

NEVADA

Silver & Blue

Once Nevada, Always Nevada • Fall 2007

**TOP SCHOLARS
SHINE AT NEVADA**

COE SWOBE

STATE SENATOR WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

WALKER LAKE

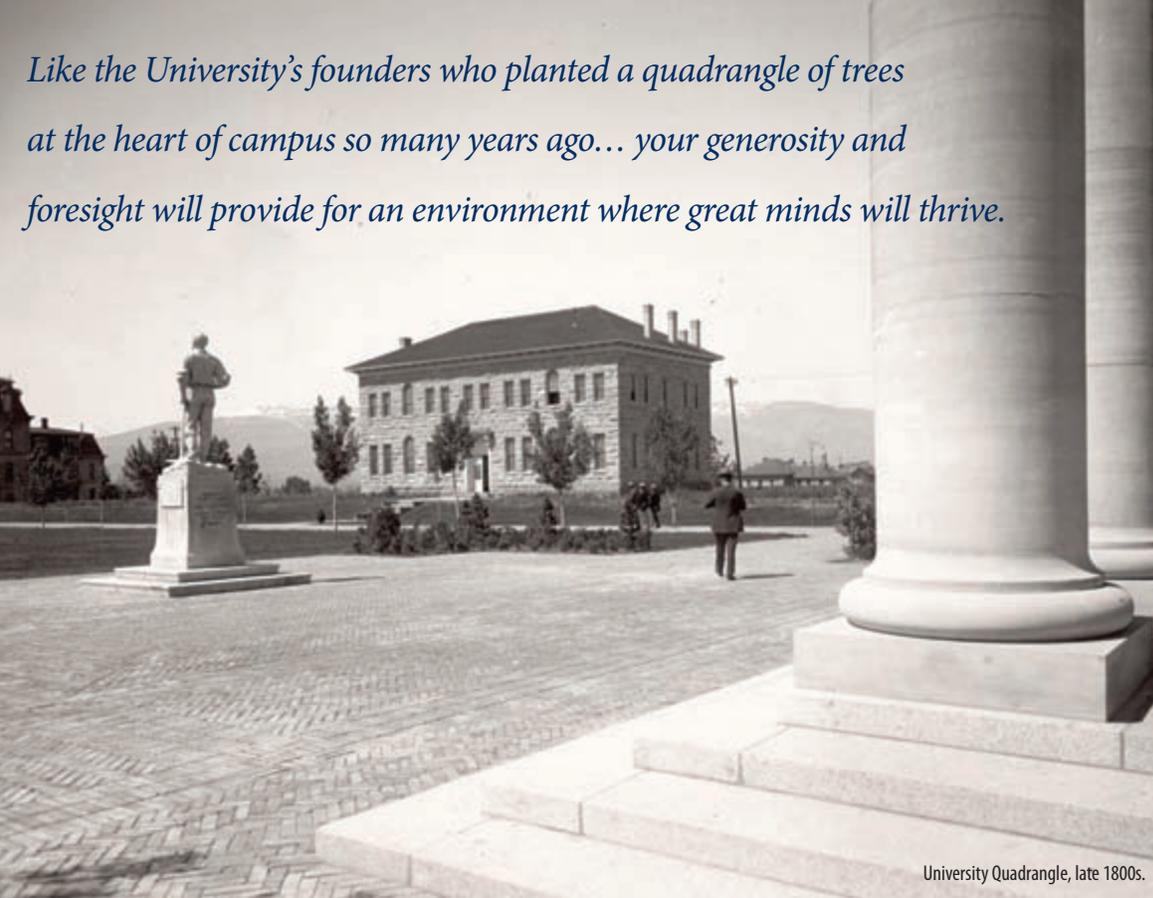
A delicate balance

**LATINO BUSINESS OWNERS
STRUGGLE, BUT THRIVE**

MARY-ELLEN MCMULLEN

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR REMEMBERS STUDENT DAYS





University Quadrangle, late 1800s.

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On behalf of the Foundation, we are pleased to announce the creation of the

Nevada Legacy Society.

The society was formed to recognize and honor the commitment of those who have provided for the future support of the University under their estate or financial plans — regardless of the size of the gift.

The launch of our Legacy Society also brings new opportunities to share examples of how an individual can make a difference. Your confidence and investment is critical to securing Nevada's future, and we are grateful to be able to thank you now!

If you have included the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation in your bequest, insurance policy, trust or other planned gift, we would appreciate you contacting us and letting us list your name in the future among others who have provided resources to the Foundation.

An inaugural celebration is planned for spring, so please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions! We are always here to answer your questions regarding estate planning and other planned gifts.

To learn more about options for planned giving and how you might become a member of the Legacy Society, contact Lisa Riley or Bob Eggleston, planned giving directors, by telephone (775) 784-1352 or email plannedgiving@unr.edu. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



Features



20

Welcoming the brightest



24

Walker Lake: A balancing act



31

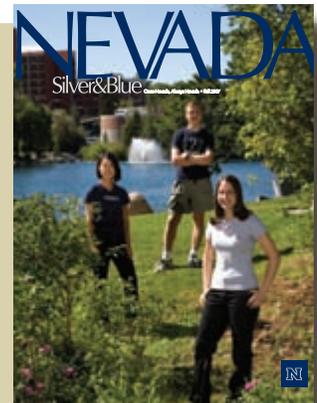
Latinization of Nevada

Departments

- 4 NevadaScope – Water and weeds top agriculture issues
- 6 Boom – Citizen voice in community planning
- 8 What I've Learned – Coe Swobe '54
- 10 Making the Argument – Improving graduation rates
- 12 Nature & Environment – Tahoe Summit turns 10
- 14 Interview – Doctor brings HOPE to obese patients
- 16 Refresher Course – Sovereign water rights
- 18 What it Feels Like to Sing at the Met – Dolora Zajick '76
- 39 HOME MEANS NEVADA
 - University News*, 36
 - On Philanthropy*, 42
 - Alumni Award Winners*, 44
 - From the Alumni Council President*, 48
 - Class Chat*, 49
 - Five Questions With Karole Morgan-Prager '84*, 57
 - Remembering Friends*, 20
- 62 Tell Me How Nevada Was - The football racial barrier
- 64 What I've Done With My Life - Janet Trefethan '71

About the cover

Christina Kim '05 (political science), entering freshman and National Merit Scholar Zachary Johnson, and Deanne Leonard '07 (psychology/biology) who won the Herz Gold Medal for academic achievement, are among Nevada's top minds. That the University not only attracts these brilliant scholars, but finds them singing its praises as alums, is a trend President Milton Glick wants to see continue. Donors and deans are also striving to find ways to attract and keep top students, because, ultimately, the state is best served when our future leaders, managers and entrepreneurs stay close to home. Kim has begun her studies at UCLA's law school; Johnson will study physics, hoping to become an astronomer or oceanographer; and Leonard began her first semester at the University of Nevada School of Medicine this fall. See story on page 20.



