

# NEVADA Silver & Blue

The magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno • NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005



## TRUE BLUE

University researchers on the march at Tahoe

Story on page 12



## Here's mud in your eye

In October 100 students joined 100 veteran photojournalists in New York for the 18th annual Eddie Adams Workshop, one of the country's most prestigious invitation-only photojournalism symposiums. David Calvert (inset photo above), a junior in the Reynolds School of Journalism, was among the elite group of students selected to attend. His work scored high marks. The image shown here was taken during the workshop and featured in the Oct. 24 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, and Calvert will receive a future assignment for the magazine.

"The workshop experience was a surplus of visual stimulation. It was inspiring," Calvert says.



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Ramon Sessions, the Pack's talented point guard who helped the men's basketball team in its thrilling late-season run to the NCAA Tournament, is primed and ready for an outstanding sophomore season.

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## On the Cover

Photographer **Jeff Ross** traveled to Fallen Leaf Lake in the Lake Tahoe Basin to take this issue's cover shot of Nevada researchers Laurel Saito, assistant professor of natural resources and environmental sciences, Sudeep Chandra, assistant professor of natural resources and environmental sciences and Dennis Murphy, professor of biology.

# NEVADA Silver & Blue

Serving the households of our 50,000  
University of Nevada, Reno alumni and friends.

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## From the President

# The strong heartbeat of a University on the move

I begin my final letter to Silver & Blue readers with a deep sense of gratitude for the wonderful support you have dedicated to one of this country's finest research universities, one that is on a trajectory for great things thanks to our great faculty, staff and students. I trust your dedication to ensuring that this greatly loved University will continue to grow, as the needs of the University continue to expand.

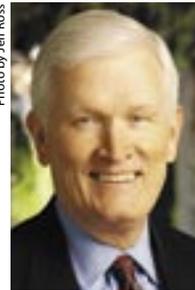


Photo by Jeff Ross

This edition shines a spotlight on the University's impact on one of the world's most breathtaking and captivating destinations: Lake Tahoe, just minutes away from our Reno and Redfield campuses.

The world's second-largest alpine lake and the third deepest in North America, Lake Tahoe is an international destination for quality skiing, boating, hiking and camping. It is also a frequent destination for our faculty and students who seek to capture its beauty in various art forms, to understand its unique history and culture, and to pursue knowledge of some of earth's most pressing environmental and seismic challenges.

Lake Tahoe is also home to a growing number of University alumni and friends, including two very special friends—Jan and Bob Davidson—who have announced plans to create the nation's first public school for profoundly gifted students at our University next fall, as recently chronicled in *The New York Times*.

An outgrowth of the popular THINK Institute that they have sponsored at Nevada for the past two summers, The Davidson Academy of Nevada will play an important role in cultivating this country's brightest students. These are students who may well graduate from our University at age 18 with a Ph.D. and become future internationally recognized scholars.

My colleagues and I are extraordinarily proud that the Davidsons have selected our University as home to their new Academy, particularly because it is yet another recognition of our University's highly talented faculty and staff and our beautiful campus setting.

Students at The Davidson Academy, like the members of our University community, will no doubt develop a special fondness for the swans that grace our Manzanita Lake. The swans have provided a touch of elegance and "campus romance" since the earliest days of the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration.

These swans are also a testament to the extraordinary care and dedication of the women and men of our buildings and grounds team who are responsible for making our 290-acre campus an oasis in the desert.

Several colleagues have worked hard in recent months to save Olivia's former mate "Zubb" from an injury that ultimately resulted in his demise. Zubb's passing followed on the heels of the death of the duo's only surviving offspring, and our ground-keeping team and frequent lake strollers immediately noted Olivia's apparent loneliness. Without skipping a beat, a new mate was purchased for Olivia, and the white swan duo (the new mate is Laurence) now happily share Manzanita Lake with a pair of black swans, Boris and Natasha.

Amidst constant change and growth, the heart of this University community beats loud and strong. Though I soon leave for Baylor University, Gerrie and I will long remember the talent, wisdom and dedication of our faculty, staff, students and friends who are so committed to increasing the value of a Nevada education and cultivating the beauty within.



Photo by Jean Dixon

**John M. Lilley**, President



Photos by Jean Dixon

## Big digs launch construction

It was fitting that the ceremonies to launch the University's largest construction venture ever were bigger than a traditional groundbreaking. This fall, two separate site dedication events for the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and the new Student Union featured a large earth-moving excavator as the ceremonial shovel. Each big dig was choreographed to music and followed by fireworks.

The Knowledge Center will be one of the most technologically advanced libraries in the country. The new Student Union will replace the 47-year-old Jot Travis Student Union, which was constructed when enrollment was less than 3,000. Located side-by-side, just south of Lombardi Recreation Center, these two new buildings will create a new hub of activity and enhance the campus experience for students, faculty, staff and visitors. The Student Union is due to open in 2007 and the Knowledge Center will open in 2008.

## Quad&Beyond



## ALL KILLER, NO FILLER

*Ake's solo CD offers 'snapshot' of a jazz artist*

Anyone who's seen him perform with the faculty jazz group The Collective knows that David Ake is an amazing pianist. In the case of his just-released solo CD, "In Between," Ake ramped up the amazement factor. The entire CD was performed in a single five-hour session at Imirage Sound Lab.

"I had a list of tunes with me and basically just worked down the list," Ake says. "We had a nice piano and dimmed the lights in the studio, so it was like being in my living room."

"Whatever he was feeling at that moment drove where the song went," Imirage producer Tom Gordon says. "It's rare that I get to see that here and it is really inspiring to watch when it happens."

The session went so well that Ake even managed to record more tunes than made the CD—a mix of jazz standards and eight originals.

"He had enough to choose the best of the best," Gordon says. "All killer, no filler."

Ake chose not to arrange the tunes beforehand, essentially improvising each song as he went along. The majority of the tunes were recorded in one take in what Ake calls "an intimate, really focused session."

"By the end, I was completely drained," he says, noting that the session came at an intensely busy time in his life when he was chair of the music department, teaching and preparing for the arrival of his first child.

"Having that kind of musicianship so I can capture the performance of a player just at that moment is something that has gotten lost in modern commercial recording. It was a glorious afternoon," Gordon says.

On the Web: [www.davidakemusic.com](http://www.davidakemusic.com);  
<http://cdbaby.com/cd/davidake>.

— John Wheeler

# Nevada Chamber Music Festival sounds high note

The University will play host to some of the world's top chamber musicians when the Reno Chamber Orchestra holds its second annual Nevada Chamber Music Festival on Dec. 28-31.

"Chamber music is probably the most rewarding music you can play. We get an amazing response from these players, who are willing to give up holidays to come and play music with their colleagues and friends," says Reno Chamber Orchestra executive director Scott Faulkner.

The first two days of the festival will feature performances at the South Reno Baptist Church (6780 S. McCarran Blvd.), with the University's Nightingale Hall the venue for the final two days

of the event. Along with musicians such as Martin Chalifour, concertmaster of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and renowned violin soloist James Buswell, local musicians such as University faculty members John Lenz and James Winn (two-thirds of well-known group, The Argenta) will also perform.

"It's an all-star lineup," Faulkner says. "It really is a great opportunity for people who go to the entire festival to get to know a person's playing and see them in different contexts and with different musicians."

Photos by Jean Dixon



Ruder

The festival is one more indication of the Reno Chamber Orchestra's popularity. The orchestra also added a second performance to each concert on this season's schedule.

"Last year, we sold 93 percent of the University's Nightingale Hall's seats just to season-ticket holders, leaving only 50 or 60 seats available for each performance," Faulkner says. "By add-

ing a Sunday afternoon performance, we hope to attract a whole new audience and give people a chance to hear us."

The Reno Chamber Orchestra is in many ways "the University's orchestra," Faulkner says. "Most of the orchestra's members are faculty, attended the University or are currently attending."

In addition, Phillip Ruder, director of the University's orchestral career studies program, is the orchestra's concertmaster. This semester, for the first time, conductor Theodore Kuchar is teaching viola.

"The orchestra is a great showcase for University talent," Faulkner says.

— John Wheeler

Find more information on the Nevada Chamber Music Festival, Dec. 28-31, on the Web at [www.renochamberorchestra.org](http://www.renochamberorchestra.org) or call (775) 348-9413.

University welcomes Silver Sox baseball

## THERE'S A NEW KID IN TOWN



Photo by Jean Dixon

Professional baseball has returned to Reno. The new team will play at the University's Peccole Park and will revive the Silver Sox name, which was used for more than 40 years by area minor league teams.

The Silver Sox are part of the Golden Baseball League, which will finance the installation of lights at 3,000-seat Peccole Park and will also partner on long-term funding for a new, synthetic field turf project.

After the projects are complete, the University will be well positioned to host future Western Athletic Conference or NCAA Tournament games.

University graduate Dwight Dortch, who also serves as Reno vice mayor and city councilman, has been named the team's general manager.

— Pat McDonnell

Alphie extends a warm Nevada welcome to the Reno Silver Sox gecko mascot.

## Biomedical research gets big boost from NIH

**B**iomedical research in Nevada has received a major boost with the news that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded the Nevada System of Higher Education \$17.2 million to establish a statewide Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Network for Biomedical Research Excellence, or INBRE.

This grant, which will be hosted by the University of Nevada School of Medicine, continues the momentum established in 2001, when NIH awarded the System \$6 million to create a statewide Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (BRIN). The goal of that grant was to help Nevada be more competitive in getting grants for multidisciplinary biomedical research projects.

"This new award is really an extension of BRIN but with an additional research focus," says principal investigator Lee Weber, professor of biology and biochemistry at the University. "It supports major research infrastructure cores—bioinformatics, genomics, proteomics and cytometry—as well as providing funding for beginning faculty that will help them establish their careers."

That funding allocates \$140,000 a year to six researchers from the University of Nevada, Reno, UNLV and the Nevada Cancer Institute for up to two years and will help create a pipeline of promising young faculty who will develop under the mentorship of the System's established researchers. The INBRE is a multilevel grant that will encompass community colleges, undergraduate students and faculty.

"I think this is a good example of how, in a small state with limited resources, we have to partner as educational

institutions to take advantage of every opportunity we have to find external funding for research and work together and build these connections," School of Medicine Dean John McDonald says.

Another element of the grant that's dear to McDonald's heart is funding for a program to help minority community college students pursue medical studies and assist them as they move along the education ladder into college and even medical school.

"I think it's very exciting," McDonald says. "I went to community college and was lucky because I found a really good mentor who helped me a great deal and basically resulted in me going to medical school. This will help people who otherwise might not pursue a career in biomedical sciences."

— John Wheeler

### CANCER RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GROWING

The INBRE grant focuses the state's researchers around a common theme: cell growth and differentiation—essentially, cancer research. Weber says small states such as Nevada have to maximize their resources by specializing and building collective expertise. The National Institutes of Health actively encourages this approach. By working cooperatively, researchers at the University, UNLV and the Nevada Cancer Institute are incrementally building a powerful state cancer research infrastructure.

Photo by Jean Dixon



University of Tuscia in Viterbo, Italy.

### 'Come alive' by studying in Viterbo, USAC's newest addition

Half of Viterbo's walled city center was built during the medieval 11th and 12th centuries, and the "newer" half was constructed during the Renaissance, a couple of centuries later. The ancient plazas come alive in late afternoon, crowded with people shopping or sharing conversation over strong coffee in one of Viterbo's many cafes.

Viterbo is the latest addition to the University Studies Abroad Consortium's (USAC) growing network of global campuses. In Viterbo, students can study at the University of Tuscia starting spring semester 2006.

"We try and find programs in smaller cities outside large metropolitan areas," USAC Director Carmelo Urza says. "Viterbo, for example, is in the center of Italy about 55 miles north of Rome. Students will have a more intimate learning experience there, and get a real sense of Italian life and culture beyond the tourist realm. Yet on the weekends, they can take a short train ride to explore nearby cities like Rome, Siena and Naples."

USAC added this second Italian site due to the growing popularity of its Turin campus in northern Italy, which will host the upcoming Winter Olympics in February. USAC is providing a \$1,000 fee waiver for students attending the inaugural program in January. For more information, call USAC at (775) 784-6569.

USAC was founded at the University in 1982 and has grown into one of the largest study abroad organizations in the county, sending more than 2,300 students to 25 countries each year from its 31 U.S. participating universities.

— Jean Dixon

# 'Growing' awareness for Nevada agriculture

Nearly 300 people gathered on Sept. 23 to celebrate Nevada agriculture with the third annual Nevada Grows dinner. Several organizations collaborated on the dinner, which only served products grown in Nevada, in an effort to raise awareness of Nevada agriculture.

"We're very proud of the agriculture industry in Nevada," said Karen Grillo, the founder of the dinner and director for agriculture promotion and marketing for the

Nevada Association of Counties. "We want everyone to know that there are a lot of producers in this state that are providing us with beef and lamb and many other kinds of products."

Everything, from beef tenderloin, to wine, to apple cobbler, was produced in Nevada. Even the water, bottled in the Ruby Valley, was a Nevada product.

The meal, held at Rancharrah in south Reno, was prepared by local chef and owner

of Washoe. Steakhouse, Craig Cunningham. All proceeds went toward scholarships for students in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources.

Sponsoring organizations included Friends and Alumni of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources; the Nevada Association of Counties; the Nevada Department of Agriculture; and Rancharrah.

— Jason M. Ching

## Campus provides canvas for future



Photos by Jean Dixon

The Hispanic Leadership Summit and Youth Congress was held on campus Oct. 14. Community leaders gathered to discuss anticipated enrollment increases for both college-age and kindergarten through 12th-grade students. "The summit and Youth Congress will help us address what the greater community statewide needs to do in helping Hispanic, Latino and Chicano students reach their educational goals," said Sandra Rodriguez, director of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno and event emcee. Above: Artist Ray Valdez adds a touch of white to enhance a mural depicting Day of the Dead. He is joined by student Jessica Verdin, one of 16 art students at Reno's Coral Academy of Science Charter School who created the painting. Inset: Valdez picks the right brush from his collection for the mural, which students finished in one afternoon.



## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

**Fellows**

*Being elected a Fellow of a learned society is one of academe's highest honors.*

**Kyung-il Ghymn**, professor of marketing and international business, has been elected a Fellow of the Pan Pacific Business Association, an academic society open to scholars, business and government officials of all Pan Pacific nations.

The lifetime honor of Fellow recognizes those who have long-term contributions to the association and significant academic contributions.

**Scott Casper**, associate professor of history, has been named a Fellow of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

**Awards**

**John Louie**, associate professor in the Nevada Seismological Laboratory, received a Fulbright grant to New Zealand for 2006.

**JoAnne Skelly**, Cooperative Extension educator, has won the National Association of County Agricultural Agents' State Achievement Award. This year, only 47 individuals from throughout the United States received the award.

**Miles Greiner**, professor of mechanical engineering, received the G.E.O. Widera Literature Award from the Pressure Vessel and Piping Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in July. The award is given annually for the Outstanding Technical Paper in the Journal of Pressure Vessel Technology.

**Appointments**

**Roger Walker**, professor of natural resources and environmental science, has been appointed to the editorial board for the Journal of Sustainable Forestry, a refereed international natural resources journal. He will serve as associate editor for forest restoration.

**Grants**

**Larry Williams**, psychology, has received a four-year, \$2 million contract with Sierra Regional Center from July 2005 through June 2009.

**Valerie Fridland**, English, has received an \$80,000 grant from the National Science Foundation Behavioral and Cognitive Science Division to study the effect of dialect experience on the perception of regional American English vowel variation for identification, discrimination and socio-linguistic norms.

**Alan Fruzzetti** and **Jacqueline Pistorello**, psychology department/counseling center, have been awarded \$450,000 over three years from the National Institute of Mental Health to evaluate the effectiveness of Dialectical Behavior Therapy in treating suicidal and self-injurious college students.

**Steven Hayes**, psychology department, has received \$1,531,500 in grants from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for his research, "Stigma and Burnout in Addiction Counselors," beginning Aug. 1 and running until July 31, 2008.

The **Department of Chemistry** has been awarded a grant by the National Science Foundation to purchase a new nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer and to upgrade an existing instrument. The grant is for \$597,752, over three years, but the equipment was acquired and installed during the fall 2005 semester.

**Michael Tan**, accounting and information systems, in collaboration with City University of Hong Kong, has authored a grant, "A Relational Perspective of Inter-organizational systems," that has been awarded close to \$50,000 from the Hong Kong Research Grant Council. Funding begins January 2006 and runs through December 2007.

**Ed Smith**, **Willie Riggs**, **JoAnne Skelly**, and **Mike Haverkamp**, Cooperative Extension, have received \$106,000 from the Nevada State Office of the Bureau of Land Management for "A Strategic Approach to Wildfire Threat Reduction Education Programs for Nevada's High Hazard Communities."

**Research**

**Timothy Griffin**, criminal justice, published an article, "Displaced discretion under Ohio sentencing guidelines," in the July-August issue of the Journal of Criminal Justice.

**Bill Thornton**, **Gary Peltier**, and **Gus Hill**, educational leadership department, published an article, "Do Future Teachers choose Wisely: A study of pre-service Teachers' Personality Profiles," in the September issue of College Student Journal.

**Mark Alavosius**, **Ramona Houmanfar**, and **Nischal Rodrigues**, psychology department, co-authored an article, "Unity of Purpose/Unity of Effort: Private-sector Preparedness in Times of Terror," that will appear in the November issue of Disaster Prevention and Management.

**Markus Kimmelmeier**, sociology department, has co-authored two articles published in 2005: "What's in a Grade? Academic Success and Political Orientation," in Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin; and "Putting Ifs to Work: Goal-Based Relevance in Conditional Directives," in the Journal of Experimental Psychology.

**James Richardson**, sociology department, and **Bryan Edelman**, published an article, "Imposed Limitations on Freedom of Religion in China and the Margin of Appreciation Doctrine," in the Journal of Church and State.

**Iain Buxton**, pharmacology and OB/GYN, published one

of the most referenced review articles, "Regulation of Uterine Function: a Biochemical Conundrum in the Regulation of Smooth Muscle Relaxation," in Molecular Pharmacology.

**Robert Brunner**, family and community medicine, and colleagues, published results from the Women's Health Initiative in an article in the Archives of Internal Medicine, Sept. 26 issue, titled, "Effects of Conjugated Equine Estrogen on Health-Related Quality of Life in Postmenopausal Women with Hysterectomy."

**Swatee Naik**, mathematics and statistics, co-authored an article published in the May issue of the Transactions of the American Mathematical Society titled, "Alexander polynomials of equivariant slice and ribbon knots in S3."

**John Anderson** and **Jim Brune**, Nevada Seismological Laboratory, gave invited talks in Mexico City on Sept. 6, the first day of a major two-week symposium organized to remember the 20th Anniversary of the 1985 Michoacan, Mexico, earthquake.

**David Antonuccio**, psychiatry and behavioral sciences, presented a collaborative paper, "Psychopharmacological, psychosocial, and combined interventions for childhood depression," at the recent American Psychological Association meeting in Washington, D.C.

**John McDonald**, School of Medicine, and colleagues, published an article, "Cardiac-specific attenuation of natriuretic peptide: A receptor activity accentuates adverse cardiac remodeling and mortality in response to pressure overload," in the August issue of the American Journal of Physiology — Heart and Circulatory Physiology.

—Melanie Robbins

# The day the campus stood still.

Story by Scott Mortimore

In the dark of a December morning 40 years ago, Mike

Ingersoll—a young man known by his fraternity brothers as a world-class sleeper—dragged himself out of bed, shut off his alarm, slipped into long johns and sweats, and headed out of the ATO house for Carson City’s blip of an airport.



Photo by Jean Dixon

**Tim Griffin, an ATO fraternity brother and good friend of Mike Ingersoll, tells a story about Mike during a ceremony in his honor following the Homecoming football game on Oct. 8.**

**T**he drive may have provided Ingersoll an opportunity to reflect on the Christmas formal he attended the night before. Then again, it may have been a time reserved for contemplating the anxieties and anticipation of what he was about to confront—the long-held dream of descending upon his hometown under a canopy of silk.

Not long after pulling up to the hangar, the ambitious 21-year-old with the buoyant personality that a few months earlier helped usher him in as University of Nevada student body president, buckled into his parachute pack, squeezed his 6-foot-4 frame into the cramped plane, and threw a wave to his dad standing on the tarmac.

An hour later the news was sweeping across northern Nevada that one of its most dynamic young personalities was dead, victim of a parachute that failed to deploy.

“Many people can tell you where they were when JFK died,” said fellow Carson native and ATO brother Tim Griffin, “but those who knew Mike could also tell you where they were on the morning of Dec. 18, 1965, when they heard about his death. It was so stunning.”

Griffin, former principal of Reed High School, is among many ATO alumni from the mid-1960s who graduated from Nevada with high ambitions and went on to build impressive credentials. From their ranks they would produce a



**Keith Lee (left) who served as student body president in 1964-65, congratulated his good friend and fraternity brother, Mike Ingersoll, on being elected to serve as president the following year.**



**Ingersoll**

governor, a state senator, doctors and dentists, a mayor, a dozen attorneys, the owner of a successful cattle company, construction magnates and countless leaders in all walks of business. It was a class of achievers who on their individual ascents in business and politics have all lived with the “what-ifs” of the young man with character, drive and an incomparable sense of humor whose life came to an abrupt end 40 years ago.

“Mike was destined to be governor of Nevada, no question,” said Kirk Kinne, a fellow Carson native and frat brother who announced his engagement in the company of Ingersoll the night before Ingersoll’s death. “Governor, state senator, ‘Foot’ (a nickname he earned at Carson High for his inordinate feet) was talking about law school and could’ve gone on to be anything he wanted,” said Kinne, who would eventually return to Carson City and become principal of Bordewich-Bray Elementary. “Mike had a very magnetic personality, I doubt he ever had an enemy,” reflected Kinne, who added that Ingersoll’s passing was “something that still stings, a sting that will never go away.”

Reno attorney Keith Lee, who grew up a block from Ingersoll and preceded him as student body president, recalls Ingersoll as a campus leader who also had a knack for planning and

executing practical jokes, including the famed zip-on leg cast Ingersoll would slip into to avoid his dreaded ROTC drills.

“There’s rarely a time that goes by where I don’t think of Mike,” said Lee, who double dated with Ingersoll on the eve of his fateful jump. “He was a born leader who could inspire those around him. It’s a shame such promise was lost to all of us. He was a kid who possessed all that’s good and right in man.”

A prime example of Ingersoll’s leadership and generosity was one of his last endeavors. Shortly before his death, Ingersoll organized a campus blood drive that produced 394 pints of blood for American soldiers in Vietnam. Earlier, as chairman of the John F. Kennedy book fund drive, Ingersoll’s efforts netted \$100,000 for the University.

Not long after Ingersoll’s death, the University of Nevada named the Senate Chambers in Jot Travis Student Union in Ingersoll’s honor. At the same time, a bronze plaque was placed above the fireplace at the ATO house with a dedication from University of Nevada English Professor John Morrison (and yet another close friend of Ingersoll’s) that included, “Few of us will attain, in the fullness of age, the proud record of this man who did so much in so little time.” To this day, those pledging ATO eventually find themselves face-to-face with the bronze likeness of Mike Ingersoll, listening to stories of a man the fraternity continues to revere.

For most, 40 years is plenty of time to forget the names and memories of those who passed along too soon in life. But Mike Ingersoll wasn’t like most others. Today, the Senate chamber retains his name, the plaque with Ingersoll’s bust still stands alone above the mantle at ATO, and friends still gather to tell stories of Mike, testimony to the powerful memory of a powerful personality and a strong statement to the will of those classmates and acquaintances who refuse to let the story of Mike Ingersoll fade away.

*“There’s rarely a time that goes by where I don’t think of Mike. He was a born leader who could inspire those around him.”*

Keith Lee, Reno attorney



Opening of the new

# Redfield

*Campus*

The Redfield Campus—a collaborative venture of the University of Nevada, Reno and Truckee Meadows Community College—represents one of the nation’s new higher education partnerships. The campus, which includes the University’s Nell J. Redfield Building and TMCC’s High Tech Center, opened in fall 2005.

“In a new era of delivering higher education to a wider range of constituents, the Redfield Campus is intended as an extension of the partners, helping to meet the needs of a growing student population with a diverse set of interests,” says John Lilley, University president.

#### COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS

Anticipating the burgeoning growth in south Reno, the University and TMCC forged a partnership in 1995 to develop a campus to serve a range of educational and regional needs. Early on, the Nell J. Redfield Foundation was part of the team and helped set the direction.

“Our dream was to have a collaborative campus, where the partner institutions share resources and develop innovative programs to meet the needs of the community,” says Jeanne Jones, niece of Redfield and a foundation officer. “The idea of collaboration among the institutions, including the University and TMCC, was written into the deeds when the Redfield campus was first envisioned (and land was donated).”

A new cooperative nursing program exemplifies the focus on meeting community needs. Nevada’s per capita nursing shortage is well



State Sen. Randolph Townsend (left), Nevada System of Higher Education Chancellor Jim Rogers, University President John Lilley, Redfield Foundation officers Jeanne Jones and Jerry Smith, TMCC President Philip Ringle, NSHE Regent Jill Derby and State Sen. Bill Raggio at the Redfield Campus opening.



documented, and expansion of nursing education opportunities is part of the solution. At the Redfield Campus, first- and second-year nursing classes and labs are offered by TMCC, and third- and fourth-year nursing classes are offered by the University.



**Jones**

The campus is also home to new programs developed by the University's College of Education in collaboration with Washoe County School District, including a graduate-level research program in multiliteracy studies for teachers and an educational leadership program.

Demand is evidenced by the current strong enrollment, and George Perreault, director of the educational leadership doctorate program, notes the programs address other important needs: improved convenience and flexibility to allow busy, working professionals to continue their education.

#### A 'GREEN' FUTURE

Through yet another partnership, the Redfield Campus will be the first college campus completely powered by geothermal energy.

The University, Desert Research Institute and ORMAT Corporation are developing the University of Nevada, Reno Renewable Energy Center at the Redfield Campus. The mission of this

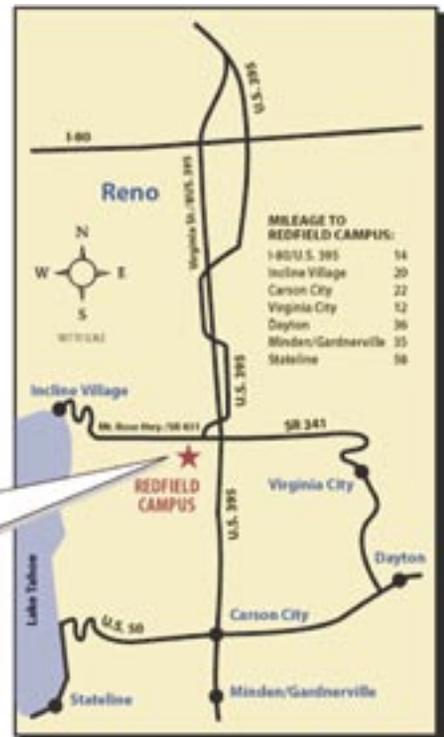
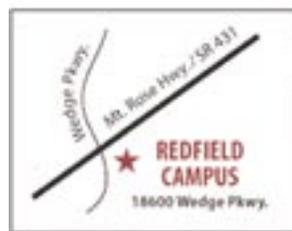
public-private partnership is to be world class in geothermal and renewable energy research, education and outreach.

ORMAT, a leader in geothermal operation and development, will provide up to one megawatt of electricity via Sierra Pacific Power Company, as well as hot water for heating and research.

