



## Guide to the UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection

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This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on February 12, 2025. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1cn36>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
<b>Collector:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries. Special Collections and Archives
<b>Title:</b>	UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection
<b>ID:</b>	UA-00146
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	2023 December to 2024
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8.12 Cubic Feet (5 boxes, 2 oversized boxes, 1 flat file, 1 roll, 6 unboxed items)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	20.11 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 Websites (36.600 GB) WARC
<b>Physical Description:</b>	14 Digital Files (1.687 GB) JPG, MP4, PDF/A
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection (2023-2024) contains material documenting the response to the deadly shooting on UNLV's Maryland Parkway campus on December 6, 2023. The collection contains items left at spontaneous memorials, such as handwritten notecards, small religious tokens, bracelets, teddy bears, and artificial flowers. Also included in the collection are videos of the UNLV vigil service held on December 13, 2023, archived UNLV websites, and condolence items sent to campus administration. Additionally, two members of the UNLV community donated their personal photographs and journal entries relating to the day of the shooting.

### Preferred Citation

UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection, 2023-2024. UA-00146. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1cn36>

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## Historical Background

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At approximately 11:30am on December 6, 2023, Tony Polito arrived at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Maryland campus and entered Frank and Estella Beam Hall where he murdered three UNLV faculty members. Cha Jan "Jerry" Chang and Patricia Navarro-Velez, both faculty members at Lee Business School, and Naoko Takemaru, a Japanese Studies professor at the College of Liberal Arts, were killed. A fourth faculty member was severely wounded. After killing and wounding faculty members, the gunman exited Beam Hall and was killed by University Police Southern Command in an exchange of gunfire. Campus was locked down until police could secure the scene and confirm there was no longer a threat. Classes were cancelled for the remainder of the week, and in-person classes and finals for the rest of the semester were eventually cancelled due to the physical and emotional trauma the campus suffered.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The UNLV December 6, 2023 Memorial Collection (2023-2024) contains material documenting the response to the deadly shooting on UNLV's Maryland Parkway campus on December 6, 2023. The collection contains items left at spontaneous memorials, such as handwritten notecards, small religious tokens, bracelets, teddy bears, and artificial flowers. Also included in the collection are videos of the UNLV vigil service held on December 13, 2023, archived UNLV websites, and condolence items sent to campus administration.

In the days and weeks following the tragic event, two spontaneous memorials were created on the Maryland Parkway campus. The materials and the memorials themselves were eventually gathered by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff and included in this collection. Additionally, two members of the UNLV community donated their personal photographs and journal entries relating to the day of the shooting.

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain as they were received.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research. Where use copies do not exist, production of use copies is required before access will be granted; this may delay research requests. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Some materials were donated by members of the University of Las Vegas, Nevada campus community in 2024; accession numbers: 2024-005, 2024-008, 2024-018, 2024-025, 2024-026, 2024-027, 2024-058, 2024-064, 2024-067, and 2024-078. Specific donors are noted at the file level of this inventory. Additional material was gathered by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff from campus memorials.

### Appraisal

The original acquisition included 0.5 linear feet of additional notecards left at memorials that were removed due to rain damage. Staff retained a sampling of notecards with messages that were washed away, but the majority of items with damage were discarded. All notecards with any amount of legible writing were retained.

### Processing Note

In 2024, Sarah Jones accessioned and processed the physical and digital material in the collection, created the finding aid in ArchivesSpace. Tammi Kim archived the websites using Archive-It and updated the finding aid.

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## Names and Subjects

- Mass shootings
- Memorialization
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Navarro-Velez, Patricia
- Chang, Jerry
- Takemaru, Naoko

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Materials sent to or left at UNLV Maryland Parkway campus memorials	
Condolence cards addressed to Professor Chang, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January	box 02
Condolence cards addressed to Professor Takemaru, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January	box 02
Condolence cards addressed to Professor Navarro-Velez, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January	box 02
Condolence cards left at campus memorials, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January Physical Description: 5 Files	box 01 box 02
Teddy bears, bracelets, vigil candles, small tokens, and framed photographs left at the UNLV Harmon entrance and Pida Plaza memorials, 2023 December to 2024 January	box 03
Artificial flowers left at Pida Plaza memorial, 2023 December to 2024 January	box 04
#UNLVStrong posters with signatures left at the UNLV Harmon entrance memorial, 2023 December 06 to 2024 January Physical Description: 2 Items	flat file 06
"UNLV Strong" black t-shirt, 2023 December	box 01
Signed poster left at Student Union showing support, 2023 December Creator: University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Student Union and Event Services.  Acquisition Note: Materials were transferred from UNLV Student Union and Event Services; accession number 2024-058.	roll 07
Three large wooden memorial arches with photographs of Professors Chang, Navarro-Velez, and Takemaru, 2023 December Physical Description: 3 Items	no object container 07 00

