

# REGENTS'



# REVIEW

Volume 5, Issue 2

*A publication of the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada*

October 2001

**INSIDE:**

**UCCSN DENTIST ON ALERT**

|

**UNLV ECONOMIST FACES TRAGEDY**



## CHAIR'S CORNER



### Board of Regents

Thalia Dondero, *Chair*  
Howard Rosenberg, *Vice*  
*Chair*

Mark Alden  
Dr. Jill Derby  
Dorothy S. Gallagher  
Douglas Hill  
Linda Howard  
Dr. Thomas Kirkpatrick  
Douglas Seastrand  
Steve Sisolak  
Tom Wiesner

Suzanne Ernst  
*Chief Administrative*  
*Officer to the Board*

It is impossible to forget the terrible days following the terrorist attacks of September 11. But as a result of this tragedy, our country—as well as the entire UCCSN family—has renewed its sense of patriotism and, perhaps more importantly, renewed its commitment to compassion and understanding.

This special edition of *Regents' Review* is dedicated to those individuals who have been impacted, both directly and indirectly, by the events of that day. What's more, many of our students and faculty will be called to serve our country in the months ahead and we want them to know that our thoughts and prayers will be with them.

In addition, the Board of Regents will vote at this month's meeting on altering the current UCCSN military leave policy to provide greater latitude for our professional staff and students who serve in the Reserves or National Guard and who are being called to active duty.

Although we have done our best to share all the stories of those involved in this crisis, we have by no means presented every story out of respect to privacy and the unfortunate fact that news continues to come in on a daily basis.

It is always important to practice tolerance and understanding, and I urge everyone within the UCCSN to be particularly sensitive to these issues during these trying times. Higher education is one of America's most treasured gardens for freedom and understanding, and one that continually reminds us that knowledge truly is power.

Thalia Dondero  
Chair

## CCSN Honors Edwards with Scholarship

Community College of Southern Nevada has created a memorial scholarship in honor of former CCSN adjunct faculty instructor Barbara Edwards, a passenger on the commercial airliner that crashed into the Pentagon on September 11.

The Barbara G. Edwards German Scholarship Fund will help students studying German with tuition, books, and possibly study-abroad programs, according to Dr. Elfie Manning, CCSN's French and German programs coordinator.

Born in Germany, Edwards moved to Michigan when she was 10 years old. Since 1997, she taught French and German with the Clark County School District, and decided to try her hand as a college German instructor at CCSN last spring.

Well-liked by students and colleagues, Edwards was honored recently at a memorial service at CCSN in which several students and CCSN President Ron Remington spoke about her dedication to and love of teaching.



*Student government senators Jocelyn Bryco (left) and Maria Kattan (right) present Dr. Elfie Manning with a \$5,000 contribution to the Barbara Edwards German Scholarship Fund on behalf of the Associated Students of CCSN.*

# Head of UCCSN Dental Programs May Aid in Victim ID

Tucked away in a storage closet at the Charleston campus of CCSN are six white cases that, put in the right hands, can help close a chapter in the lives of those directly affected by the September 11 tragedies. Inside those cases are portable X-ray machines that Dr. Ray Rawson and his colleagues would use to identify the remains of those killed in the World Trade Center attacks.

Rawson, a dentist, state senator and director of the UCCSN's dental programs, is part of an elite team of nationally renowned experts in forensic dentistry. Currently on "Priority Alert," Rawson and 23 other dentists, hygienists and computer technicians are as little as 48 hours away from being called to service and flown to New York.

"With nearly 5,000 still missing, there are estimates that there could be as many as one million body parts that will need to be identified," said Rawson. "With the heat from the fires and the force of the building collapse, often teeth will be the only parts that will remain identifiable."

Rawson earned a certificate from the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in forensic odontology and is only one of 100 board-certified forensic odontologists in the country. He was involved in identifying remains of victims killed in the 1980

MGM fire in Las Vegas and the 1989 crash of a DC-10 that killed 112 people near Sioux City, Iowa. Dr. Steven Smith, interim dean of UNLV's School of Dentistry, was also a member of the Sioux City forensics team.

"Just like fingerprints, no two teeth are alike," Rawson said. "Teeth have unique surfaces and dental work. If an individual has a filling, that filling has its own signature from the dentist who made it. It's time consuming work, but it's precise and rewarding."