Only Online

Visit our website for photo galleries, full versions of the printed stories, plus video and audio clips. You can also access *Nevada Silver & Blue* archives. Visit <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue>. In this issue:

Coe Swobe — An attorney, a state senator and a recovering alcoholic. Read the full interview online for Swobe's most memorable accomplishments and most difficult struggles.

Christopher Coake — Read the title story to Coake's highly acclaimed collection of short stories, *We're in Trouble*, and listen to the podcast, too.

Nature & Environment — The Lake Tahoe Summit celebrates its 10th anniversary. Check our photo gallery and see who participated in the event.

Walker Basin Project — Take a look at the different projects University researchers are working on to protect Walker Lake.

LOOK ONLINE:

When you see this **LOOK ONLINE** notice in the print magazine, it means there's related bonus material at the website, so check it out.

<http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue>

NEVADA
Silver&Blue

Once Nevada, Always Nevada

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Graduation rates matter

Dear Colleagues:

This fall we are pleased to have a very strong showing of National Merit Scholars as part of the incoming freshmen class. Attracting bright and talented young men and women, such as these scholars, is important. They inspire and encourage one another, and they energize faculty. However, as important as those we enroll are, the roll call of those who graduate is even more important.

This year, we will heighten our focus on a culture of completion. We want students to come to campus, to stay, and to finish their degree. We want them to graduate and we want them to do it in four years. I believe this is delivering what we promise and it's in our students' best interest to complete their degrees in a timely manner.

There are barriers to this effort, though — barriers we are working diligently to remove. Some are self-imposed, such as the increasingly common decision for students to take only 12 credits per semester. There are many reasons why this has become common practice but in almost all cases, it is a bad decision. Being a college student requires one's full intellectual, emotional and social engagement. It's a full-time job, one with an incredible payoff. The college degree is an exceptional investment and results in increased earning power — it also provides choices. It opens doors to fulfilling careers that might not otherwise be possible.

Most importantly, if we are to build the Nevada, the nation, and the world that we want, we need more college graduates. We need to open our doors to as many students as we can. There are few stories as touching as that of a student who is the first in their family to go to college — the embodiment of the collective hopes, dreams and hard work of parents, grandparents and often siblings. It is humbling and awe-inspiring — and it is a reason to get up every morning and work on problems that often seem insurmountable and unsolvable.

As I meet with members of the community and tell the stories of this University, I am struck by the way that we quietly go about our work — we are too quiet! Students are successful here and are having a great college experience. We need to share those experiences.

Our faculty are conducting important research from Lake Tahoe to Mars — research that will advance basic science and improve the quality of life in Nevada and beyond. We need to broaden awareness of this research, too. The University leads the way in creating a better understanding of the impact of wildfire on Lake Tahoe: in the wake of the Angora Fire, research done by Wally Miller, professor of soils and hydrology, has moved front and center with Tahoe Basin managers.

Finally, as we prepare to celebrate the opening of the new Joe Crowley Student Union, I ask you to continue to make this your University. Thank you again for making me feel welcome here — and for making me part of the Wolf Pack family.

Sincerely,

Milton D. Glick
President

<http://www.unr.edu/president>

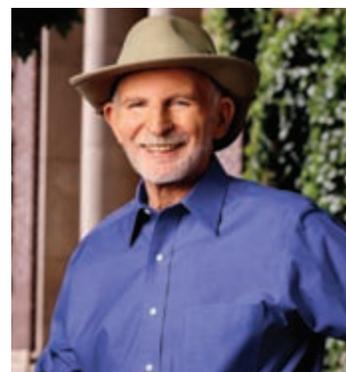


Photo by Jeff Ross

MUSTANGS

"Nevada's Mustangs: roughing up the range" by Archie Murchie, (Summer 2007) gives a very biased description of wild horses from an old U.S. Forest Service employee, who maintains the same old anti-wild horse tradition that almost eliminated the mustangs. Murchie's bias becomes plain when he describes the wild horses at the water hole. He should have mentioned how it is cattle who camp on the riparian areas and how the wild horses quickly drink their fill and disperse away from the water sources to cover a much broader area than do livestock in their procurement of food. Also he should have mentioned how the wild horses' pawing at seeps serves to enlarge

WRITE US: Send your letters to *Nevada Silver & Blue*, University of Nevada, Reno, Morrill Hall/0007, Reno, Nevada 89557-0007 or email us at silverblue@unr.edu. Letters may be shortened or edited.

watering holes so that many other animals, who could not otherwise obtain access to such, can drink. Like many with his negative views, Murchie overlooks the obvious problem: humanity's tampering with the natural balance here in the West.

Craig C. Downer, '76M.S. (biology)
Author: Wild Horses: Living Symbols of Freedom

PROFESSOR COONEY

Your article sure brings back memories: Professor [Donald] Cooney [47] was a fine professor. In spring 1949, I was taking a lower division botany class from him and there was only one other student in the class, a girl. One afternoon he advised me that the next day we were going on a field trip to collect thermal-



loving algae south of Reno. We went on the field trip, but the girl didn't come along. On the way home Professor Cooney reached in the back seat of his auto and under a blanket there were two beers. What a surprise! Sad to lose someone who did have

some measure of influence; he's why I took the road I choose.

Warren Sandau '54 (botany)

Editor's note: Donald Cooney '47 (biology), biology professor emeritus and department chairman, died Jan. 11, 2007. See Summer 2007, Remembering Friends.

LOOK ONLINE

To read complete letters, go to our website: <http://www.unr.edu.nevadasilverandblue/letters>



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SURVEY

WATER AND WEEDS top Nevada agriculture issues

Water and weeds are top concerns for Nevada agriculture producers, according to a statewide survey conducted by University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

"Agriculture producers have set the agenda for Cooperative Extension's agriculture research and educational programs for the next few years," said Lyon County extension educator and University professor Loretta Singletary, who conducted the survey and analyzed the results.

Top priorities in order of importance were:

1. Legal considerations for water rights protection (91%)
2. Impacts of water transfers within and outside basins (89%)
3. Impacts of water rights sales (87%)
4. Impacts of environmental regulations on water use (83%)
5. Noxious weed identification and control (83%)

The results of the 2006 Nevada Agriculture Producer Statewide Research and Education Needs Assessment are available free on the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension website at: <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ag/2006/eb0602.pdf>.