	no container 00	object 08
	no container 00	object 09
Three small wooden crosses with blue hearts addressed to Professors Chang, Navarro-Velez, and Takemaru, 2023 December Physical Description: 3 Items	no container 00	object 10
	no container 00	object 11
	no container 00	object 12
<hr/> Materials donated by students and faculty <hr/>		
Journal entries by Karla Warque describing their experience in Lied Library on December 6, 2023: digital files, 2023 December 08 to 2023 December 09 (UA_00146_002) Creator: Warque, Karla Physical Description: 1 Files (0.051 GB) PDF/A Acquisition Note: In 2024, Beatriz "Karla" Warque donated digital surrogates, but retained the original items; accession number 2024-008.	digital file 00	
Photographs taken by Professor Stephen Bates of barricaded classroom and upon returning to campus: photographs, 2023 December 06 to 2023 December 07 (UA_00146_003) Creator: Bates, Stephen Physical Description: 4 Files (0.016 GB) JPG Acquisition Note: Digital files were donated by Stephen Bates in 2024; accession number 2024-018.	digital file 00	
Polaroid photographs and zine created by Kelly Stith, 2023 to 2024 Creator: Stith, Kelly Acquisition Note: Materials donated in 2024 by Kelly Stith; accession number 2024-078. Publication Rights: This material is made available to facilitate private study, scholarship, or research. Copyright is owned by the original donor. Users are responsible for determining whether permissions are necessary from rights owners for any intended use and for obtaining all required permissions. Acknowledgement of the UNLV University Libraries is requested. Commercial use of any portion of this material is prohibited. Contact the copyright owner, Kelly Stith, for more information.	box 02	
Condolence cards, notes, and photographs sent to UNLV Libraries and Dean Farrell, 2023 December to 2024 January Creator: University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries	box 01 oversized box 05	

Acquisition Note: Materials were transferred from UNLV Libraries Dean's Office; accession number 2024-025.

<p>Condolence cards from Intermountain Health, 2023 to 2024</p> <p>Creator: University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Division of Integrated Marketing &amp; Branding</p> <p>Immediate Source of Acquisition: Materials were transferred by Division of Integrated Marketing and Branding in 2024; accession number 2024-064.</p>	<p>box 02</p>
<p>Paper crane wreath given to UNLV Student Wellness Center by the 7/20 Memorial Foundation of Aurora, Colorado, 2024</p> <p>Creator: University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Student Wellness Center</p> <p>Creator: 7/20 Foundation (Aurora, Colo.)</p> <p>Acquisition Note: Material donated by Kathy Underwood, on behalf the UNLV Student Wellness Center, in 2024; accession number 2024-067.</p>	<p>oversized box 13</p>
<p>"UNLV Strong 12-6-23" memorial patch for University Police, Southern Command, 2024 December 06</p> <p>Creator: University of Nevada Police. Southern Command</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Items</p> <p>Acquisition Note: Material transferred by Lt. Ryan Willman on behalf of the University Police Southern Command in 2024; accession number 2024-127.</p> <p>Names and Subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Nevada Police. Southern Command</li> </ul>	<p>box 02</p>
<p>Fall 2024 <i>UNLV Magazine</i> with articles related to the December 6, 2023 shooting including cover story with Professor Bot Rith, 2024 December</p>	<p>box 02</p>
<p>Materials relating to the December 13, 2023 vigil service</p> <p>Creator: University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Division of Integrated Marketing &amp; Branding</p> <p>Acquisition Note: Materials were transferred from the Division of Marketing &amp; Branding in 2024; accession numbers 2024-005 and 2024-026.</p>	
<p>City of Las Vegas Government livestream of UNLV campus vigil: digital video, 2023 December 13 (UA_00146_001)</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Files (0.461 GB) MP4</p>	<p>digital file 00</p>
<p>Clark County livestream of UNLV campus vigil: digital video, 2023 December 13 (UA_00146_001)</p> <p>Physical Description: 1 Files (1.051 GB) MP4</p>	<p>digital file 00</p>
<p>UNLV Vigil Service programs, 2023 December 13</p> <p>Physical Description: 2 Items</p>	<p>box 01</p>
<p>Flyers with information about support programs and resources for those impacted by December 6, 2023</p> <p>Physical Description: 2 Items</p>	<p>box 01</p>

Materials donated by UNLV Office of the President

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Materials were transferred from UNLV Office of the President in 2024; accession number 2024-027. Additional material was transferred by the Office of Integrated Marketing and Branding in 2024; accession numbers 2024-064 and 2024-128.

<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> "UNLV: Healing, Praying, Beginning" article about cleansing ceremony held on campus, 2024 January 17	oversized box 05
Letters from British Embassy in Los Angeles and West Virginia University sent to President Whitfield, 2023 December 08 to 2023 December 23	box 01
Mayoral proclamation of "University Police Services, Southern Command Day", 2023 December 13	oversized box 05
"UNLV Gratitude Coin" created by President Whitfield and sent to faculty to thank them for work towards UNLV Rebel Recovery, 2024 Physical Description: 1 Items	box 02
Silver and red "UNLV Strong" ribbons handed out for the 'Remember and Reflect' event, 2024 December 06 Physical Description: 2 Items	box 14
'Remember and Reflect' even programs, 2024 December 06 Physical Description: 3 Items	box 14
<i>Las Vegas Review-Journal</i> newspapers from December 7, 2023 and December 2024, 2023 December 06 to 2024 December 08 Physical Description: 3 Items	box 14
Speeches, run of show, and scripts from 'Remember and Reflect' event: digital files, 2024 December (UA_00146_004) Physical Description: 7 Digital Files (0.127 GB) PDF	digital file 00
Archived websites	
UNLV Strong   University of Nevada, Las Vegas: archived website, 2024 (3191837) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	
Classroom of Compassion: archived website, 2024 (3213494) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	
December 6 - UNLV Scarlet and Gray: archived website, 2024 (3213495) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	
Stories of Gratitude   UNLV Strong   University of Nevada, Las Vegas: archived website, 2024 (3216315) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	
Appreciation for our Community   UNLV Strong   University of Nevada, Las Vegas: archived website, 2024 (3216316) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	
Words of Encouragement   UNLV Strong   University of Nevada, Las Vegas: archived website, 2024 (3216317) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	
"Committee Carefully Working to Establish UNLV Strong Memorial": archived website, 2021 (3278134) ( <a href="#">view online</a> )	