"The Redfield campus will be totally 'green,'" says Allen Gates, assistant director of the University's Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy. "It will be a showcase for powering, heating and cooling using geothermal and renewable energy."

#### VISIONARY SUPPORT

Over the years, the Redfield Foundation has contributed to numerous University programs, including funding for the School of Medicine's Savitt Medical Library, the College of Education's Learning and Resource Center and the Redfield Scholarship in Engineering.



Learn more at [www.redfieldcampus.nevada.edu](http://www.redfieldcampus.nevada.edu)

SEEING THINGS CLEARLY AT

# Tahoe

University researchers focusing on watershed

*Story by John Wheeler • Photos by Jean Dixon*

**A**re we on the right track to “saving” Lake Tahoe? In a nutshell, that’s the pivotal question University of Nevada, Reno researchers are trying to answer. Much has been written about the infamous decline in lake clarity over the last several decades, but, increasingly, people are realizing that many of the keys to solving Tahoe’s problems involve processes occurring above the lake, in its watershed. What causes the lake to lose clarity is no longer a mystery; the mechanisms by which that happens are less well understood. Dozens of University of Nevada, Reno researchers are working to reveal the many secrets of the Tahoe Basin ecosystem.

Are the millions of dollars spent on remediation efforts at Lake Tahoe having the desired positive impact? In some cases, the answers can be counterintuitive. Take sediment basins, for example. These human-built ponding areas are designed to

*Continues on page 14*



# All over the map

*A large and diverse group of University researchers is contributing to our understanding of the lake and surrounding basin; here is what some of them are studying.*

**Alan Gertler**, director of the University's atmospheric sciences graduate program, is looking at the impact of airborne particulates on the lake's clarity and health of the forest ecosystem. Through a number of sampling stations around the lake, Gertler is determining whether air pollution from the Bay Area and Central Valley of California is creeping to the lake and depositing airborne particulates such as nitrogen, phosphorus and other sediments into the Tahoe Basin.

**Dennis Murphy**, professor of biology, is studying the effects of landscape fragmentation and disturbance in the Tahoe basin.

**Wendy Calvin**, associate professor of geological sciences, uses satellite data to monitor lake clarity.

**Peter Goin**, professor of art, **Elizabeth Raymond**, history professor, and **Robert Blesse**, head of the library's special collections department, collaborated on "Stopping Time: A Rephotographic Survey of Lake Tahoe." Using archive photos, "Stopping Time" offers comparative views of historical and contemporary photos, providing a visual document of the evolving landscape within the Tahoe basin.

**Richard Schweickert**, professor of geology, has mapped previously undiscovered faults in the Tahoe basin and is developing a digital geologic map of the basin. Schweickert and his colleagues have found evidence of landslides and tsunamis in the basin.

**Wally Miller**, professor of soils and hydrology, **Dale Johnson**, professor of forest soil chemistry, and **Roger Walker**, professor of forestry, are looking at the effects of controlled burns, mechanical treatment and wildfire on forest health, nutrient cycling and runoff water quality. "If we are to arrest any further decline in lake clarity, the surrounding watershed must be considered one of the key pieces of the puzzle," Miller says.

**Sudeep Chandra**, assistant professor of limnology in natural resources and environmental science, is researching native fish restoration, non-native bass invaders in the lake and impacts of non-native species on water clarity.

**Mark Walker**, associate professor of natural resources and science, is looking at whether dog feces left at exercise areas such as the Burke Creek area, are a source of microbial contamination that is washed into the lake via runoff.

**Gary Blomquist** and his colleagues have decoded the process by which bark beetles produce pheromones through the discovery of a key gene. Ultimately, they hope to control pheromone production and thereby stop the life cycle of the beetles, which plague pine forests. The Lake Tahoe basin lost 30 percent of its pines to bark beetle infestation during the 1986-1994 drought.

**Franco Biondi**, associate professor of physical geography, has developed tree ring chronologies from and near the Tahoe Basin to study climatic and environmental change in the region over several centuries.

**Geoff Blewitt**, research professor of space geodesy, and **Ken Smith**, assistant professor of seismology, using Global Positioning Systems data, discovered that Lake Tahoe is seismically active. They also demonstrated that nearby Slide Mountain is moving as a result of magma movement in the lower part of the earth's crust. This was a surprise because there is no evidence of volcanic activity at the surface over the last million years or so.

**Susan Donaldson**, water quality education specialist with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, chairs the Lake Tahoe Basin weed coordinating group. This is a bi-state coalition of people concerned about invasive weeds in the basin. "We made it a goal to find and map weeds and do control basin-wide," Donaldson says. If invasive weeds are not controlled, they become established in areas and rapidly begin to dominate the site, pushing out native species.

**Glenn Miller**, professor of environmental sciences, conducted important research on the presence and source of petroleum products on the lake. This research resulted in regulatory changes for use of carbureted two-stroke engines on the lake. Other research projects have focused on the impact of PAH in the lake.

**Jerry Qualls**, associate professor of wetlands ecology, is studying the various sources of phosphorus and how it affects algal growth in the lake. Phosphorus is the main factor limiting the growth of algae and the consequent loss of clarity in the lake. Qualls has documented various sources of the phosphorus, including urban runoff, atmospheric deposition and suspended particles in streamwater.

**Laurel Saito**, assistant professor of aquatic ecosystem modeling, is studying the Truckee River aquatic ecosystem, which has its headwaters in the Sierra and at Lake Tahoe. "We're trying to understand the food web and the dynamics of the river: who is eating what, what species are there, and how the food web is different along different reaches of the river," she says. This information will increase the level of understanding about the sustainability of species in the river. Saito is also modeling Truckee River water quality.

**Steven Vander Wall**, associate professor of biology, is studying the terrestrial habitat that surrounds Lake Tahoe. "My research attempts to understand the role of plant-animal interactions in coniferous forest communities," he says. "Animals, through their handling of seeds, can have important and often unappreciated consequences for plant populations."

**John Cobourn**, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension specialist, works collaboratively with other agencies to educate Tahoe basin residents and business owners about the best ways to protect the region from environmental degradation.



Photo courtesy of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

**John Cobourn, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension water resource specialist, with Heather Segale, public information representative for the Tahoe Environmental Research Center. Cooperative Extension, Cobourn and Segale have earned several national awards commending their work at Lake Tahoe.**

hold storm-water long enough for sediment and other materials to settle, in effect filtering runoff before it enters the lake. They seem like a good idea and a number have been constructed in the Tahoe Basin.

“We know we need to capture sediments and contaminants before they get to the lake,” says Biology Professor Dennis Murphy. “But, we’ve had incidences of ‘blowouts’ of these capture facilities after heavy rainfall, which may be worse than if we had not built the

sediment basins in the first place.”

It’s one example of a well-meaning restoration management action that might not be having the desired impact. Another example is the growth of an aquatic invasive weed called Eurasian Watermilfoil. Because chemical treatments or herbicides are banned in Lake Tahoe, the weed’s territory has been expanding, with potential for major long-term impact. Finding out what works and what doesn’t is the goal of so-called adaptive management.

“Doing this research is a stepping-stone on the path to more effective management, but it’s not a direct line,” Murphy says. “There are gaps between scientists and practitioners in the basin that have to be bridged.”

## *Time for a team*

One development that should help connect researchers and managers is the recent formation of the Tahoe Science Consortium, which comprises the community of scientists at Lake Tahoe. Academic research institutions, state and federal researchers and resource management agencies have pledged to work together to support the unique environment of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

“The overall mission of this new group is to provide better coordination and visibility of the research enterprise in the Tahoe Basin, and to provide the highest quality of data possible to resource managers,” says Mike Collopy, director of the University’s Academy for the Environment.

The creation of the Academy for the Environment last year has been an important development. It is bringing together faculty from many disciplines that might not have been aware of each other’s interests, opening up opportunities for collaboration. The academy also helps researchers navigate the sometimes tricky funding mechanisms at the lake, complicated by overlapping jurisdictions. One of the academy’s main goals is to assist not only the physical and biological scientists researching the lake, but also those studying social, economic and policy implications.

Continues next page

## The Tahoe Science Consortium

The formation of the Tahoe Science Consortium marks the beginning of an important new collaboration between a wide range of resource management agencies and several academic institutions.

The members of the Tahoe Science Consortium are: the University of Nevada, Reno; the University of California, Davis; the Desert Research Institute; the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station; the U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development.

### *The human element*

"Management issues at Tahoe, like most resource management issues nationally, are closely related to people," Collopy says. "Many of today's high profile research and management issues, such the increased threat of wildfire and declining water clarity, have people and their use of the lake as an underlying theme.

"Unfortunately, there hasn't been as much work on the social and economic issues in the Lake Tahoe Basin as many federal agencies would like. The academy is trying to encourage our researchers to get more involved in this aspect."

Of course, all the research in the world won't do any good unless people act on it. That's where the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension comes in. Extension partners with its counterparts at the University of California, Davis and several other groups in the Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition. The coalition was created in 2000 when John Cobourn of Nevada Cooperative Extension organized the first meeting.

"It was formed to get a lot of the folks who work with outreach at the lake to coordinate what we are doing and give consistent messages to the public," Cobourn says.

As a member of the interagency BMP (Best Management Practices) Retrofit Partners, Extension develops educational publications, such as the Home Landscaping Guide for Lake Tahoe and the Contractors' BMP Manual. By adopting BMPs, home and business owners can play their part in restoring some of the natural watershed functions of their properties.

### Bad dog!: Fido at the Lake

Man's best friend is not necessarily the No. 1 pal to the environment. "It looks like the variable that most disturbs our bird and mammal population in the Tahoe Basin is dogs," Biology Professor Dennis Murphy says. "It really makes a difference. Pet dogs, most of them off leash, are foraging through forested

habitats, leading to the diminishment of small mammals and bird populations."

Dogs do that by killing them or otherwise driving them out of certain areas. That affects the basin's ecology because, for example, birds contribute to seed dispersal and the renewal of the forest.

And that's not all dogs do.

"Dog feces and urine contain nitrogen and phosphorus, the nutrients that feed and stimulate the growth of algae in the lake," says John

Cobourn, water resource specialist with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. "In addition, bacterial contamination from the feces affects recreational uses of streams and can even affect the drinking water from Lake Tahoe."

Cobourn figures there are around 15,000 dogs at the lake. That could mean pooch poop at Tahoe tops 90 tons of nitrogen and 15 tons of phosphorus annually—much of it in a chemical form that is readily used by lake algae for food.



"When we started, in 2001, just over 100 properties a year were implementing BMPs," Cobourn says. "Now, it's up to roughly 1,000 properties a year."

## *Working well with others*

All around the lake, University researchers are collaborating on research ranging from the effects of fire, to air quality issues and the dynamics of the lake's complex ecosystem. But, work is also being done on the surface of the lake and even far below, in its deepest reaches. Assistant Professor Sudeep Chandra of the University's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science is working with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service to develop a reintroduction strategy for the native Lahontan Cutthroat trout.

"The classic way people used to get fish species back in the ecosystem was to dump them into the lake," Chandra says. "The reality is fish live within an ecosystem. You have to have the right nutrient concentrations, the right habitat and the right food web. If you can get all those components, you have more chance at being successful."

Chandra says the "dump them in" approach was tried in the '60s and failed.

"Now, 40 years later, we are trying to use science to guide the restoration," Chandra says. "That makes me hopeful that we won't repeat our mistakes."

Is all this research making a difference? Consider just one example. A 1997 study conducted by Glenn Miller, a professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, led to a 1999 ban on carburated two-stroke engines at Tahoe. Since then, there has been an 80 percent decrease in unburned fuel on the lake.

"Through the efforts of the Academy for the Environment and the Tahoe Science Consortium, we are working to promote the highest quality and most relevant science possible," Collopy says. "I believe there's an increased willingness on the part of resource managers to incorporate the scientific information they receive from our researchers."

"However, we recognize that managers live in a world that includes not only scientific data, but socioeconomic and political realities. The participating research institutions, including the University of Nevada and most of the resource management agencies, have committed themselves to working much more collaboratively and that's a very good sign. I'm feeling very optimistic about the future." **N**

Photo by Jean Dixon



**Chuck Knowlton, Carson City chief engineer inspector (left); Jeff Underwood, state climatologist and assistant geography professor; Rob Fellows, Carson City senior engineer; and John Cobourn, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension water resource specialist.**



*Next generation's brightest young minds heading to*

# The Davidson Academy of Nevada

*Story by Pat McDonnell • Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas*

**Educational software entrepreneurs Jan and Bob Davidson, (above), brought The Davidson Academy of Nevada to the University.**

**W**hen the brightest middle and high school students get the chance to share their diverse abilities on a college campus, it is good for U.S. business and innovation.

The Davidson Academy of Nevada, slated to open its doors on campus in fall 2006, will be the academic home for up to 30 profoundly intelligent students from across the nation performing at middle-school level or above. The college-based academy will be the first in the nation of its kind. It will eventually be housed in the new Science and Mathematics Building, planned to open at the University in 2008. For now—with the University having already acquired \$31 million of the \$50 million needed to construct the new building—students will attend classes in a temporary facility on the south end of campus.

“I have no doubt these students will reach great heights—with some likely to become innovative entrepreneurs and business leaders, and others becoming the next-generation Nobel Laureates,” University President John Lilley says. “These very bright students will be taught and mentored by our outstanding Nevada faculty.”

The University hosted a total of about three dozen gifted students during the Davidson Institute for Talent Development’s 2004 and 2005 THINK



**Amanda Brisco, 13, of Houston, (left), studies with Devon Bates, 14, of San Jose, Calif., during the THINK Institute.**

Summer Institute, the model for the year-round academy. Davidson Institute President Jan Davidson says a challenging college-level curriculum and the chance to learn with their peers in an environment tailored to their development will

*“At the (Davidson) academy, I know I could ask whatever I wanted and the teacher wouldn’t get mad.”*

— Misha Raffiee, 10, a Reno eighth grader who attended the Davidson 2005 THINK Summer Institute at the University. Her quote was part of an Oct. 25 article in *The New York Times* about the University’s partnership with the Davidson Institute. Misha is the daughter of Kambiz and Simi Raffiee. Kambiz is associate dean and professor of economics in the College of Business Administration.