Photo by Loretta Singletary

Nevada's capital gains

| Total acres in operation including public land allotments | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| 1-20 acres | 18.4% |
| 21-160 acres | 24.5% |
| 161-1,000 acres | 19.9% |
| 1,001-60,000 acres | 19.9% |
| 60,001 or more | 8.9% |
| Did not answer | 8.4% |

| Current income from agriculture | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| \$1,000-\$9,999 | 32.9% |
| \$10,000 to \$49,999 | 24.5% |
| \$50,000-\$249,999 | 21.7% |
| \$250,000 to \$499,999 | 5.6% |
| 500,000 or more | 8.4% |
| Did not answer | 7.0% |

Profile of Nevada Agricultural Producers

| Age respondents | Percentage |
|-----------------|------------|
| 25-34 | 1.4% |
| 35-44 | 11.5% |
| 45-54 | 26.0% |
| 55-64 | 28.7% |
| 65 plus | 29% |
| Did not answer | 3.4% |

| Educational Attainment | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------|
| Less than 12th grade | 3.0% |
| 12th grade | 19.8% |
| Some College | 30.4% |
| Technical/Associate | 10.0% |
| College Degree | 25.3% |
| Graduate Degree | 10.3% |
| Did not answer | 1.2% |

| Gender | Percentage |
|----------------|------------|
| Male | 80% |
| Female | 18% |
| Did not answer | 2.0% |

| Ethnicity | Percentage |
|------------------------|------------|
| White | 91.3% |
| American Indian | 2.6% |
| Hispanic | .02% |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | .02% |
| Multiethnic/Other | 3.3% |
| Did not answer | 2.4% |

SOURCE: 2006 Nevada Agriculture Producer Statewide Research and Education Needs Assessment, conducted by Loretta Singletary, Ph.D., Professor and Lyon County Extension Educator, and Marilyn Smith, Professor and Area Specialist, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

TONIGHT'S HOMEWORK

Help lead a Wolf Pack to water

Frank Lloyd Wright was quoted as saying, "Nothing more powerfully creates heritage than the imaginative use and stewardship of land." In arid Nevada, the driest state in the nation, unprecedented growth and natural disasters can strain our water resources. As August faded into September, the Reno-Sparks area was experiencing one of its 10 longest dry spells on record.

For our fourth Tonight's Homework contest, we're looking for your best ideas for conserving water in Nevada. Think beyond the tried and true water-conservation methods. If your idea involves a novel way to collect and reuse water, that's fine.

The best ideas will be listed in the Winter 2007 issue and on the magazine's website, <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue>. Contest winners will receive a certificate good for a Nevada sweatshirt courtesy of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada bookstore. The deadline for the contest is Nov. 23.

Submit ideas to silverblue@unr.edu, or mail them to: Nevada Silver & Blue MS 0007, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno, NV 89557. Include a phone number where you can be reached and tell us your sweatshirt size (S, M, L, XL) and hometown. If you're an alum, please include graduation-year information and major in your letter.

You'll recall we asked for your most mouth-watering tailgate recipes in the Summer 2007 issue. After all, the Homecoming game is Oct. 6. Take a look at the responses on this page.

#85's Sweet & Spicy Kahlua Baked BBQ Beans

Charlie Lee, '76 (journalism), '85 (criminal justice), Bradenton, Fla.

INGREDIENTS FOR A FOUR- PERSON SERVING:

- One (1) 28 oz. can of Bush's Maple Cured beans (or beans of your preference)
- ½ cup of cooked, diced bacon
- 1 cup of sweet BBQ sauce (Sonny's sweet, Carolina Honey or similar)
- ½ cup of Kahlua
- ½ cup of diced sweet onion or a blend of preferred onions)
- ½ cup of diced bell peppers (green, yellow, red, orange or any combination)
- 1 teaspoon of dried mesquite spice
- 1 teaspoon of season-all spice
- 1 teaspoon of garlic-herb spice or garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon of either chicken mesquite or beef mesquite spice
- ½ cup of finely grated smoked cheddar cheese
- ¼ cup of finely diced jalapeno or banana peppers (or adjust to preference)
- 1 covered Pyrex or baking bowl
- Optional: you may add smoked or spiced-diced chicken or beef

PREPARATION:

- Drain and strain 1 can of beans and remove any fatty pieces of bacon
- Pour beans into Pyrex bowl
- Add diced bacon, onions, peppers, cheese (and diced chicken or beef, if any)
- Sprinkle one half of the listed spices over beans
- Gently mix all ingredients
- Pour Kahlua and BBQ sauce over the beans
- Sprinkle remaining spices over the beans
- Gently mix all the ingredients again and cover the bowl with its lid

BAKING:

- Bake the covered beans for at least 30 minutes at 350 degrees
- After 30 minutes, remove cover, gently stir beans and bake at least another 30 minutes uncovered. After this additional 30 minutes, remove beans to serve hot or continue to bake until the desired consistency is achieved (and feel free to mix more Kahlua as needed for taste)

Serve hot or cold

Tailgate Menu

Carrie Thorpe

- 1) **Chili-cheese hot dog loaded with cheddar cheese**, \$6.25; optional onions/and sour cream for 50 cents more, piled on top of some french fries.
- 2) **Blue Moon beer with oranges**: 1 bottle for \$5 or \$3.50 for home brew from an approved community organization affiliated with the school.
- 3) **Peanut Butter Rice Krispies Treats®**: Any organization (Wolf Pack/or approved community) who wants to make 20 percent for fund raising. \$2.50 per large square in plastic bag (non-seal type), silver or blue frillies tied onto bag to close it.

LOOK ONLINE

To submit your entry, or to read the last issue's contest entries, visit our website, <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue>.

WIN THIS SWEATSHIRT!



USE YOUR BRAIN, win a sweatshirt. If the design shown here is not available at the time of judging, winners will receive a certificate good for the sweatshirt of their choice of a comparable price. Submissions not used will be posted online at <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue/online/index.html>

Citizen voice in community planning

Whether a major employer closes, growth reaches 2,400 percent or new volunteer citizens need leadership training, Nevada's call on University of Nevada Cooperative Extension expertise to help with community development.

WHEN BOOM GOES BUST

When southern Nevada's Mohave Generating Station closed last year — a major employer with more than \$20 million in payroll — it eliminated 350 jobs with an average wage of \$70,000 a year.