Rawson estimates that nearly one half of his team are UCCSN residents, faculty or hygienists. Officially known as the State of Nevada Mass Disaster Identification Team, the group received funding from the 1995 Nevada legislature to purchase equipment for urban search and rescue.

Although the members will report to the



*Dr. Ray Rawson demonstrates the use of dental examination equipment similar to the field equipment his dental forensic team would be using if called into action.*

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) if called to action, Rawson originally formed the team in 1985. Law enforcement authorities from around the country often call on these individuals to identify remains or examine human bite marks for crucial cases.

A practicing dentist since 1968, Rawson was in UNLV's first graduating class where he earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees in zoology and chemistry, and later earned an M.A. in physical anthropology. He received his D.D.S. from Loma Linda University Dental School.



*Members of the community and UCCSN family come together to remember those affected by the events of September 11. From left to right: Service and vigil at UNLV; GBC employees Yvonne Sutherland and Shelley Patterson observe a moment of silence; Washoe Tribe elders Florine Conway and Joann Martinez pray at the WNCC service for victims of the terrorist attacks; and UNR cross-cultural memorial service at the Jot Travis Student Union.*

## UCCSN Shifts Policy to Accommodate Reserve and Guard Units

In an effort to support UCCSN professional staff, faculty and students called to active duty in the wake of the September 11 attacks and the recent U.S. retaliation efforts, the Board of Regents will vote at its October meeting to amend its current military leave policies. These policies apply to current UCCSN staff and students who are members of the federal reserve forces or the Nevada National Guard and who have been or will be called to active duty.

For professional staff, the Board will vote on a proposal to compensate those individuals called to duty the difference between their UCCSN pay and their military pay through the end of the 2001—2002 academic year employment contract. Additionally, retirement contributions will continue to be made, and other employee benefits will also continue at the same cost the employee currently pays.

For students, the Board will vote on a proposal to enable mobilized students to receive a full or partial refund—depending on the time a student is called to duty—to recover tuition, room and board charges, course fees and other payments. Additionally, the proposal also addresses student requests for incomplete grades and withdrawing from classes, as well as temporary policies for re-enrolling, scholarships and dependents of affected students.

## UNR Police Officer Ready and Willing for Possible Duty

Even though he hasn't received the call just yet, Kevin Stein is preparing himself for what may soon be reality.

Currently an officer with University of Nevada, Reno Police Services, Stein is also an officer with the Army Reserves—a 1st Lieutenant with the 921st Field Hospital out of Sacramento, associated with the 2nd Medical Brigade of the 63rd Reserve Support Command.



"I haven't been called up yet, but things are changing so rapidly, I really don't know what might happen," Stein said. As a commissioned officer in the Army Reserves, Stein's service does not cease until he resigns.

Stein's unit is a tier one medical unit, which means that it not only receives considerable funding for training, it's also one of the first medical reserve units that, if necessary, would be deployed. In his role, Stein is involved in the logistics, training, and operation of setting up a mobile hospital unit.

The 921st could be deployed in a number of ways, according to Stein. One scenario would send the unit to the "theater of operation" or the heart of the conflict. A second scenario would send the unit to a city within the United States or another country to backfill an active army medical unit that has been deployed to the conflict. Stein also said that volunteers could be sought for service instead of deploying the entire unit.

An active member of the reserves since 1992, Stein has never been called up for active duty in a military operation. And even though his unit is not on alert status, Stein admits his anxiety level is high but he's prepared. "I try to keep aware of what's going on right now, and if I get called, great. I'm going," he said. "I have no reservations about going."

### UCCSN Institutions

University of  
Nevada,  
Las Vegas

University of  
Nevada,  
Reno

Nevada State  
College at  
Henderson

Community College  
of Southern Nevada

Great Basin College

Truckee Meadows  
Community College

Western Nevada  
Community College

Desert Research  
Institute



# WTC Attacks Hit Close to Home for UNLV Economist

Before September 11, 2001, Dr. Keith Schwer was known as the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and a UNLV Economics Department faculty member. But now, however, Schwer will also be known as a survivor of the attacks on the World Trade Center.

Recalling the initial attack, Schwer noted that “the lights flickered, the building shook, the chandelier shook—I thought maybe it was an earthquake. It sounded like an explosion.”

