has also made several recommendations for the future, Jarvis said. One of these involves the allocation of money to student governments. Currently these bodies are funded through a portion of registration fees dedicated to "Activities and Programs." Meetings between the student representatives on the committee and the Nevada Student Alliance have discussed the possibility of this funding being increased in the future.

The committee is recommending that each campus president work with student government leaders to review spending on each campus and report back to the Chancellor during the fall semester. In this way, each campus could meet their student government

funding issues in the best manner for them.

Another proposed change involves money set aside for student financial assistance. Currently, an amount equal to 50 percent of all tuition and fee increases is dedicated to the state budget and is earmarked for student financial assistance. This was meant to improve access for all students and encourage participation in higher education.

However, recent increases in state budget dollars for student assistance, the continuation of the current proportion of tuition and fees set aside for this purpose and the new federal financial aid programs enacted this year have made meeting the goals of the policy possible without additional funds. In order to allow for greater financial flexibility in the system's budget, the committee is recommending that the current level of tuition and fees for student financial assistance be continued through the 2000-01 academic year.

### Tuition And Fees At Public 4-year Institutions Resident Undergraduate

Institution(# in system)	97-98 Totals	Rank
University of California (9)	\$4,212	1
Oregon Universities (3)	3,505	2
Colorado, Univ & St. Univ (2)	2,957	3
Hawaii, Manoa (1)	2,944	4
S. Dakota, Univ & St. Univ (2)	2,777	5
Washington, Univ & Colleges (6)	2,771	6
Montana, Univ & St. Univ (2)	2,654	7
N. Dakota, Univ & St. Univ (2)	2,622	8
University of Alaska (3)	2,605	9
Utah, Univ & St. Univ (2)	2,388	10
University of Wyoming (1)	2,316	11
New Mexico, Univ & St. Univ (2)	2,181	12
Arizona Universities (3)	2,058	13
University of Nevada (2)	1,995	14
Idaho Universities & College (4)	1,942	15
California State University (21)	1,929	16

### Tuition And Fees At Public 4-year Institutions Non-resident Undergraduate

Institution(# of schools)	97-98 Totals	Rank
University of California (9)	\$13,196	1
Colorado, Univ & St. Univ	12,590	2
Oregon Universities (3)	11,494	3
University of Hawaii, Manoa (1)	9,429	4
Washington Universities & Colleges (6)	9,407	5
California State University (21)	9,309	6
Arizona Universities (3)	8,415	7
New Mexico, Univ & St. Univ (2)	7,663	8
Idaho Universities and College (4)	7,598	9
Montana, Univ & St. Univ (2)	7,485	10
University of Nevada (2)	7,430	11
University of Wyoming (1)	7,414	12
Utah, Univ & St. Univ (2)	7,307	13
University of Alaska (3)	7,105	14
South Dakota, Univ & St. Univ	6,410	15
North Dakota, Univ & St. Univ	6,356	16

## Senate meeting to discuss stipends

By Brad Tittington  
News Editor

The senate meeting tonight will feature discussion/approval of the stipends for next year and also will include voting on one student to fill the vacant Health Sciences Senate seat.

The seat which was vacated by Jenny Marshall will be the first item on the agenda. The item was submitted by Liberal Arts Senator Josephine Binetti.

The next item on the agenda will be the "authorization as permissible by the CSUN Constitution Article VI, Item C, Section 4, Subsection f, for the 1998-99 Executive Board to administer expenditures not to exceed \$500 beginning May 1, 1998 and continuing

through April 30, 1999," as submitted by Urban Affairs Senator Rick Kimbrough.

The next item the senate will discuss is the stipends of the officers for the next year. The item calls for the student body president to receive a \$920 per month stipend and a 42 credit fee waiver. The student body vice president and the senate president would receive an \$870 stipend and 42 credit fee waiver, according to the item.

The senate will also vote on the senate president pro-tempore stipend which the item calls for a \$420 stipend and 24 credit fee waiver.

Senators will also discuss/approve the stipends for the directors of entertainment and program-

ming, office of student information, Nevada Student Affairs, student services and elections.

The item calls for the entertainment and programming director to receive a \$420 stipend and 24 credit fee waiver, the office of student information, student services and Nevada Student Affairs to receive a \$400 stipend and a 24 credit fee waiver and elections to receive a \$150 stipend during the months of July, August, November and January and a \$400 stipend during the months of September, October, February, March and April plus a 24 credit fee waiver.

The meeting will take place in the Moyer Student Union, Room 201 at 7 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public.

### Correction

In an A&E article on April 16 titled "Play advances to final four in Washington, D.C." the theatre department's production of Falsettos was erroneously described as an American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) nominee advancing to The Kennedy Center for a final competition. Falsettos has already won the ACTF award and is being honored at The Kennedy Center with a run of prime-time performances in May.

It is the policy of The Rebel Yell to correct any factual errors. Errors can be brought to our attention by calling 895-1512.

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