The area faced a potential economic disaster, according to Buddy Borden, Cooperative Extension economic development specialist. He had already been working in southern Nevada with University of Arizona Cooperative Extension helping the Colorado River region develop a comprehensive community economic development plan.

"These are the most progressive communities I've ever worked with," Borden says. "What Cooperative Extension does is far from traditional classroom teaching — we help community leaders and citizens make educated decisions and become self-sufficient."

Borden and Tom Harris, Cooperative Extension community development specialist, helped the community apply for an economic adjustment development planning grant, and then assisted in planning to mitigate the economic loss of jobs.

"Rural communities are often strapped for funds and looking for efficiencies," Borden says. "They cannot afford to chase a business without knowing whether there is a fit. We offered them a way to match community desires to business needs."

As part of the Mohave plant project, Borden and Harris offered the new Community Business Matching program that is being pilot tested in Montana, Hawai'i, New Mexico, Nevada and Wyoming.

"With the Community Business Matching program, we gathered lots of community input," Borden explains. "Over two days, focus groups presented thought provoking ideas about the trade-offs between economic development and community resources."

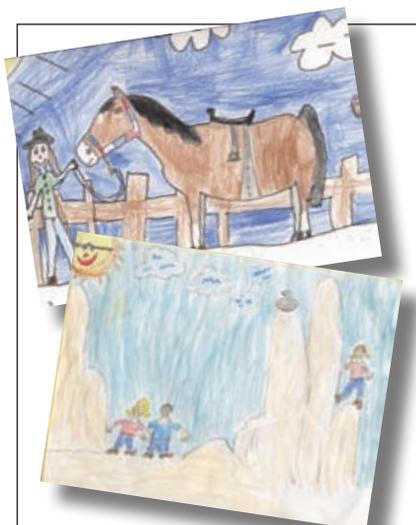
Followed by a telephone survey of 3,000 businesses across the country in 80 private sectors, they are using the survey results and matching business needs with



Lincoln County tourism photos by Don Shanks of Pioche

Stone Cabin Trail in Spring Valley State Park

citizens' wishes to create a desirability index. Once completed, that will direct communities in attracting businesses with matching goals.



A contest was held for elementary school children to draw pictures of their favorite things to do in Lincoln County. The contest promoted awareness and pride in Lincoln County's natural assets.

POPULATION GROWTH

Nearby Lincoln County is facing a vastly different problem. A projected 2,400 percent growth rate — unprecedented in the United States — means the county is struggling to expand its governing system and concerned about the future of its treasured rural lifestyle.

"Lincoln County residents cherish their quiet lifestyle, yet they want enough jobs to keep their young people here," says Holly Gatzke, Cooperative Extension educator for Lincoln County. "Fear of change and lack of knowledge and communication often inhibits the planning process, especially in a rural community that has changed little over the years and suddenly faces phenomenal growth."

While Borden and Harris help county commissioners and staff plan for upcoming growth, Gatzke helped develop an

enthusiastic new group called the Lincoln Communities Action Team. She facilitated the team meetings as residents began to find common goals. Using Cooperative Extension's interactive videoconferencing for meetings cut travel time and involved more people.

Rural tourism is the solution team members agreed to pursue. This fall several communities are scheduling day-long events with historically based activities geared for families.

"Better communication revealed that we already have great attractions and combining them might entice tourists to stay longer," Gatzke says. "With advance notice, businesses can better plan to serve tourists."

WHO WILL LEAD?

Training civic leaders is an educational program also offered by Marlene Rebori, Cooperative Extension's western area community and organizational development specialist. Her six-week training, originally designed for Washoe County Citizens Advisory Board members, is now available to all volunteer members of the county's boards and

commissions and has expanded to other Nevada communities including Fallon and Carson City.

"In business, you do things one way," says John Jackson Sr., Washoe County volunteer on the Sun Valley Citizens Advisory Board. "In government, you do things another way.

Marlene's training was very in-



Holly Gatzke.



Buddy Borden.

formative and taught us how to do things the way government requires and still use each person's experience." Jackson especially appreciated learning how to run a meeting effectively and stick to the agenda, a requirement of Nevada's open meeting laws.

Cooperative Extension's engaged leadership program teaches skills in working with the government and the public, decision-making, time and meeting management, conflict management, leadership characteristics and facilitation skills. Also, Michael Havercamp, Cooperative Extension's group facilitation and mediation specialist, leads one session on community visioning and action planning.

"The course reviews have always been top notch," says Bob Webb, planning manager with the Washoe County Department of Community Development. In addition, Rebori works with individual advisory board members and teaches an introductory session during the county's new citizen advisory board member orientation.

"Two main objectives of the Engaged Leadership program are for citizen volunteers to gain a sense of efficacy, that their engagement in the community will have an impact, and civic skills so that participants acquire the building blocks to engage effectively," Rebori says. **N**



Photos Courtesy of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

Pyramid Lake teens use a GPS unit to build a community pathway. At right, Marlene Rebori, Cooperative Extension community and organization development specialist.



Pyramid youth civic engagement

In the face of a national crisis in civic engagement, Marlene Rebori, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension community and organization development specialist, started addressing the problem locally by teaching youth at Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation northeast of Reno.

"Youth today are disconnecting at a higher rate than previous generations," she explained. "Civic habits are formed during the early teen years, so we only have a small window of opportunity to influence how engaged the future generation will be."

Rebori teamed up with Dehan Dominguez, Cooperative Extension's community-based instructor at Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. Rebori and Dominguez recruited seven Pyramid Lake Junior-Senior High School students to join an after school program. They loosely modeled their program after an international program, Project Citizen, which is a five-step program where youth:

- identify a problem in their community
- gather and evaluate information on the problem
- examine and evaluate alternative solutions
- develop a proposed public policy to address the problem, and
- create an action plan to get their policy adopted by government.

The teens at Pyramid Lake identified six public issues and voted to work on a paved pathway that was needed through their community. The students developed a questionnaire and interviewed representatives from each group along the walkway to determine and develop community support. Results showed that everyone was supportive of the idea, so the students began planning the actual physical location of the walkway, using survey wheels and GPS units to map the proposed 1.25-mile path.

What I've Learned

Coe Swobe

'54 (political science/history)

I got lucky when I graduated from law school at the University of Denver and was hired as assistant United States Attorney. This was the 1950s, and there was only one assistant U.S. Attorney in the entire state. My case with the most notoriety occurred when the government prosecuted Lavere Redfield for tax evasion and bank fraud.