University Philosophy Professor Tom Nickles engages THINK Summer Institute students.

Flushing, N.Y., 15-year-old Juliana Zhou gets an up-close look at her work.



Gwen Hullman, assistant professor in the University's speech communication and theatre department, assists 15-year-old student Kirby Wigton of Gardnerville, Nev.



help these students earn doctoral degrees at an age when most people are finishing high school.

"We are losing our brightest students because the one-size-fits-all approach to education is not working," Davidson says. "The Davidson Academy of Nevada will provide an opportunity to learn at a pace and depth commensurate with these students' abilities."

"The University is delighted to partner with the Davidsons in creating this new academy for highly talented young students," says John Frederick, the campus' provost and executive vice president. "Their presence on our campus will enhance our community of accomplished scholars and challenge us to reach higher. I believe that, years from now, we will look back and view the formation of The Davidson Academy as a seminal event in the development of our University, state and nation."

Institute co-founder Bob Davidson, who with his

wife wrote the 2004 book, "Genius Denied: How to Stop Wasting Our Brightest Young Minds," says the dynamic academic energy on campus will enliven students' moments of discovery.

"We chose the University of Nevada for our academy because of the quality of the teaching and research being undertaken here," Davidson says.

"It is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as being among the top 150 research universities in the country, and many of its faculty have academic credentials from the nation's top programs in their area of specialty."

The 2005 Nevada State Legislature established the criteria for this new, public university school for profoundly gifted pupils by enacting Senate Bill 461.

The Davidson Institute debuted The Davidson Academy of Nevada Web site in September. The site, through which prospective students can download applications for the 2006-07 school year, is available at [www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu](http://www.davidsonacademy.unr.edu).

Capturing the beauty and history of

# Black Rock

In a dramatic new book, "Black Rock," two University of Nevada, Reno author-artists—Peter Goin and Paul F. Starrs—launch a lyrical and historical interpretation of an area scarcely known, even though it is about the size of Delaware and barely 100 miles from Reno.

Northwest Nevada's Black Rock country is a haunting landscape, long a focus for study and contemplation by scientists, explorers, outdoors aficionados and artists. The area includes the Granite Range and King Lear Peak, which rise a mile-high over the adjoining Black Rock Playa, itself among the earth's flattest, most barren salt pans. The term "Black Rock" describes both region and a feature: Overland Trail travelers in the 1840s once desperately scanned the horizon for the Black Rock, an abrupt volcanic feature marking a point where they were to turn from the salt flat and head north toward High Rock Canyon and Oregon. The area's environment ranges from hot springs to pockets of rich grasses that survive freezes and severe droughts.

Black Rock, a Nevada Museum of Art exhibit Nov. 12 through Feb. 12., will feature 41 photographs by Goin. They are complemented by text and historical maps from Starrs. Black Rock, the exhibit, focuses on the land and the effects of human presence on the area, from ancient Native Americans to nineteenth-century explorers, sheepherders, ranchers, miners and congregants of the Burning Man festival, who each year make "Black Rock City" Nevada's tenth-largest—and its most ephemeral—urban place.



Shadows and faux fern, east of Black Rock point, 2004



**PAUL F. STARRS** (far left), associate professor of geography, first traveled the Black Rock in 1975. He is the author of "Let the Cowboy Ride – Cattle Ranching in the American West" (1998), and has written nearly 100 book chapters, articles and reviews. Starrs writes, edits and works in the field, sustaining a strong affection for the unglamorous towns and splendid people that dot the West, and for the oak woodlands of Spain and Portugal, which constitute for him a home abroad.

**PETER GOIN** is a professor of art at the University. His photographs have been exhibited in more than 50 national and international museums. Goin is author or co-author of many books, including "Tracing the Line: A Photographic Survey of the Mexican-American Border," "Nuclear Landscapes," "Stopping Time: A Rephotographic Survey of Lake Tahoe," "A Doubtful River," "Humanature," and "Changing Mines in America." He has photographed the Black Rock throughout his career, with total visits numbering in the thousands.

Children floating, Soldier Meadows Hot Springs, 1998





Shell Station, 2004



Aspen arborglyph, south of Mahogany Creek, 2003



presents

# BLACK ROCK

Nov. 12, 2005, to Feb. 12, 2006

The works in this exhibit are from "Black Rock," published by the University of Nevada Press and featuring the photographs of Peter Goins, professor of art, with text and historical maps by Paul F. Starrs, professor of geography.

[www.nevadaart.org](http://www.nevadaart.org)

# Endowed scholarships make an impact

Photo by John Ries



Jodie Parker, a senior majoring in nutrition, addresses the 2005 Honor Court ceremony. A Foundation-endowed scholarship, along with other financial aid and her own hard work, has assisted Jodie in becoming one of the University's top academic achievers.



**E**ndowed scholarships are critical to support the financial needs of a growing student body, now more than 16,000 students strong at Nevada. Scholarships make a difference in the University's ability to attract and retain the best and brightest students, many of whom, without financial aid, would be unable to pursue their educational goals.

Endowed scholarships may be established with a minimum

gift of \$10,000. A portion of the endowment earnings is used to fund the annual award and the scholarship is awarded in perpetuity.

Gifts directly to scholarship funds at the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation provided \$2.8 million this past fiscal year, a \$500,000 increase over the previous fiscal year. There are more than 400 endowed scholarship funds with the Foundation.

Chris Quitadamo and other residents listen intently to Dr. Jon Hazen, (left) during hospital rounds that are part of the School of Medicine's obstetrics and gynecology clerkship in Las Vegas. A recently established endowed fellowship for medical students was made by an anonymous donor in the amount of \$2 million. This generous gift, together with other private gifts during the past year, added more than \$3 million to the School of Medicine endowment for student fellowships. These endowments will produce more than \$150,000 in awards beginning in fall 2006—the equivalent of 14 full-tuition medical scholarships.

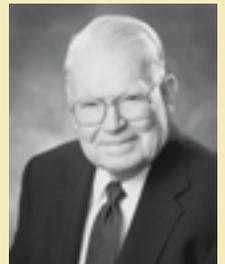


## New endowed scholarships offer a world of opportunities

► **Jessie Patricia McCarthy Comstock Scholarship:** Patricia was born in 1914 in Virginia City. By becoming a teacher, she continued her family's legacy in the profession, following in the footsteps of her mother, father, grandmother and great-grandmother. She received her teaching certificate from Dominican College of San Rafael (Calif.), but both her parents had attended Nevada, and she maintained a fondness for the University. She included in her trust the gift of \$800,000 that established this scholarship. Her own distinguished teaching career culminated as department head at the City College of San Francisco.



► **Edmund J. Cain Scholarship Endowment:** Established by Dr. Edmund J. Cain's widow, Virginia Cain, and children, Mary-Ellen McMullen, Edmund Cain and James Cain, together with many friends and colleagues, the scholarship honors Dr. Cain, who served as dean of the College of Education from 1964 through 1984.



► **R.J. Simcoe Memorial Endowed Scholarship:** Established by the family and friends of R.J., this scholarship supports students pursuing their educational dreams at Nevada through the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC). R.J. was a third-generation native Nevadan of Basque, Irish and German descent. He

## Annual Foundation Banquet: A culinary and intellectual feast



Photo by John Riles

Harvey and Annette Whittemore were the Presenting Sponsors of the 24th annual Foundation Banquet at Harrah's Reno on September 16. Award-winning foreign affairs columnist and author Thomas Friedman (right) was the featured speaker. Also sponsoring the event were the Whittemore Family Foundation, Stuart and Jane Engs, Harrah's Reno, Ann Carlson, Dorothy Lemelson and R&R Partners, and Mary-Ellen and Sam McMullen. The banquet was attended by more than 640 friends and supporters of the Foundation.

graduated from McQueen High School in 2002 and was studying as part of the USAC program in San Sebastian, Spain, at the time of his death. He planned to return to Nevada to continue working toward his mechanical engineering and math degrees.

- Ann M. Carlson Scholarship Endowment:** Established for students participating in their student teaching semester, this scholarship assists those teaching at at-risk schools. A Nevada alumna, Ann taught second grade at Roger Corbett Elementary School in Reno for 33 years before retiring in 1994.

**For more information about endowed scholarships, contact Keiko Weil '87, Director of Donor Relations, at 775-784-1587 or [kweil@unr.edu](mailto:kweil@unr.edu).**

# Foundation gets high marks

*Assets top \$100 million*

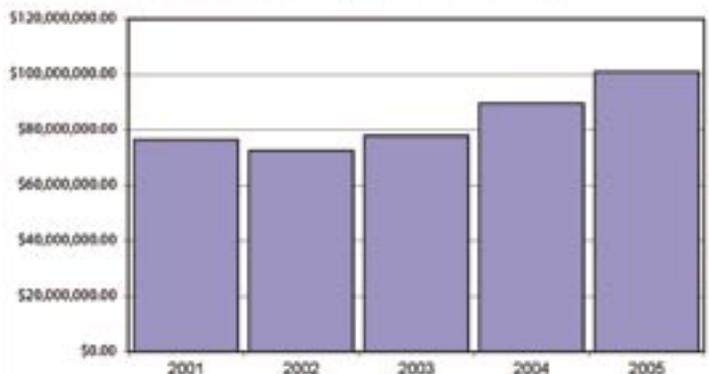
The accounting firm Grant Thornton recently issued an unqualified opinion of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation's audited financial statements. During the course of the annual audit, Grant Thornton noted "no significant unusual transactions, or other significant transactions in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative accounting guidance or consensus," and "proposed no corrections to financial statements," and "encountered no significant difficulties in performing our audit." The audited financial statements were presented at the Foundation Board of Trustees meeting in September.

**The University of Nevada, Reno Foundation's audited financial statements may be found at: [http://giving.unr.edu/financial\\_stmt.asp](http://giving.unr.edu/financial_stmt.asp). For more information, contact Laurie (McNulty) McLanahan ('86), treasurer, at 775-784-1587 or [lmclan@unr.edu](mailto:lmclan@unr.edu).**

**Important findings included:**

- For the first time since its inception, the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation's total assets exceeded \$100 million.**
- The Foundation reported another successful year of fund-raising, with more than \$25 million in total gifts and pledges as of June 30, 2005.**
- The Foundation provided increased support to the University with \$2.8 million for student scholarships and \$17.4 million for academic, research, alumni and other important programs.**
- For fiscal year 2005, the Foundation's endowment cash investment balance was \$68 million, up more than 20 percent from last year's balance of \$56 million. Of the increase, \$7.2 million came from new gifts to the Foundation. The Foundation reported endowment return rates of 10.69 percent gross and 10.46 percent net, as compared to the S&P 500 Index rate for the same time period, ending June 30, 2005, of 6.32 percent.**

**University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Assets**



University's stem cell research holds promise for treatment of deadly diseases

# New options for organs could be on the horizon

Story by Melanie Robbins • Photos by Jean Dixon

**W**hat if your liver or heart was failing and instead of getting on a lengthy waiting list for a donor organ, you could grow your own—one your body wouldn't reject? Esmail Zanjani, chair of animal biotechnology at the University, and his team of stem cell and gene therapy researchers have been able

to grow human cells in sheep, as well

as use the animals to model the effects of stem cell and gene therapies. This bold research could herald a new wave of treatment options for patients with deadly diseases, including the possibility of growing tissue and organs for transplant.

Zanjani began this field of research three decades ago with the aim of finding ways to treat devastating genetic diseases such as Tay Sachs, sickle cell anemia and hemophilia before birth, when the window for treatment is still open—while the child is still a fetus. After birth, many genetic diseases are irreversible and may even be fatal.

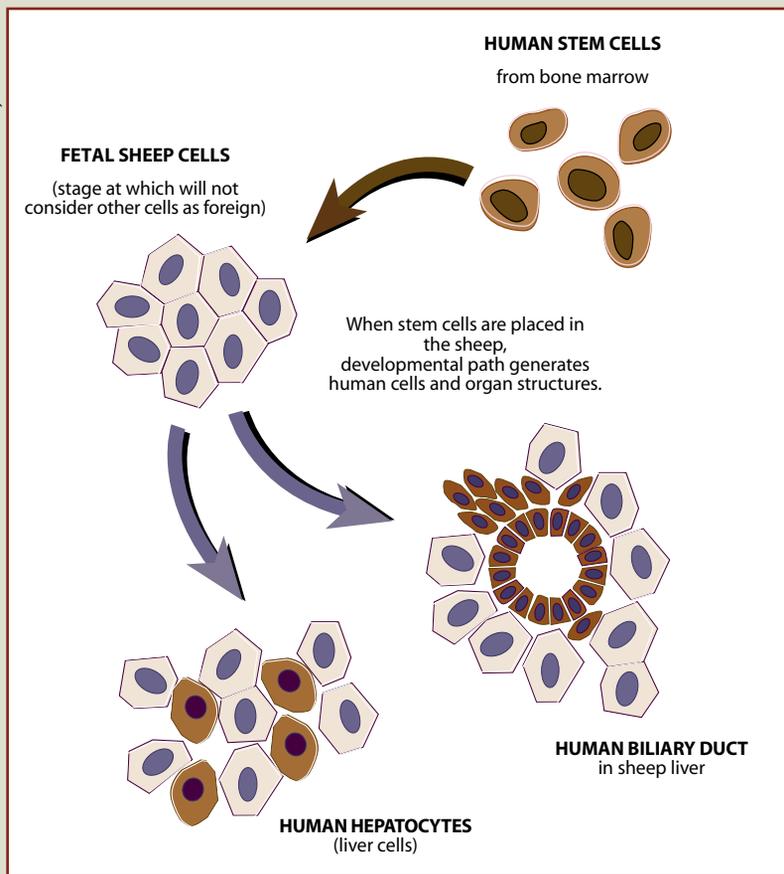
In the hope of finding in utero treatments for these diseases, Zanjani injected sheep fetuses with human stem cells during a period in the fetus' development when it is immunologically "naïve," i.e. it does not recognize that the human cells are not its own and proceeds to allow the foreign cells to develop normally. These fetuses were born with about 10 percent human cells.