And with that, Schwer knew that this seemingly typical meeting—the annual meeting of the National Association for Business Economics (NABE) being held at the Marriott hotel at the base of the World Trade Center—was indeed anything but typical.

Exiting the hotel within minutes, Schwer emerged to the heart of a chaotic scene—and thankfully was not struck or injured by falling debris. But once he saw the tail of the plane jutting out from the burning building, he realized this was not an explosion or an earthquake; it was an attack—and one that wasn’t over yet.

“We walked toward the Hudson River, so I saw the second plane coming down the river. It was so strange—I saw the plane bank, then I heard it coming and I saw that it was headed for the South Tower. I saw it go into the building.”

Even more disturbing to Schwer was witnessing the horrific scenes of people jumping from the buildings to escape the fire and explosions.

Although the specifics are hard to remember, Schwer does remember one thing quite clearly, one that offered some sense of comfort to such an uncomfortable scene: the seemingly instant arrival of rescue workers. “I’m still amazed at how fast the fire trucks and firemen arrived. I have such a vivid memory of seeing them pull up and jump out of their vehicles. Their bravery still amazes me.”

Amid the confusion and attempts to reach loved ones via cell phones—most of whose lines were jammed—Schwer borrowed a



were—they were in the hotel when the plane hit—and it was some time before they were reunited.

Once away from the building, Schwer began to walk away from the tragedy and didn’t stop moving it seems until he arrived home in Las Vegas. “I think I was able to get my act together because I remained so busy.”

And as he began his journey home, the stars began to line up in his favor. “Since we went west towards the Hudson, we walked away from the dirt, so to speak, and avoided the dust and debris

caused by the collapsed tower. Some people went south and were forced to run from the explosion when the tower collapsed,” Schwer said.

A fellow meeting attendee told Schwer and another colleague that she had relatives in Chappaqua, NY. With that, the three survivors boarded a train—one of the only ways to leave

the city at this time—and headed out to the suburbs where they were taken care of

***“It was so strange—I saw the plane bank, then I heard it coming and I saw that it was headed for the South Tower.”***

PDA device to e-mail his wife and let her know he was OK. Some of his companions, however, were unsure of where their wives

**(See SCHWER on back cover)**

## SCHWER...(continued)

completely by a generous young couple and their two children.

The next day, the three rented a car to make their way home. On the way, they stopped to have lunch with one of his companion's daughters, a student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. Schwer noted that her vibrancy—as well as the energy of the two young children he met the day before—truly helped him deal with what he had just experienced. “Watching a two year old and a four year old run around all day really helps put things in perspective,” Schwer said. “And then at lunch, I realized how much I appreciated listening to some normal talk from a teenage college student about classes and friends. It really helped me.”

After dropping his colleagues off in Michigan, Schwer was left to make the journey home by himself, but he didn't mind. “I think it was very important that I

was working on something and staying focused on my goal: to get home to Las Vegas,” Schwer said. “The drive home gave me three days to reflect and grapple with what had happened.”

Schwer found those he met on his trip to be kind and helpful, such as a hotel owner he met in Grand Junction, CO. “There was literally no room at the inn, given an event going on in town,” Schwer said with a laugh. With a combination of frustration and tiredness, “I pulled out my room key from the Marriott—one of the only items I had with me—and showed it to the hotel owner. Within moments, she walked over to another couple in the lobby and then told me they would help me. And they did. They found me a room for the night.”

Schwer recognizes that he was “lucky to get out, even though I'll have to live with the emotional scars. And I do think I'll be more agitated from now on, more con-

cerned about how my university reacts to events. I think I'll be a little less forgiving given my experience—I want things done and I want them now.”

But Schwer also noted that the event has made him more aware of seemingly simple things. “I've noticed little things really mean a lot since getting back—for example, a student took me to lunch, and my wife and children had a surprise party for me when I got home,” he said.

Although Schwer has told his story a number of times to many different people, it's something he appreciates. “I think telling the story is part of the healing and helps me make sense of it all.”

And although Schwer story does have a happy ending, it does have a rather ironic twist. Although he had visited New York City several times prior to this conference, this was his first trip to the World Trade Center. Sadly, it's his last.



**Board of Regents**  
University and Community College System of  
Nevada  
5550 W. Flamingo Rd., Suite C-1  
Las Vegas, NV 89103

*Return Service Requested*

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LAS VEGAS NV  
PERMIT NO. 2533