Redfield was probably the biggest property owner in Washoe County. They said you could walk from the Reno city limits to the top of Mount Rose and not step off his property. After he was indicted by the federal grand jury, it was my job to have him arrested and charged with tax evasion. At the time, federal prisoners were put in the county jail in Reno. I'll always remember one time I went to the jail to check on Redfield. I found him sitting behind the sheriff's desk, calling his stockbroker. The sheriff, Bud Young, told me, "Well, Mr. Redfield needed some privacy and he had some business with his stockbroker." Redfield was later found guilty and served his time.

While in the state Senate, I was lucky enough to play a role in the preservation of Lake Tahoe through the creation of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency in 1969. (Nevada Governor) Paul Laxalt and (California Governor) Ronald Reagan knew they had to do something to save the lake. As Paul Laxalt said, "The lake is not going

to go gray on my watch." I was just lucky that Laxalt asked me to negotiate what became the bi-state compact between Nevada and California to preserve Lake Tahoe. The bi-state compact was never a sure thing. It was a very important step for Lake Tahoe, and I think it's done a lot of good for clarity and preservation of the lake. I was in the state Assembly for four years and the state Senate for eight years. In addition to shepherding through the legislation that created the bi-state compact, I think the thing I'm most proud of occurred during the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam War was a different time. There was great resentment against the veterans. When I served in the Air Force in Korea, there were such great opportunities for a returning veteran: the University let you make up the credits you lost because of your service, they helped you find a job, and they let you go back to school. The climate was much different in the 1960s, and I was so disappointed that my University and some influential members of its faculty were against offering many of these educational benefits to the many returning veterans of Vietnam. So I introduced legislation to correct that.

But luckily, slightly before it came to committee for a vote, (Nevada president) N. Edd Miller reversed the University's policy of not offering these benefits. It

was a class move by a classy University president, who realized that even if you have a problem with a nation's policy, you don't penalize the people who are simply doing their job.

I was a social drinker, dating back to my days as a student at the University of Nevada and member of Sigma Nu fraternity. When I was a practicing attorney and as a state assemblyman and state senator, I continued to drink. Alcoholism is a progressive disease. I drank progressively for 30 years. When I was 55, my family had enough. They held a good old-fashioned intervention. By then, about the only time I didn't drink was early in the morning.

So 13 of my family members and friends gathered in my home at 5:30 a.m. Each took a turn and told me how my alcoholism was destroying me, and my relations with them. It was one of the most important turning points in my life. I finally admitted I was an alcoholic. A great weight was lifted off my shoulders. I will be forever grateful to my wife, Janet, who gathered all of those wonderful people for that intervention. I haven't had a drink since.

Janet (who as Janet Quilici graduated from Nevada in 1956) and I are both extremely proud of our daughters, Caryn,

and Jackie. Our three grandchildren are also a source of great pride. I've been very blessed to have such

LOOK ONLINE

For full interview, visit <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue>

a wonderful wife, and such great children and grandchildren. I truly believe that the joy of family is how interdependent your lives become.

From a conversation with Coe Swobe in July 2007 with University Communications senior editor John Trent '85/'87, '00M.A. Swobe, 78, a native Nevadan, enrolled at the University of Nevada in 1947, and served in the Air Force from 1950 to 1952 before returning to Nevada, where he graduated in 1954 with a degree in political science and history.



Improving graduation rates

All institutions of higher education are judged on their graduation rates. This metric — perhaps more than any other — highlights the effectiveness of an institution to deliver on a core mission: undergraduate education. We must strive to be among the top states in educational attainment. Today, the likelihood that a 9th-grader in



Milton D. Glick is the president of the University of Nevada, Reno

Nevada will achieve a baccalaureate degree by age 24 is too low. Our collective future — the health and well being of our state and nation — depends on it. It is tempting to focus all of our efforts on being highly selective; however, for the benefit of our state it is our responsibility to facilitate an educated citizenry. Ultimately, the kind of student we turn out will be driven by the quality of the experience we provide, and we have identified several steps to enhance student success. We

recognize that creating a “culture of completion” is a top priority. From the day students enter our doors we want them to have their sights set on graduating four years later. We want them to know that graduation rates matter.

Why graduation rates matter

- ▶ We are defined by whom we graduate. Because we strive to offer educational opportunities to all who seek them, we are defined not by whom we admit but who we graduate.
- ▶ Failing to graduate comes with an opportunity cost. Students with a college degree earn an average of a million dollars more over their lifetimes than their counterparts without one.
- ▶ Stretching out one’s college education makes it harder to engage, and engagement is key to learning. It’s harder to feel personally invested when your attention is only partially directed at the goal. When there is a choice, being a full-time student taking 15-18 credits is the ideal.
- ▶ We are judged by our graduation rate. For better or worse, national rankings look at both four- and six-year graduation rates as measures of institutional effectiveness. Our six-year graduation rate of 49.4 percent is similar to the national average of 52 percent but it is lower than other large public institutions. We can and must do better.
- ▶ Time to degree matters. Students should not be deterred from seeking a college degree — no matter how long the process takes. But the length of time it takes a student to complete a degree does not escape the attention of prospective employers — and probably adversely affects younger, inexperienced workers more. College is the first job that many of our graduates will hold and the time to degree is a reflection of their success on the job. It matters to employers. The value of the degree to our students and alumni is similarly affected as graduation rates affect our institution’s reputation.

What we will do to enhance student success

- ▶ **Increase faculty size selectively to ensure quality education and put top faculty in key lower-division classes. Top faculty will engage students and provide a solid foundation on which a student can build in order to be successful in a program of study.**
- ▶ **Enhance advising. In order to guide students through a course of study, advising is critical, and feedback on progress — especially in the first two years — is very important.**
- ▶ **Enhance financial aid. We will continue to work to reduce the financial pressures that lead to students choosing a job for pay over their job as a student. We can create more student jobs: students who work on campus persist at higher rates than students who work off campus.**
- ▶ **Increase average class load of students. We need to both educate our students on this issue and create incentives to carry a true full course load. For example, we could adopt a tuition plateau model so that it is the same price to take 15-18 credits, as it is to take 12 credits.**
- ▶ **Change where students “live.” Our university has a relatively small number of students living on campus or resident students. We know that living on campus leads to student engagement. But more important is to change where students spend their time. We don’t care where students sleep — we care where they live. The goal is to create a “sticky” campus, an appealing environment that draws students here to study and socialize and keeps them engaged in campus life. We have a unique opportunity with the opening of the Joe Crowley Student Union this fall and the IGT-Mathewson Knowledge Center in August 2008.**

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SAVING BIG BLUE

Tahoe environmental summit celebrates 10th anniversary

Wally Miller remembers the first Tahoe Summit in 1997 as a coming together of researchers, institutions and agencies with the shared intent of forging a collaborative approach to protecting Lake Tahoe, one of the world's largest, deepest and — despite dwindling clarity in recent decades — clearest alpine lakes.