"It turned out that we can generate not only significant numbers of cells that can be used to correct specific deficiencies in patients, but also organs that are significantly human that we anticipate might be used for replacement of diseased organs," Zanjani says.

The procedures developed by Zanjani and his team are now being used in many countries worldwide to further research and cure diseases. They have more than \$6 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and NASA.

Graça Almeida-Porada, associate professor

Illustration by Kirrah Van Sickle



of animal biotechnology, and Zanjani have already been part of a team that developed an in utero adult stem cell treatment for the “bubble boy” disease, Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID), using bone marrow transplantation. It was the first time stem cells were successfully used to cure a disease prior to birth.

The boy was treated in utero using stem cells harvested from his father. Now 10, the boy is cured.

Gene therapy, a different but parallel area of research, has also been used to successfully treat SCID in newborns, and it was the first time gene therapy cured a disease, too, according to Chris Porada, ('98 Ph. D. cellular and molecular pharmacology and physiology) assistant professor of animal biotechnology and Graça's husband.

Both Graça and Chris are trying to find ways to treat various diseases—Graça using stem cells, Chris using gene therapy.

“Stem cells!” says Graça, jokingly.

“Gene therapy!” Chris jokes back.

Gene therapy is the manipulation of DNA to insert a normal, healthy copy of a gene into the cells of patients whose own copy of the gene in question is either diseased or missing.

In fact, the two therapies may be combined for the best outcomes, says Chris, who is studying ways to overcome the inherent problems in getting the body to accept the inserted genes. Besides the immune system, which acts to destroy foreign materials, the genome itself has a “law enforcement” function that is not well understood, but which shuts down the expression of the healthy genes and resultant proteins the gene therapy is trying to produce.

Graça's current research focuses on treatment for hemophilia, a genetic disease that affects the body's ability to clot blood. Hemophiliacs currently must live a life of constant

Continues next page

**Esmail Zanjani, seated, with animal biotechnology researchers Christopher Porada and Graça Almeida-Porada.**

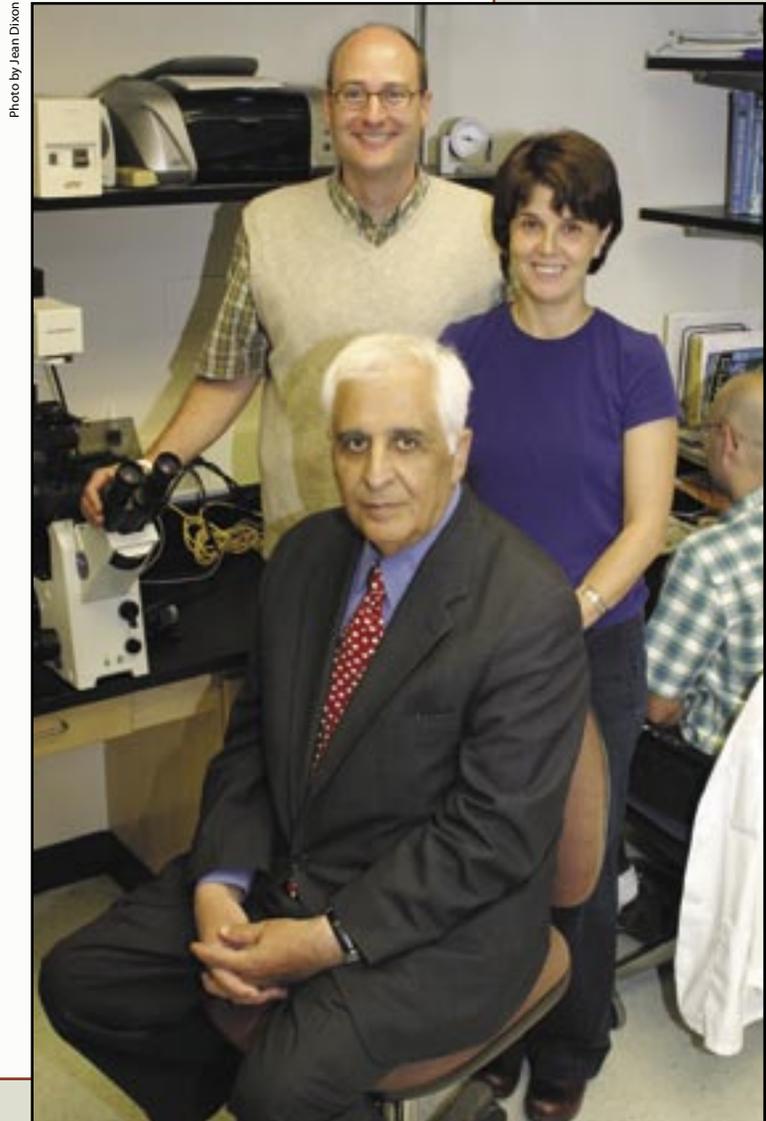


Photo by Jean Dixon

*“It turned out we can generate not only significant numbers of cells that can be used to correct specific deficiencies in patients, but also organs that are significantly human that we anticipate might be used for replacement of diseased organs.”*

— Esmail Zanjani, professor

treatment, which can be perilous because blood products are used.

"In the 1980s, 30 percent of the hemophiliacs seen in the hematology department in which I worked were HIV-positive from being treated with infected blood products," says Almeida-Porada. "It was a subject that was very dear to me because these were people my age who were dying following blood transfusions."

Ryan White, a famous hemophiliac who died at age 18 in 1990, was one of those who contracted AIDS as a result of a blood transfusion. Even today, although blood is tested before being accepted in a blood bank, a transfusion remains risky as blood can contain pathogenic agents, and life as a hemophiliac is difficult, says Almeida-Porada.

"Child hemophiliacs must wear helmets when learning to walk since a fall could cause them to sustain a brain hemorrhage," she says. "By transplanting stem cells in utero, we could potentially create children who are born healthy."

Chris and other gene therapy researchers hope that hemophiliacs may be one of the first patient groups to benefit from new treatments. "The level of genetic correction required in hemophilia is so low that even with all these rejection hurdles to overcome, you could still get some clinical benefit," Chris says.

Zanjani's research will continue in the next logical step: the study.

"We want to make sure that the transfer of organs from these chimeric animals into a recipient would be accompanied by long-term functioning of those organs," Zanjani says. "We also need to be sure that pathogenic organisms, such as viruses, would not be transmitted to the human recipients."

To study these elements, Zanjani will need to conduct a "proof of principle" study in which an organ grown from the stem cells of one kind of animal—such as a pig—in the fetus of another animal—such as a sheep—could be transplanted back into the original animal successfully.

Only at that point would a clinical trial in humans be contemplated, he says.

The scenario of the future might be something like this, he says: "A patient requiring, for example, a liver transplant, is presented. While the patient is on the waiting list for the transplant, the doctor will take a couple of ounces of bone marrow from the patient—a simple enough procedure, it is done in the doctor's office as an outpatient under local anesthesia—the stem cells will be separated from the bone marrow cells, and injected into a sheep fetus. Within about a month and a half to two months, you will have an animal that has a liver with at least 10 percent human liver cells, which then would be transplanted to the patient."

## ETHICS AND STEM CELLS

### A University bioethicist weighs pros and cons of research

Stem cell research has been the topic of national debate. The cutting-edge research that Esmail Zanjani, chair of animal biotechnology at the University,



Klugman

and his team are doing is breaking new ground that will add to the ethics discussion at the global table.

Even though there is virtually no controversy over using adult stem cells—those taken from an adult's tissue, usually bone marrow—for research, putting those

cells into animals and growing human tissue is a new brand of research that poses challenging ethical consideration.

Craig Klugman, bioethicist and chair of the University's program in health care ethics, as well as assistant professor in the School of Public Health, weighs in on the issues: "The potential benefit of this research is to relieve human suffering and disease, and is also the overriding ethical justification. However, we should proceed cautiously with ethical and legal oversight."

One issue is the transmission of disease, he says. "The concern is that placing animal cells into humans would create a pathway for diseases endemic to animals to get into humans." This concern is reasonable and is shared by Zanjani and his research team who closely monitor this potential. They also anticipate new tests that would be completed before transplantation of human tissue grown in an animal into a human is ever attempted.

In addition, creating the type of hybrid animal that Zanjani and his team are creating "requires strong scientific justification and should only be done when no other experiment can provide the needed knowledge," Klugman notes.

"Research ethics requires that you have to thoroughly test procedures in animals before even thinking about human trials," Klugman said. "For example, you could not ethically or scientifically conduct these experiments on human subjects."

—Melanie Robbins

*"Child hemophiliacs must wear helmets when learning to walk since a fall could cause them to sustain a brain hemorrhage. By transplanting stem cells in utero, we could potentially create children who are born healthy."*

— Graça Almeida-Porada, associate professor of animal biotechnology

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

## Silver & Blue spirit continues to shine

Dear Nevada Alumni and Friends,

**T**hanks to everyone who came back to campus for Homecoming 2005. We enjoyed seeing you attending events, reuniting with friends, cheering on the Wolf Pack at Mackay Stadium, and showing your Silver and Blue spirit throughout Homecoming Week.



Speaking of Silver and Blue spirit, our Nevada Alumni Council members are some of this institution's biggest fans! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the seven members of the Council who completed their two consecutive three-year terms in October and are rotating off of the board: Scott Barnes, Joel Cryer, Wendy Damonte, Jo Ann Elston, Jack Goetz, Paul Nanini and Steve Trounday. The work these individuals have done throughout the last several years has been instrumental in the successes of the Nevada Alumni Association.

I would also like to thank 2005 Alumni Council President Mike Klaich. Under his leadership the board has continued to reshape itself in an effort to meet priorities identified by the Alumni Council three years ago. Mike's high expectations and energy helped motivate board members and the alumni staff throughout the year.

Looking ahead, the Nevada Alumni Association is working on many upcoming events. You can find a complete list on page 31, however I would like to highlight our two men's basketball pre-game parties. The first will be prior to the Nevada vs. UNLV game at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. The second is in Anaheim, Calif., where Nevada takes on the UCLA Bruins during the John Wooden Classic at Arrowhead Pond. If you live in Southern Nevada or Southern California, come out to support the Pack at these two games!

Call the Nevada Alumni Association at (888) NV ALUMS or visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) for more information on these events and all other upcoming Association activities.

Sincerely,

**Amy J. Carothers '01**  
 Director of Alumni Relations



### INSIDE

- ▶ President's Message
- ▶ Event Calendar
- ▶ Alumni Chapter Updates
- ▶ Membership News
- ▶ New Benefit Partner
- ▶ Meet Your Alumni Council
- ▶ Pack at Work  
Hale Lane

### Association calls for more chatter!

Tell us about your life achievements, reunions or any other notable news. E-mail your story and photos to [nvalumni@unr.edu](mailto:nvalumni@unr.edu) for Nevada Silver & Blue Class Chat.

[www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni)

**FROM THE NEVADA ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Dear Nevada Alumni,

**T**his is my last letter to you as president of the Nevada Alumni Council. I have enjoyed my time in this leadership role and feel that we continue to have an extremely hard-working board dedicated to building upon the already excellent programming offered by the Nevada Alumni Association.



I would like to thank the seven outgoing Nevada Alumni Council members listed in Amy Carothers' letter for their service. Their commitment to the University of Nevada is clear through the time they have volunteered as board members.

Finally, I ask all of you to welcome incoming Alumni Council President Julie Ardito. She is extremely well-suited for this role and will make an outstanding leader.

Sincerely,

**Mike Klaich '82**  
 President, Nevada Alumni Council



▲ Student **Brandan Crum** and **Sarah Kalivoda** spoke on the value of scholarships in advancing their education, during CABNR's Nevada Grows event. Shown here, left to right, are Associate Dean **Roger Lewis**, Kalivoda, University President **John Lilley**, Crum, and Dean **David Thawley**.



For updates or to participate in alumni chapters' events, please visit

[www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni)

**CABNR Update**

Contact: Jason Geddes  
 jgeddes@sbcglobal.net

The Friends and Alumni of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR) held an extremely successful event in September. Nevada Grows, a fundraising dinner consisting exclusively of Nevada-grown food, celebrated Nevada agriculture and raised more than \$30,000 for CABNR student scholarships.

Nearly 300 people attended and enjoyed a signature dinner prepared by Chef Craig Cunningham of Washoe, steak-house.

More than a dozen of Nevada's agricultural producers contributed fine produce and meats for the event.

"Nevada Grows was truly a remarkable showcase of the value of agriculture to the state of Nevada," said Jason Geddes,

president of Friends and Alumni of CABNR. Nevada Grows relied on the generosity of dozens of donors that helped make the event happen.

**COBAAA Chapter**

Contact: Russ Gardner  
 rgardner@nevadacpa.org

On Oct. 6, seven College of Business Administration alumni were recognized at the annual Homecoming Awards Gala for their service to the University. Eugene J. Wait, Jr. ('51 Business Administration) received the Professional Achievement Award; Cindy Buchanan ('95 Finance) and Leonard Wohletz ('98 Economics) received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award; David Russell ('67 Managerial Sciences) received the University Service Award;

Mark Elston ('81 Accounting) and Mary Harmon ('93 Computer Information, '97 Business Administration) received the Alumni Association Service Award; and Frank Randall ('56 Business Administration) received the Alumnus of the Year Award. COBAAA extends its congratulations to each of these alumni.

Building on alumni support, COBAAA is moving forward to help the college with its "20/50 Looking to the Future" program. Through this program, COBAAA will continue to help fund scholarships and student organizations. Over the next year, COBAAA will raise \$50,000 to remodel the college's student lounge and use \$20,000 to establish an initial fund to support the COBA Career

Services Center. Also, COBAAA will create a fund to help the college prepare for future capital improvement needs. To reach these goals, help is needed from all alumni and their businesses. To contribute, contact Stefanie Scoppettone at scops@unr.edu.