It worked, according to Miller, a professor of hydrology in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, whose area of research is soils and water quality and, especially, how that quality is affected by fire.

"We've been very, very productive," Miller says. "We've made some real strides in understanding how the watershed ecosystem functions. We now know pretty much what's going to happen following a fire. Now we need to learn how to mitigate those effects."

Former President Bill Clinton — who attended this year's summit, as well as the first — issued an executive order July 26, 1997 that established the Tahoe Federal Interagency Partnership. The partnership brought together a number of agency heads, including the secretaries of the departments of Agriculture, Interior and Transportation and the U.S. Army, as well as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. The partnership's mission was to coordinate federal efforts and to "ensure that Federal agency actions protect the extraordinary natural, recreational, and ecological resources in the Lake Tahoe Region," according to the order.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nevada, who initiated the first summit, says the mission has been accomplished, but is ongoing. "Probably the most important thing that has happened in the 10 years since the first summit has been increased communication and collaboration between stakeholders, researchers and federal agency personnel," he says.

Locally, a number of institutions have answered the summit's call to action. In addition

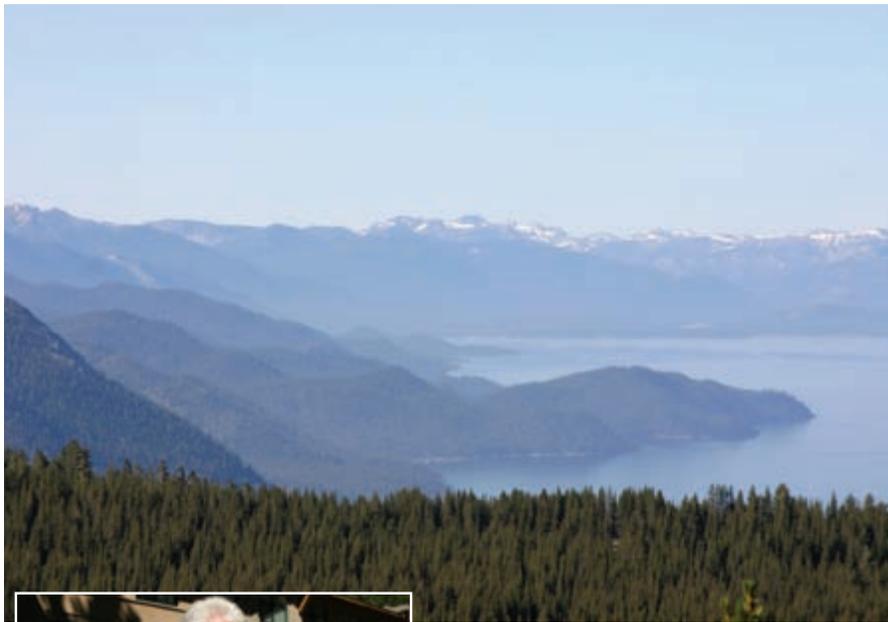


Photo by Jean Dixon



Former President Bill Clinton stopped to greet the crowd gathered at the 10th Anniversary Lake Tahoe Forum at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village on Aug. 17. The gathering has been an annual event since 1997, when Sen. Harry Reid organized the first forum, which President Clinton also attended. At the first forum, President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore pledged \$50 million in federal spending for the Tahoe basin's fragile environment.

to greater collaboration between regulating and managing bodies such as the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the U.S. Forest Service, the scientific community has come together, as well.

The Tahoe Science Consortium, which is a collaboration among the University of Nevada, Reno; University of California, Davis; Desert Research Institute; the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the Forest Service; and the U. S. Geological Survey, was formed in 2005 following extensive discussions between the research organizations and the land management and regulatory agencies. One of

its many activities is to develop a science plan that will identify needed areas of research.

In terms of progress in preventing further degradation of the lake's clarity, Reid notes that "some serious steps have been taken to reduce transportation around the lake and utilize environmentally friendly means of moving people," as well as "significant stream restoration and fire suppression activities." However, "We have more to do," he says, noting that as a result of the initial summit, some \$331 million has been invested in improving Lake Tahoe and its watershed, and an additional \$45 million has been identified for

Orchids' drought resistance might help fight global warming

By John Trent '85/'87, '00M.A.

an upcoming round of federal funding that is awaiting the secretary of interior's approval.

Mike Collopy, director of the University's Academy for the Environment, estimates that out of the \$331 million, approximately \$20 million has been spent specifically on research in the last decade. The money is allocated competitively and has gone to research on both California and Nevada sides of the lake.

Miller and his primary research team, which includes Dale Johnson and Roger Walker, also professors in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, have garnered about \$1.5 million for their studies that look at water quality, nutrient cycling and forest health in the aftermath of a forest fire. They have found that fire suppression causes not only a dangerous buildup of fuels, but also thick organic layers that are nutrient rich. These nutrients, when mobilized by a wildfire, have the potential to seriously degrade the lake's clarity.

By studying the 2002 Gondola Fire, which burned some 670 acres of forest on the ridge behind the Stateline casinos, Miller's group found that heavy rainfall and resulting erosion about three weeks after the fire caused 380 metric tons of sediment to be deposited in a riparian zone, but fortunately did not make it to the lake.

"If there had been a perennial stream such as Angora Creek, the sediment would have gone into the creek and right down to the lake," Miller says. "We now have an idea of what the magnitude of sediment will be following a fire. Our research will help engineers to determine how big and how many sedimentation basins are needed to mitigate potential erosion events."

The recent Angora Fire near South Lake Tahoe, which burned some 3,100 acres of forest and destroyed 254 homes, was not only far more destructive than the Gondola fire, but almost five times as large.

Now is the time to study the effectiveness of the mitigation efforts that are being put into play following Angora, Miller says. "It's an opportunity to gain even greater knowledge than we have in the last 10 years." ■

Those pretty orchids at home could hold keys to fight against global climate change. They are plants that just won't die. And for John Cushman, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology professor, his ongoing research on plants with the metabolic ability to use less water than other plants could be an important step forward in developing new generations of plants that are drought- and global climate change-resistant.

Cushman, along with researchers from the University of Florida and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, was awarded a three-year grant of \$750,000 from the National Science Foundation to study the evolution of plants with a form of photosynthesis called crassulacean acid metabolism or CAM.

CAM plants take up carbon dioxide, a major part of their metabolism, through small pores called stomata during the night instead of during the day, as plants that have C3 photosynthesis do. CAM plants then store the carbon dioxide as organic acids and introduce them into the rest of the photosynthesis process during the day.

Plants with C3 photosynthesis, which occurs in 90 percent of all plants, lose a great deal of water by opening their stomata during the day while CAM plants lose much less water by storing carbon dioxide at night.

"CAM plants lose 10 times less water C3 plants do," Cushman said. "It is a very 'water-efficient' way of taking up carbon dioxide in a metabolic sequence."

This type of photosynthesis occurs in about 7 percent of vascular plant species, a very minimal amount of plants compared to the large number of species that conduct C3 photosynthesis. To study this metabolic phenomenon, Cushman and his colleagues are studying the orchid family, 50 percent of which have CAM.

Orchids are important in many other ways, according to Cushman. Orchids produce vanilla, a widely used flavoring, and many different species are sold as potted plants or as cut flowers.

"Orchids are horticulturally significant," Cushman said. "There are many different types and the orchid family is one of the largest families of higher plant species."

The group is interested in tracking the changes that led C3 plants to evolve into CAM plants by using molecular phylogeny, a sort of family tree that traces the evolutionary history of a group of organisms. By seeing where CAM plants occur in the tree, the researchers can identify the circumstances under which the switch from C3 to CAM took place.



Photo by Jean Dixon

John Cushman, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology professor, is making great strides in the ongoing research of plants with the metabolic ability to use less water than other plants.

Doctor brings HOPE to obese patients

Obesity is a public health epidemic affecting not only the United States, but many parts of the world. Evidence clearly shows that obesity, with its multiple co-morbid diseases, is now the second most preventable cause of cardiac death next to smoking in the nation.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly two-thirds of adult Americans are either overweight or obese. And

Mark N. Levine is senior director of health sciences communication for the School of Medicine.

childhood obesity rates have more than tripled from 1980 to 2005, from 5 to 17 percent.

The Trust for America's Health in 2006 reports that Nevada has an adult obesity rate of

21 percent and is ranked 42nd heaviest in the nation. In terms of related risk factors, Nevada ranks 31st in the nation for adult diabetes levels and ranks 30th for rates of hypertension at nearly 25 percent.

Recently Dr. James Lau joined the University of Nevada School of Medicine as chief of the Division of Bariatric Surgery. Lau was fellowship trained at Stanford University in minimally invasive and bariatric surgery and will direct the only university-based Bariatric program in Nevada. In addition to bringing the latest laparoscopic and robotic techniques to weight loss surgery, his division will address this critical public health issue by creating an innovative obesity prevention program. The new effort is called HOPE: Healthy Options for Prevention and Education.

Mark N. Levine, senior director of Health Science Communication at the University, sat down with Lau to learn more about obesity, the surgical treatment, and educational initiatives to address the disease.

Nevada Silver & Blue: What is the University Weight Loss Center?

Lau: The University Weight Loss Center is part of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, Department of Surgery. Surgeries



Photo by Edgar Antonio Nunez

Dr. James Lau

are performed at University Medical Center in Las Vegas.

NSB: Why is this partnership important to residents in Southern Nevada?

Lau: The University of Nevada School of Medicine is physically located next to the University Medical Center, the hospital where we train our surgical residents. It makes sense to place the Weight Loss Surgery Center at UMC, so that all citizens in Nevada will have access to highly trained physicians and researchers in a state-of-the-art facility. Individuals who are seeking obesity-related surgery will no longer have to travel outside the Silver State to find excellent academic medical care.

NSB: Why should a patient consider surgery as the means for long-term weight management?

Lau: Surgical intervention is the only proven method to have a significant, long-term effect on the disease of morbid obesity. There has been a history of failure for most people

who have relied on non-surgical approaches such as drug regimens and traditional methods such as diet and exercise. Because of the associated co-morbidities, morbidly obese individuals have difficulty complying with restrictive diets, and regaining weight is typical when the diet is discontinued.

NSB: What are your qualifications for this type of surgery?

Lau: In addition to extensive experience as a general surgeon, I completed a fellowship in minimally invasive and bariatric surgery at Stanford University. I have trained with some of the leading experts in this field, who are both excellent clinicians as well as world-renowned researchers. In addition, as the assistant program director for the Surgical Residency Program at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, teaching is also one of my priorities.

NSB: At the present time you are the only fellowship-trained bariatric surgeon in Nevada. What does this mean for patients?

Lau: There are a number of advantages for patients to have their surgery performed by a fellowship-trained surgeon. These surgeons are educated by established experts, and are involved with and exposed to the most current research and technology available, both nationally and worldwide regarding minimally invasive surgery. In addition, fellowship training is undertaken in a high-volume environment that focuses on best practices through experience, evaluation, and improving overall patient outcomes. This setting is conducive for advancing research, as well as community-based education.

NSB: You are a surgeon specializing in bariatric surgery, however, you are only one member of a team that will care for the patient — tell us about the team approach.

Lau: As the surgeon, I will perform the obesity-related operation. However, since mor-

bid obesity is a complex condition, a multi-disciplinary comprehensive approach is essential for successful weight loss surgery. Being a part of the University allows for direct collaboration with experts in internal medicine, critical care, anesthesia, and radiology. UMC is a tertiary care center that provides in-house services such as nutrition and dietary support required for a smooth transition to successful post-bariatric surgery life. In addition, our team will include a nurse, medical assistant, and administrative support to ensure that optimum care is provided before and after surgery. And we will offer guidance regarding successful habits to assist with improving overall health for life.

NSB: Why is bariatric patient follow-up so important?

Lau: It is especially important to consistently monitor weight loss surgery patients' overall health and progress after the surgery is performed. The surgery is only a tool to provide people with a reduction in co-morbidities and enough weight loss to give one a chance to develop a healthier lifestyle. Co-morbidities include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, high triglycerides, diabetes, reflux disease, obstructive sleep apnea, stress incontinence, low back pain, and arthritis. By continuing to monitor the patient's health indices, as well as providing education and support, our patients have the best chance at maintaining the success of surgery long-term. We will provide recommendations for a healthy diet and an exercise plan that enhances their overall well-being. Ideally, we would like to follow-up with all of our bariatric surgery patients throughout their lifetime.

NSB: What advantages does a University Bariatric Surgery Program provide to the patient and to the community?