**Native American Chapter**

Contact: Frank Joe  
 fsjoe@pyramid.net

Several graduates and friends of the University have expressed interest in reviving the Native American Alumni Chapter. The chapter is planning activities, including a graduation reception in May 2006. Interested potential members should contact Sherry Rupert at (775) 687-8333 or Frank Joe at (775) 851-3712.

# ATTEND AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EVENT!

## Nov. 12

Nevada football vs. New Mexico State • 1 p.m. — Las Cruces, N.M.

## Nov. 18

Young Alumni Chapter Mystery Bus Dinner

## Nov. 19

Nevada football vs. Utah State • Noon — Logan, Utah

## Nov. 26

Nevada Alumni Association and Nevada Athletics Tailgate Party • 10 a.m. — Inside Mackay Stadium under the scoreboard

Nevada football vs. Fresno State • 1:05 p.m. — Mackay Stadium

Nevada Alumni Association Basketball Pre-Game Party • 5:30 p.m. — Thomas & Mack Center, Meeting Room A, Las Vegas

Nevada men's basketball vs. UNLV • 7:30 p.m. — Thomas & Mack Center, Las Vegas

## Dec. 8

Senior Scholar Reception • 6 p.m. — JTSU Alumni Lounge

## Dec. 10

Winter Commencement • 9 a.m. — Lawlor Events Center

Nevada Alumni Association Wooden Classic Pre-Game Party • 10 a.m. — JT Schmid's, Anaheim, Calif.

Wooden Classic. Nevada vs. UCLA • Immediately following Game 1 — University of New Mexico vs. University of Washington. Arrowhead Pond — Anaheim, Calif.

## Jan. 21

WinterFest Dinner. Hosted by the Fallon Alumni Chapter — Fallon Convention Center

## Jan. 28

Sacramento Chapter Mystery Bus Dinner



▲ Nevada alumni, family and friends pose before catching a Washington Nationals game in Washington, D.C.



▲ Members of the Alumni Band Chapter, along with their family and friends, reunite to celebrate Homecoming 2005.

◀ Members of the Young Alumni Chapter enjoy a wine tasting at Vino Reno.

## Nevada Cheerleaders and Dancers

Contact: Andres Leon  
Nevadacheer@unr.edu

Are you a former member of the Wolf Pack cheerleading or dance teams? If so, get in on the ground floor of this new alumni chapter. The group plans to bring together the past and present members of the cheerleading and dance teams.

For more information, contact Andres Leon, University of Nevada Wolf Pack cheerleading coach, (775) 327-5086 or nevadacheer@unr.edu.

## Young Alumni Chapter

Contact: Stephanie Clemo  
sclemo@charter.net

Fall has been an exciting time for the Young Alumni Chapter. Not only has the chapter seen two scholarship recipients begin their collegiate careers as freshmen, it

has also had a busy activity schedule. On Sept. 8, Young Alumni hosted a pre-game wine tasting at Vino Reno. More than 40 alumni showed up to drink great wine and try incredible fondue, as well as do a little pre-game cheering for Wolf Pack football.

In October, Young Alumni was a part of Pack the Little Wal' Night, where the chapter was joined by alumni from all generations. In addition to being a sponsor of the event, the Young Alumni Chapter also provided volunteers to help keep this relatively new event successful. Many members of the chapter attended Alumni Association football tailgates over the course of the season, which provided good times, as well as great networking.

The annual Mystery Bus Dinner will be Nov. 18. For additional information about chapter events or to become a member, check out the chapter's Web site at

[www.unr.edu/alumni/chapters.aspx](http://www.unr.edu/alumni/chapters.aspx) or contact Stephanie Clemo, chapter president. Go Pack!

## Washington, D.C. Chapter

Contact: Ronda Bybee  
crashrb@alumni.gwu.edu

On Sept. 10, Nevada alumni, family and friends gathered for the Fifth Annual Alumni Baseball Picnic. This year's event was held for the first time in Washington D.C., where alumni watched the Washington Nationals, in their inaugural season, take on the Atlanta Braves. Although the hometown Nationals lost, the event was a great success. Plans are already being set for a bigger tailgate next year.

Also planned for 2006 is a family picnic to be held in early spring in a Washington, D.C.-area park. And, D.C.-area alumni will meet up at the Crystal City Sports

Continues next page

*Class of 1956, it's your*

# *Golden Reunion!*



JoAnn (Foster) Elston '56, Golden Reunion Chairperson,

and the Nevada Alumni Association ask you to mark

your calendar for **Friday, May 19 and Saturday,**

**May 20, 2006** for a weekend of reunion festivities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE A PART OF THE REUNION COMMITTEE, CONTACT THE NEVADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AT (888) NV ALUMS OR NVALUMNI@UNR.EDU

*We hope to see you in May!*

Pub, known as "Lawlor East," for any televised Pack games during the men's basketball season. For information on the D.C. Chapter, and to sign up for upcoming event e-mails, contact Ronda Bybee at [crashrb@alumni.gwu.edu](mailto:crashrb@alumni.gwu.edu).

## Alumni and Friends of the Reynolds School

Contact: Cole Campbell  
[cole@unr.edu](mailto:cole@unr.edu)

At a September book salon at the Reynolds School of Journalism, Philip Meyer, Knight Professor of Journalism at the University of North Carolina, discussed his 2004 book, *The Vanishing Newspaper: Saving Journalism in the Information Age*.

Leaders of the Alumni and Friends of the Reynolds School proposed hosting book salons to bring students, faculty and alumni together. This inaugu-

ral event, which drew about 40 people, was co-sponsored by the Alumni and Friends of the Reynolds School and the Fred W. Smith Ethics Seminar Series, endowed by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

"Discussing *The Vanishing Newspaper* with Phil Meyer was a great way to take up the alumni chapter's vision," said Cole Campbell, dean of the Reynolds School. "All of our disciplines—print, broadcast, online, public relations and advertising—are being affected by the throes that the newspaper industry is undergoing.

"Phil offered keen insight into the need for news enterprises to preserve quality journalism as they struggle to find their way amidst tremendous technological disruption. Anyone interested in the future of news ought to read his book."

Campbell said he hopes the

Reynolds School can host at least one book salon a semester and one in the summer.

## University Club

Contact: Larry Kirk  
[landvk2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:landvk2@sbcglobal.net)

The University Club has enjoyed a very good series of meetings this year. The highlight was the July picnic held in the spacious backyard of Dave Reynolds' home, with lots of good visiting, food and entertainment by the folk group Shiloh.

One of the major goals of the University Club's ongoing program is the awarding of scholarships. This year, the University Club was proud to award \$750 scholarships to two deserving students. Because membership is mainly retired University and Washoe County School District faculty, these two scholarships are very important to the group.

The University Club is always looking for new members. If you have an interest in meeting very nice people and enjoying good fellowship, food and stimulating programs, the University Club should merit your serious consideration. You do not have to be an alumnus to join. Any friend of the University is eligible for membership. The group meets the third Wednesday of the month, with the exception of the July picnic and the December Christmas program, which are held on the second Wednesday. In addition, the University Club does not meet in August.

To learn more about the University Club, please visit the Alumni Association Web site at <http://www.unr.edu/alumni/chapters.aspx> or call the Nevada Alumni Association at (775) 784-6620.

**FROM THE NEVADA ALUMNI MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE**

**A**re you proud of your University of Nevada, Reno connection? Do you like saving money on the things you buy everyday? Then you should proudly carry the Nevada Alumni Association membership card. You will find that your membership will quickly pay for itself with the money you save.



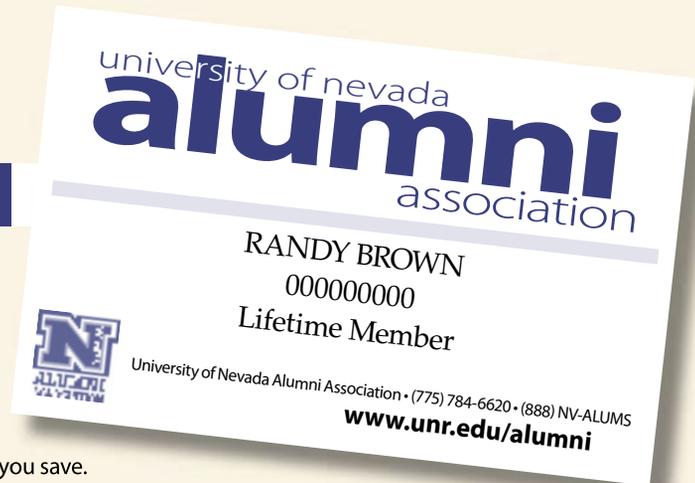
Your Membership and Marketing Task Force and the Services Committee have been busy adding new business partners that offer great discounts on dining, entertainment, travel and more. We are also preparing to launch a membership drive in February, coinciding with the WAC Championship Basketball Tournament.

So, as you are walking the mall trying to find the perfect gift for that special someone this holiday, consider the gift of membership. One size fits all.

Happy Holidays from all of us on the Marketing and Membership Task Force!

Sincerely,

**Randy Brown, CPA, Accounting '89**  
 Chair, Marketing and Membership Task Force



**Current Membership**

**Lifetime Members: 118**

**Annual Members: 760**

**Online Community**

**Online Community Users: 1,860**

**Class with the most users: 1998**

**BENEFITS FOR CARD-CARRYING MEMBERS**

Show your Pack Pride and start saving when you join today!

Discounts are offered for the following:

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- Wolf Pack Athletics discounted season tickets
- ASUN Bookstore
- Alumni Association Events
- Recreation, Dining, and Travel**
- Nevada Museum of Art
- J.J.'s Pie Co.
- Wild Island Adventure Park
- Cactus Creek Bar & Grille in the Bonanza Casino
- Bicycle Warehouse
- Eclipse Running
- Double Diamond Athletic Club
- National Automobile Museum, The Harrah Collection
- Whitehall Lane
- Pub 'N Sub
- Whispering Vine Wine Company
- La Quinta Inn and La Quinta Inn & Suites
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car

[www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni)

*Check Out Our New Member Benefit Partner!*

**DINNERS READY – RENO KITCHEN**

The Nevada Alumni Association is excited to welcome Dinners Ready as a new business partner. At the Dinners Ready Reno Kitchen (in the Costco shopping center), members of the Association can assemble a selection of family-sized meals ready to take home and freeze, then bake as needed.



Members use a discount code to save \$10 off their first purchase!

Visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) for more information on this exciting new partner.

For a complete list of partners and discounts offered, please visit our Web site: [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni)





**Barbara (Hope) Latenser, M.D.**, ('85 medicine)

## Class Chat

### 70s

**Elizabeth (Struckert) Ray** ('78 elementary education) has retired after teaching elementary school for 24 years in the Washoe County School District. She continues to stay connected with children through her volunteer work and enjoys pet-sitting for friends. Elizabeth recently celebrated her 65th birthday with a two-week vacation in Tahiti.



**Hing K. Chow** ('91 mechanical engineering)

### 80s

**Robert Fulkerson's** work as director of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN) was commended by the Ford Foundation's Leadership for a Changing World Awards Program. Fulkerson ('83

English) was one of 17 recipients who received an award of more than \$100,000. PLAN addresses problems ranging from racism to poverty to environmental degradation.

**Robin Joyce** ('83 journalism, '04 M.A.) presented his thesis findings at the Nevada Press Association's annual meeting in South Lake Tahoe on Sept. 17. Joyce took part in a panel discussion along with Reynolds School of Journalism Dean Cole Campbell, Donica Mensing, assistant professor at the Reynolds School, and keynote speaker Phil Meyer. The panel discussed ways to help newspapers become more balanced and more relevant in the Internet age.

**Barbara (Hope) Latenser, M.D.**, ('85 Medicine) has been named the Clara L. Smith associate professor of burn treatment at the University of Iowa. The professorship is only the second endowed position in burn treatment in the country, and Latenser is the first woman to be appointed to such a position. She is also an associate professor of surgery at the University of Iowa Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine and medical director of the Burn Treatment Center at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

### 90s

**Hing K. Chow** ('91 mechanical engineering) is principal of Monterey Vista School of the

Garvey School District in Monterey Park, Calif. During Hing's two-year tenure as principal, the school has been named a California Title I Achieving School, a California Distinguished School and a No Child Left Behind National Blue Ribbon School. Hing resides in Monterey Park, Calif., with his wife, Linda, and their children, Wilson and Heidi.

**Rebecca Wagner** ('92 English) was appointed energy advisor and director of Nevada's Office of Energy by Gov. Kenny Guinn. Wagner previously served with the Public Utilities Commission, where she was public information officer.

**Kyle Reinson** ('93 journalism) has been

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► **Cruise the Passage of Peter the Great**  
*June 6-18, 2006*

► **Italy's Magnificent Lake District**  
*September 19-27, 2006*

► **Ireland**  
*October 9-20, 2006*

► **In the Wake of Lewis & Clark**  
*November 2-8, 2006*

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[www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni)

# the pack at work

Alumni making a difference

Hale Lane Peek Dennison and Howard is one of Nevada's leading law firms. This full-service firm also employs several University of Nevada, Reno alumni. Shown here, left to right, are Stephen Peek ('68 business administration), Zach Coughlin ('99 biology), Steve Novacek ('67 finance), Rich Bennett ('66 English), Karen Dennison ('68 political science), Rick Elmore ('73 civil engineering), Patricia Halstead ('94 international relations), Alex Flangas ('81 philosophy), Matt Woodhead ('90 finance), Sean Gamble ('86 speech & communication), Craig Howard ('67 political science), Doug Flowers ('98 history) and Nicole Vance ('96 finance).

Not pictured: Jim Newman ('83 business administration, '85 master of economics).



## Hale Lane

promoted to public relations director for WCI Communities, Inc. He had been overseeing regional public relations activities on Florida's East Coast for the company since 2001 and now also manages national media relations efforts. Reinson's first scholarly work, a book review, will be published later this year in *Journal of Communication Inquiry*. He plans to complete his master's degree in communication at Florida Atlantic University in 2006. Reinson was married in

November 2005. He and his wife reside in Florida.

**Matthew Mactyre** ('94 nursing) is the medical program manager for Bonneville Power Administration in Portland, Ore. He and his wife, Shelley, have lived in the Portland area since 1999.

**Ronda (Brown) Bybee** ('95 political science) and **Stewart "Mac" Bybee** ('99 political science) were married Aug. 27 in Reno. The Bybees reside

in Arlington, Va., and work in Washington D.C., where Ronda was recently hired as associate director for a non-profit organization, The Campaign Finance Institute. Mac is manager of government affairs for the Solid Waste Association of North America.

**Jeffrey T. Jones**, ('95 mechanical engineering) and **Jennifer (Crawford) Jones** ('95 history) announced the birth of Lillian (Lily) Ruth Jones on March 29 in

Merced, Calif. She joins big sister Abigale, 3. The family currently resides in Merced, Calif. Jeffrey works for Arvin Sango, an equipment manufacturer of automotive parts, as plant manager. Jennifer is a stay-at-home mom.

**Pamela Keith** ('95 political science) married Benjamin Willock on Aug. 22.

**Tony Illia** ('96 M.A. English) won first place

Continues next page



**Ronda (Brown) Bybee** ('95 political science) and **Stewart "Mac" Bybee** ('99 political science).



**Tony Illia** ('96 M.A. English)



**Marilyn L. Rumbaugh** ('97 veterinary science)



**Joanne Francesca Li-causi** ('96 speech communication, journalism) and **Drew Allen Johnson**



**Debra Clark** ('98 accounting)

in the Nevada Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest for Best Business Story. The article, "End of the Line? Downtown Monorail Funds Derailed," appeared in the Las Vegas Business Press earlier this year.

**Joanne Francesca Li-causi** ('96 speech communication, journalism) and **Drew Allen Johnson** are proud to announce their engagement. Joanne is assistant vice president and marketing consultant for Wells Fargo. Drew, a graduate of Chico State, is a seed technologist for Seminis Incorporated in Oxnard, Calif. They reside in Ventura, Calif.

**Shelley Chrystal Mactyre** ('97 history) graduated in May 2005

from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. She has passed the Oregon bar examination, and is preparing to practice law. She and her husband, Matthew, have lived in the Portland area since 1999.

**Sherry (Jennings) Mays** ('97 journalism) was named publisher of The South Whidbey Record, a twice-weekly community newspaper located on Whidbey Island, Wash.

**Dr. Marilyn L. Rumbaugh** ('97 veterinary science) has joined Acadiana Equine Clinic as an equine surgeon. Dr. Rumbaugh is the only board certified surgeon in Louisiana private practice. She resides in Lafayette, La.

**Debra Clark** ('98 accounting) has been promoted to manager at the certified public accounting firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co., in Reno. In her new role, Clark will be responsible for planning and performing financial statement and compliance audits for government and non-profit agencies as well as preparing tax returns for individuals and non-profit entities. Clark has been with Kafoury for more than six years.

## 00s

**Erin Russell** ('00 journalism, political science) received the Leadership Staff Award at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) annual conference in

## JOIN THE NEVADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AS WE HIT THE ROAD THIS BASKETBALL SEASON!

NEVADA vs. UNLV  
BASKETBALL PRE-GAME PARTY

**Saturday, November 26, LAS VEGAS**

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
\$20 per person, Includes Hors d'Oeuvres  
Meeting Room A  
Thomas & Mack Center

Nevada vs. UNLV  
7:30 p.m. Tip-Off  
Thomas & Mack Center

WOODEN CLASSIC  
BASKETBALL PRE-GAME PARTY

**Saturday, December 10, ANAHEIM**

10 a.m. to Noon  
\$20 per person, Includes Brunch Buffet  
JT Schmid's Restaurant & Brewery, 2610 E. Katella Ave.  
(across from Arrowhead Pond)

University of New Mexico vs. University of Washington  
Noon Tip-Off  
Nevada vs. UCLA  
2:30 p.m. (approx.) Tip-Off  
Arrowhead Pond

Kindly RSVP to Hope Hepner at the Nevada Alumni Association (888) NV ALUMS - by Monday, November 21 (Las Vegas) or Monday, December 5 (Anaheim).

For game tickets, call (775) 348-PACK, and ask to be seated in the Nevada Alumni Association Cheering Section.





**Robert Morgan**  
(’04 accounting)

Seattle, Wash. Russell has been executive director of the Republican Assembly Caucus since 2002. She received her master’s in political management at George Washington University in Washington D.C., and is pursuing her Ph.D. in public affairs at UNLV.

**Robert Morgan** (’04 accounting) was hired as a staff accountant at the certified public accounting firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co., in Reno. In his new position, Morgan will participate in both tax preparation and audit engagements.

**Robert Livingston** (’05 construction technology) has been promoted at Q&D Construction to project engineer on a private residence designed by Will Bruder and being built in the geometry of a snake sculpture. Livingston joined Q&D, of Reno, early in 2005 as a project intern on Northstar-at-Tahoe’s luxury high camp restaurant, Schaffer’s Camp.



## David LaPlante a ‘shining star’ in a Web-based universe

*By Heather Shallenberger*

David LaPlante has successfully harnessed the power of the fabled Twelve Horses ... and has reaped great rewards from their elusive gifts.

LaPlante, the Reno-based owner of Twelve Horses Services, has become one of northern Nevada’s most intriguing success stories. His company enjoys a growing reputation as the leader in a unique and highly important Web business field. Twelve Horses provides the applications, infrastructure and professional services to automate and integrate e-mail and Web-based marketing.

In essence, LaPlante’s vision and direction has helped Twelve Horses capture the spirit of the mythical tale of the Twelve Horses (mystical creatures with great speed and strength) by providing Web customers with power, intelligence and creativity.

“We’ve taken several channels of communication that businesses are comfortable using—and not used to using together—and put that into one platform,” LaPlante said. “There really isn’t anyone else out there that’s got a single platform for e-mail, mobile text messaging, voice mail, fax messaging and Web integration.”

LaPlante has done all of this against conventional wisdom.

“The perception is that Reno has struggled with having a tech economy and the primary criticism is there’s not a skilled work force,” said LaPlante, who came to Nevada in 1988 from Colorado as a ski racer. “But the University is capable of graduating students that can work in a technology business and support global brands.”

LaPlante, who graduated from Nevada with dual majors in finance and economics, gives credit to the University and his professors for giving him the skills that have accompanied him throughout his career.

“I ended up with two degrees when I only expected to have one ... and that was through the quality of the instructors,” said LaPlante, a recent recipient of the Marketer of the Year award presented by the region’s chapter of the American Marketing Association.

The future of Twelve Horses, as well as its master, is like a star in the sky, brilliantly shining with success—yet clearly rooted in northern Nevada.

“In Reno we have things that you don’t have everywhere,” LaPlante said. “I can leave this desk right now and be on a chairlift in 25 minutes. You’re not going to get that in Silicon Valley, you’re not going to get that in Manhattan, you’re only going to get that in a few locations ... and Reno is one of them.”

Photo by David Calvert



Groth

# Making the grade

Student-athletes must balance sports and studies

Story by Pat McDonnell and John Wheeler

The new Pack Village, south of Mackay Stadium, will be home to an academic center.

To excel at sports requires hard work and focus. So does academics. To excel at both is the major challenge faced by all student-athletes, such as Seth Taylor, a member of the Wolf Pack men's basketball team.

"I've tried to work just as hard in the class-

room as I do on the basketball court," the 6-foot-3 guard says.

Taylor is one of the University's success stories. He made the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) All-Academic Team the last two years and plans to continue working toward a master's degree in business administration after completing his business management degree. While Nevada has many student-athletes like Taylor succeeding academically, there's still need for improvement, says Athletic Director Cary Groth.

"The reason that our student-athletes come to campus is to get an education," she says. "Often times, that becomes secondary. The NCAA has instituted new requirements for retention, progress toward degrees and graduation rates. If you don't meet those requirements, you lose some scholarships. It's the right thing to do."

No penalties were assessed by the NCAA after the initial academic report card was issued, but programs that sink below NCAA standards in next year's rankings will be penalized by a reduction of scholarships.

Photo by Jean Dixon



## Room for improvement

The NCAA's first academic report, released in March 2005, showed the University had two sports below standard (football and men's skiing) and five others that were borderline (baseball, men's basketball, men's golf, women's basketball and women's swimming and diving).

"When this report came out, we had 10 percent of our student-athletes ranked borderline," Groth says. "We are working to reduce that number."

Although the University ranked seventh among WAC schools for its academic progress rate, there was still cause for optimism. The women's soccer team had a perfect score and joined with cross country and softball in rating above the national average.



Hafner

To reinforce the University's commitment to its student-athletes, Jean Perry, dean of the College of Human and Community Sciences and an all-star athlete in high school, has been named special assistant to the provost for athletic academics and compliance. Perry, who also was an athletics administrator at San Francisco State University, will assume her post in January.

"The President (John Lilley) and Cary Groth have made it clear they expect our athletes to be both great students and great competitors," says John Frederick, executive vice president and provost.

Perry will work closely with Groth to address NCAA and WAC academic compliance and enforcement issues, reporting progress made

toward requirements, and efforts made in accomplishing NCAA education and community outreach expectations.

## Taking action

Raising academic standards was one of Groth's major objectives when she assumed her position in spring 2004. In November 2004, Groth hired Sandy Hafner as director of academics. Hafner designed and instituted a new CHAMPS Life Skills program while at Northern Illinois University.

"This is a program that incorporates community service for student-athletes," Groth says. "Sandy was excited about coming to Nevada to build a new program. On the subject of academics, she gets the big picture and she holds the student-athletes accountable. It's a big change for our coaches. They were used to doing a lot of this on their own."

The next big development to help student-athletes will be an academic center, to be located at the new Pack Village, south of Mackay Stadium. It will replace the current study and tutoring facilities in the Virginia Street Gymnasium.

"We're working on the preliminary design," Groth says. "We've redesigned the center, adding square footage. Our target is to secure funding for the building by spring of next year."

The proposed academic center includes individual tutoring rooms, a 740-square-foot computer lab and administrative offices.

"Our coaches and staff know they will be held accountable," Groth says. "I think we are moving in the right direction and will show improvement next time we are evaluated."



*"I've tried to work just as hard in the classroom as I do on the basketball court."*

Seth Taylor, member of the Wolf Pack men's basketball team

## The right person at the right time

*Perry brings background and experience to make a difference for the Pack*

When Jean Perry steps into her new role as special assistant to the provost for athletic academics and compliance on Jan. 1, she will bring an ideal blend of academic and athletic excellence.

Perry was a national all-star softball athlete in high school, playing second-base in four world tournaments. In college, she competed in basketball, tennis and field hockey in the pre-Title IX era, when women were not eligible for athletics scholarships. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in physical education, as well as a doctorate in kinesiol-

ogy with an emphasis in administrative theory at the University of Illinois.

In addition to being an athlete, she also served as a softball coach, basketball referee and teacher. As an administrator at San Francisco State University, two of her assistant football coaches went on to become current National Football League head coaches.

Perry wrote and edited 22 rule books for basketball, volleyball and other sports in the late '70s for the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports, and has since published dozens of athletic- and health-related research papers. She



Perry

also has been a strong community advocate on numerous health- and sports-related issues.

During Perry's leadership as dean of the College of Human and Community Sciences, the number of students has doubled and scholarly research has grown to more than \$9 million in annual external funding. She also was instrumental in developing several new academic units within the college, most recently the School of Public Health.

# School is in 'Sessions'

Sophomore belies youth with smart, consistent play for Pack

By Pat McDonnell

**A**lthough it's not an expression often heard around basketball courts, the phrase "old soul in a young body" could nicely apply to Wolf Pack sophomore guard Ramon Sessions.

Put the 19-year-old up against the big names of the University of Texas, Illinois or Kansas and he plays with tremendous poise and maturity. For Sessions, it's a familiar feeling no matter the opponent and the bright lights. It's as if he is still dribbling the ball in a darkening driveway and shooting against players who are five or six years older than him.

"Going in the tournament playing against bigger schools, well that just came from me when I was little, always playing with my bigger cousins," the Myrtle Beach, S.C., native says. "I always played against older guys. One of my cousins went to Georgia State and one went to Utah, so they were teaching me what I needed to know for the next level."

Sessions, the Western Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year in 2004-05, gave Nevada unexpected stability at point guard during a season in which the Pack went 25-7 and qualified again for the NCAA tournament. He averaged nine points a game with more than five assists and nearly four rebounds per contest.

You wouldn't have known this year's WAC preseason first-team player had come 2,800 miles from home to play Division I basketball.

"The transition was tough," the 6-foot, 3-inch Sessions says. "Coming that far from home and being 18 was a tough decision, but I'm glad I made it. The first season was successful."

That's exactly the kind of understatement you get from Sessions on



Continues on next page

Photo courtesy of Nevada Athletics Media Services/John Byrne

## NEWSMAKERS

and off the court, and conference preseason Player of the Year Nick Fazekas says he likes to rely on a teammate with those qualities.

"Ramon is a special player to me," says Fazekas, a junior forward. "He came in here as a freshman and people didn't even know who he was. I think people in Reno didn't think anything of him. Now, he's the man. Ramon's the one with the ball in his hands and he's the one who makes me look good."

Nevada Head Coach Mark Fox knows he can count on Sessions to excel and get his teammates going as the Pack looks to capture its third straight conference title.

"It's me getting the ball in the right spot at the right time," Sessions, a pre-business major, says in a quiet and even tone. "I'm not the type of guy who's going to put up a lot of shots. I like to get my teammates involved and let them score the points."

And moving the ball around on offense involves the 6-11 leading scorer Fazekas, a top pro prospect. "It's great playing with Nick," Sessions says. "I love it. He can catch a pass no matter how I throw it to him because his hands are so soft."

Fazekas is equally appreciative of the teammate and roommate who has yet to leave his teens, but regularly leaves other guards behind.

"He acts like a junior or senior right now with the way he acts and the way he plays," Fazekas says. "The two of us just go out there and try to help each other. I can help him and he can help me. We go out there and work as a tandem and try to win as many games as we can."

**Chin Woman of the Year**

University of Nevada graduate and former Western Athletic Conference swimming standout Alyssa Chin was recently named NCAA Woman of the Year for Nevada.



Chin

Chin, a May 2005 graduate in journalism and La Cañada, Calif., native, placed in the top 10 among Wolf Pack

swimming record-holders 16 times. The specialist in the 200-yard backstroke and 200 freestyle was selected as WAC Athlete of the Week in swimming seven times. Chin also compiled 24 career top 10 finishes in the WAC championships.

Now working full time as a camera person at Reno's KRNVTN, Chin served twice as the University's Student Athlete Advisory Council president.

There were 51 state winners, including representatives from Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. There were no nominations from Arizona.

**Four named to Athletic Hall of Fame**

Two University basketball legends, an Academic All-American baseball player and a Wolf Pack lineman who never allowed a sack were inducted into the Nevada Athletic Hall of Fame during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 7-8.

Coach Sonny Allen, who led the Pack to its first appearances in the NCAA Basketball Tournament in 1984 and 1985, and high-scoring guard

Michael "Fly" Gray, who helped pace Nevada to its inaugural National Invitation Tournament berth in 1979, were the Wolf Pack basketball inductees.

Joining Allen and Gray was catcher Jim Stassi, a baseball team captain in 1981 and 1982 and a Northern California Baseball Association Most Valuable Player. Stassi was also a superior student-athlete, receiving Academic All-American honors in 1982.

Offensive tackle Shahriar Pourdanesh, the final member of the group and a player on the prolific Wolf Pack football teams of 1990-92, helped keep Nevada at the top of the NCAA's national team passing rankings.

Baxter

**Pack soccer wins spot in WAC tournament**

The Nevada women's soccer team clinched a berth in the

Western Athletic Conference tournament for the first time Oct. 23 with a 4-0 victory over Louisiana Tech.

The Wolf Pack finished the regular season with program bests for overall record (10-6-2) and conference finish (tied for second at 4-2-1 in the WAC).

Third-seeded Nevada opened conference tournament play against Boise State on the Broncos' field Nov. 3. In regular season play, Nevada had outscored its opponents 36-27 and posted an 8-0-1 record at Mackay Stadium.

Entering the postseason, freshman Miranda Montejo led the Pack with eight goals, a school single-season record. Senior goalkeeper Megan Tarpenning had recorded 400 saves, third on the WAC career list.

— Pat McDonnell

Photo by Ted Cook



The 2005 Wolf Pack Hall of Fame induction class was honored at halftime of the Homecoming game against Idaho on Oct. 8. Present were Dick Trachok, left, athletic director emeritus; Cary Groth, athletic director; Sonny Allen, men's basketball coach in 1980-1987; Mike "Fly" Gray, basketball player in 1977-1979; Jim Stassi, baseball catcher in 1981-82; Shahriar Pourdanesh, football offensive tackle in 1990-92; and John Lilley, University president.

# NEVADA: BEST IN NATION

*Wolf Pack recognized in Title IX study for providing opportunities for women in sports*

Story by Pat McDonnell

The University athletics department earned a “best in the nation” rating for providing opportunities for women in sports, according to the Kennedy Index, a study released in August by Penn

State University-York Professor Charles Kennedy.

“The champion for the 2003-04 Title IX season is from the Western Athletic Conference—the University of Nevada, Reno,” Kennedy noted in his report. “For the first time in the history of the Kennedy Index, a school finished with a positive score. This year both the University of Nevada Reno (+3.43) and Toledo (+1.20) accomplished this feat. In the 2003-04 season, Nevada finished a strong third, trailing champion Stanford and runner-up Connecticut.”

During the 2003-04 academic year, the Big East Conference’s Connecticut was fourth and Stanford of the Pacific 10 Conference trailed the Wolf Pack at seventh.

Kennedy, a senior political science professor, wrote his third annual Title IX report late this summer. It ranks schools based on their compliance with the spirit and intent of Title IX, the 1972 federal law prohibiting sex discrimination at institutions receiving federal funds.

Nevada ranked first in the nation among 103 schools from 10 major and mid-major conferences included in the study. The

Kennedy Index graded schools in five criteria using data from the 2003-04 academic year, including participation, scholarships, coaching salaries, recruitment budget and operating expenses. The Wolf Pack athletic department received mention for exceeding the study’s goals in participation, operating and recruiting budgets, and coaching salaries.

The University sponsors 12 women’s varsity sports, featuring more than 280 female student-athletes. The programs include: basketball, cross country, golf, rifle, skiing, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field (indoor and outdoor) and volleyball.

The Wolf Pack has added three women’s sports in the last eight years, participating in successful legislative lobbying for gender equity funding and private fundraising to accomplish those goals. Nevada added women’s golf in 1998 and women’s soccer in 2000, and brought back its women’s softball program in 2003 after a 14-year hiatus.



Photo courtesy of Nevada Athletics Media Services/Joni Byrne

## TOP TEN

MAJORS AND MID-MAJORS

Rank		Kennedy Index
1	<b>Nevada</b>	<b>+3.43</b>
2	Toledo	+1.20
3	San Diego State	-5.42
4	Connecticut	-9.59
5	Buffalo	-10.14
6	Eastern Michigan	-12.95
7	Stanford	-15.96
	Bowling Green	-15.96
9	Kent State	-16.65
10	Miami (Ohio)	-17.56

## TOP TWENTY

MAJORS AND MID-MAJORS

Rank		Kennedy Index
11	Georgia	-19.02
12	Northern Illinois	-20.08
13	Ohio	-20.17
14	Maryland	-20.63
15	Penn State	-23.30
16	Illinois	-23.98
17	California	-24.46
18	Texas A&M	-24.49
19	Tulsa	-25.52
20	Utah	-25.58

# Off with the red, on with the Blue!

Photo Courtesy of Ryan Jerz



Photo by David Calvert

**T**he Fremont Cannon gleamed beautifully in a brand-new coat of blue paint following a long-awaited ceremony on Sept. 21 in the Jot Travis Student Union atrium.

Student leaders and Nevada Wolf Pack football captains took turns adding the final blue touches to the once-Rebel-red wheel spokes of what is believed to be the largest and most expensive revolving trophy in college football. The Wolf Pack won back the 35-year-old cannon, a replica of the gun that accompanied Captain John C. Fremont on his trek through Nevada, Oregon and California in the mid-1840s, with a 22-14 victory against UNLV Sept. 16 at Mackay Stadium. The Rebels had held the trophy for half a decade since the Pack's last win in the series in 1999.

Student Body President Jeff Champagne said he enjoyed participating in this year's ritual.

"It's huge, and it's a big honor," Champagne said. "I was very surprised because people normally see a separation between athletics and students.

"At the game, all of the students rushed the field. It was an expression of how much our students love the athletics."

Wolf Pack co-captains B.J. Mitchell and Adam Kiefer helped paint the final spoke with Carrie Primas, Blue Crew student fan club president. Mitchell, a Sacramento-area resident and Nevada's leading rusher this season, said it meant a lot to play a part in inspiring the community.

"It uplifts the whole campus," he said. "People who don't necessarily feel a part of something now feel that way."

Mitchell said an appreciation for Wolf Pack football and Fremont Cannon history is growing, and he wants to spread the word be-

**Blue Crew President Carrie Primas and ASUN President Jeff Champagne paint the Fremont Cannon.**

yond the state's borders.

"There is quite a history here," he said. "That is what (some) people don't understand."

Athletics staff returned the cannon to its designated location just off the Robert Cashell Fieldhouse near Mackay Stadium later that day.

—Pat McDonnell

## The Way We Were

Photo courtesy of David Henson



Dave Hansen is pictured here, at center and wearing a tie, as an adviser to the 1981-82 University Student Orientation Staff.



In honor of Hansen's support of University graduate students, his friends and colleagues created the Dave Hansen Graduate Student Scholarship. To contribute, make checks payable to the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, Mailstop 162, Reno 89557. Indicate that the gift is for the Hansen Scholarship.

## The 'ageless' David Hansen retires after 28 great years

Almost 28 years ago, the University hired a consummate educational administrator away from Slippery Rock State College in Pennsylvania. Dave Hansen moved to Reno on what he calls a "five- to seven-year plan."

"As quaint as the University was, it was almost like a sleeping giant," Hansen says of the 7,800-student campus he encountered in 1978. "The growth and expansion have been unbelievable."

Hansen, who at 56 will retire from nearly three decades of campus service Dec. 31, joined the University as an assistant dean of students. The self-described "perfectionist" has led the development of new student orientation programs, headed enrollment planning and helped provide comprehensive student retention and counseling services. He served as acting vice president for Student Services in 1998. He'll retire as the associate vice president for Student Success Services.

In May, Hansen received the University's Distinguished Service Award honoring his dedication to overall student support and longtime commitment to campus-wide engagement. He has chaired everything from the Academic Affairs-Students Services Council to the Parking and Traffic Board and the Food Service Advisory Committee.

"I'm proud of my legacy of service to the students of the University and the campus community as a whole," he says.

Hansen's cheerful face and optimistic, accessible personality invariably uplifted the many people he met each day. Now after retirement, he'll be helping people by extending his hand beyond the University to enhance the Truckee Meadows community he loves.



Hansen plays the Dick Clark role to the hilt at the 1996 Staff Employees' Council Awards Luncheon.

— Pat McDonnell

# Investing in Excellence

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas



Mona and John Sandorf enjoying the beauty of the University's Honor Court.

## Providing for the future—Charitable Gift Annuities

**F**or Nevada alumni John Sandorf ('53 business administration) and his wife Mona ('52 elementary education), supporting their alma mater is a high priority. When they explored giving opportunities several years ago, they were delighted to discover charitable gift annuities.

"When I first learned about annuities, I called the University to find out more," John said. "Funding a charitable annuity at retirement age is a good idea and you don't need to be extremely wealthy to do it. Ultimately our goal is to support the University and this allows us to do that. The benefit is that we also draw some income and receive a charitable deduction."

The couple has now established four such annuities with the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. Their generosity will ultimately fund areas in which they are particularly interested, including the electrical engineering department and the College of Engineering's Sandorf Laboratory.

Following graduation from Nevada, John

served in Korea and had a successful career with General Electric and Honeywell. Mona is a Las Vegas native and former teacher. For both, a charitable annuity was the right decision.

Annuities are an extremely flexible way to make a gift, and because of the financial benefits derived, gifts can often be larger than would otherwise be possible or comfortable.



The Sandorf Charitable Annuity, like most others, is a contract between the donor and the Foundation. In exchange for an irrevocable gift of cash, stock or real property, the Foundation agrees

to pay one or two annuitants a fixed sum each year for life. The Foundation guarantees the payments, and payment rates are based on the age of the benefactor or benefactors. The minimum amount for a gift annuity with the Foundation is \$10,000. The University's planned giving officers follow a table set by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA) for maximum rates (see box).

The University is grateful for the generosity of alumni, like John and Mona, who support the University's future. Now retired, the couple live

Charitable Gift Annuity Rates from the American Council on Gift Annuities. Rates based on single life; rates will differ for two lives. Below shows age of donor and rate of return.

55 — 5.5%	70 — 6.5%	82 — 8.5%
60 — 5.7%	72 — 6.7%	84 — 9.2%
62 — 5.9%	74 — 6.9%	86 — 9.9%
64 — 6.0%	76 — 7.2%	88 — 10.6%
66 — 6.1%	78 — 7.6%	90+ — 11.3%
68 — 6.3%	80 — 8.0%	

Effective July 1, 2005.

in Arizona surrounded by family, including 23 grandchildren and four (and soon to be five) great-grandchildren. They travel to Reno often and are devoted Wolf Pack fans. For the couple who met at Nevada in the early 1950s at the Tri Delta sorority's "Shipwreck" dance, their lives are moving busily along.



For more information about charitable gift annuities, contact Bob Eggleston or Ron Zideck at the University's Planned Giving Office, 775-784-6622.

## Meet Nevada Alumni Association

Lifetime Members

# CARLOS & SARAH LEDON

If it hadn't been for a chance meeting on the Quad during a fraternity social, Carlos and Sarah (Warner) Ledon's life might be much different than what it is today. As it is, they can thank the University of Nevada not only for their college degrees—but for helping to bring them together.

Today, they couldn't be more grateful for the special connection the University provided.

Carlos graduated with a degree in chemical engineering in 2001 and is a project manager with Q&D Construction in Reno. Sarah had a dual major in elementary and special education, graduating in 2000. She has taken time off from teaching to enjoy motherhood with the couple's 18-month-old daughter, Calista, with another baby due in March.

As students, Carlos served as president of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN) and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. Sarah played on the Nevada women's soccer team and served as an ASUN senator, representing the College of Education. Their schedules kept them involved and connected to many of the most



important aspects of campus life—and eventually led to meeting on the Quad.

Since graduating, their connection to the University has remained strong. Carlos serves on the Alumni Council, and both enjoy the benefits of a joint-lifetime membership in the Nevada Alumni Association. Carlos says "Many people invested a great deal in order for me to succeed, and I hope I can do the same for someone else."

Current students would be well-advised by the Ledons. They say their advice to all students would be: "Find your niche . . . get involved and leave the University a better place than when you got there."

Life is full of opportunities for Carlos and Sarah Ledon, and the Alumni Association wishes them the best in their future endeavors and thanks them for their dedication and service.



To join the Nevada Alumni Association, visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) or call (888) NV-ALUMS.

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