Lau: The advantages are several-fold. Clinically, a high volume center with surgery performed by fellowship-trained surgeons gives the patient the best chance for good outcomes. Patients benefit from the surgeons' rigorous medical training as well as the vast experience obtained from performing numer-

ous surgeries. To the surgical community, our University program educates future surgeons (residents) and will provide additional education in laparoscopic techniques to practicing general surgeons nationally. For the local and statewide community, we are launching an innovative obesity prevention project called HOPE: Healthy Options for Prevention and Education. This program aims to prevent obesity by educating children and their families on how to achieve a healthier lifestyle. A major emphasis of this program is learning nutritional guidelines, creating healthy menu options on a limited budget, and developing a family oriented exercised program.

For the future, I plan on expanding the technology for surgery to include foregut and gastric bypass surgery with the Da Vinci Surgical System. Continued clinical research is essential part of an academic university program to improve the knowledge and techniques in the care of this complex patient population and the disease of obesity. Academic excellence also means a presence in the national and world context.

NSB: What surgeries are offered?

Lau: The traditional gastric bypass (both laparoscopic and robotic), the laparoscopic adjustable band, and the laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy.

NSB: Who qualifies for these surgeries?

Lau: Anyone who is determined to be morbidly obese would qualify; approximately speaking, individuals who are 100 or more pounds above their ideal body weight are morbidly obese. A body mass index (BMI) is the method most commonly used to measure obesity. This is a calculation of your weight in kilograms divided by the square of your height in meters. The National Institutes of Health, with their 1991 Consensus Conference Criteria, set the qualifications for surgery nationally. A BMI of 35 – 39 with co-morbidities or a BMI greater than 40 qualifies one as a candidate for weight loss surgery. The age range is 18-65 years old. An adolescent should only be considered a candidate for surgery after careful screening

and education at one of the specialized adolescent weight loss surgery centers in the country.

NSB: What are the risks of weight loss surgery?

Lau: Gastric bypass surgery is major abdominal surgery with significant risks. Although the lap-band surgery has less operative complications, there is a risk that the band can either slip or erode. There is a risk of death with both procedures, 1 in 200 with the gastric bypass and 1 in 10,000 with the laparoscopic band. The risk for patients decreases in high volume centers, where physicians with specialized training and extensive experience perform the surgeries. With both surgeries, there is a risk of inadequate weight loss without adherence to a diet and exercise program. There is always a risk of requiring another operation or conversion to an open operation with a long incision.

NSB: What is the success rate for these types of operations?

Lau: The gastric bypass operation allows patients to lose about two-thirds of their excess body weight, and it is the most effective way to reverse obesity related co-morbidities including sleep apnea, hypertension, and diabetes. The lap-band operation allows patients to lose 50% of their excess body weight in two years. This surgery also is effective in reversing obesity related co-morbidities, but only as weight is lost.

NSB: In addition to being an accomplished bariatric surgeon, you are also quite passionate about educating young people so in the future they might avoid having to undergo surgery.

Lau: The picture of Nevada's health is not pretty. We are the 42nd heaviest state in the nation and in terms of co-morbidity we rank 31st for adult diabetes and 30th for hypertension. Clearly something needs to be done.

NSB: How do we find out more about HOPE?

Lau: We can be contacted by calling (702) 671-5150 or (702) 671-2373. Our e-mail address is weightloss@medicine.nevada.edu. 

Native sovereignty and waters of the West

Sovereignty — it’s a word heard more commonly these days. Not so long ago, this term was largely relegated to legal and legislative domains, but things seem to have changed — today sovereignty is on the lips of a wide array of people, from journalists in Hawai’i to anglers in Wisconsin, from activists in Nevada to bureaucrats in Washington. And for good reason — indigenous rights organizations and tribal governments themselves have brought the issues and ideas behind native sovereignty more fully into the public view.

Sovereignty encompasses the idea of governance of a people by that people. The rights of a sovereign are:

- to establish and maintain territorial boundaries,
- to create and enforce laws that protect citizenry,
- to connect disparate communities through establishing a sense of identity.

Fundamentally, sovereignty is a concept about the meaning, extent and structure of government — that is, its relative authority,

autonomy, and responsibilities.

While sovereignty doesn’t lend itself well to quantitative gauges, there is ample evidence that indigenous peoples — the diverse native peoples within the United States, collectively called American Indians, Native Alaskans and Hawai’ians — have made remarkable strides in asserting

their rights as sovereigns. Consider the active court systems of tribal governments in the United States as well as the police forces, social service agencies, transportation planning

centers, educational institutions, and water planning organizations that are operated as institutions for and by indigenous peoples. This is not to suggest that all is settled and native sovereignty is widely understood and well-accepted. The dimensions and characteristics of native sovereignty are, in fact, regularly contested, sometimes rather vehemently by state government representatives who challenge or stand in opposition to native and tribal sovereignty. Recent examples are evident in decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, in which lawsuits pitted states against native groups or American Indian tribes over various dimensions of sovereignty. These include:

- a decision in 1991 regarding the sovereign immunity of the state of Alaska relative to two native communities;
- a decision in 1993 about the tribal authority of the Cheyenne River Sioux to regulate hunting and fishing as opposed to the authority of the state of South Dakota;
- a decision in 1996 concerning the resolution of disputes between the Seminole Tribe and the state of Florida over reservation gaming;
- a decision in 1997 about whether the Coeur D’Alene Tribe or the state of Idaho had jurisdiction over submerged lands under a lake; and
- a decision in 2000 regarding the water rights allocations of tribes along the lower Colorado River relative to states of Arizona and California.

These last two U.S. Supreme Court decisions involve conflicts between Western states and tribes over water matters, but it was a judicial decision 99 years ago — the 1908 U.S. Supreme Court case *Winter v. United States* — that has become a landmark for all subsequent water allocation that involve tribal governance and Western states. The “Winters” case, as it has come to be known, involved a dispute over waters of the Milk River in northern Montana between the Indians of the

Fort Belknap Indian Reservation and settlers who had arrived during the waning years of the 19th century after the tribal land base had been diminished. In 1905, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, who had developed irrigation on the reservation, requested the U.S. Department of Justice take action against the settlers to ensure an adequate supply of water for crops on the tribe’s reservations. In its capacity as trustee for the tribe, the U.S. Department of Justice filed suit in U.S. District Court and the United States and the Fort Belknap Tribe won not only this case but subsequent appeals in the Ninth Circuit Court and U.S. Supreme Court. The decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in this case forms the foundation of the reserved water right (or Winters) doctrine that is used to this day as a guide to allocating waters between tribal governments and water users in Western states.

The essential elements of the reserved water rights doctrine have come to be understood as:

- whether explicitly stated or not, treaties and agreements made between the United States and Indian tribes imply a reservation of both land and water, in order to make the land habitable;
- the basis for a reserved water right claim is to meet the purpose of the reservation, as set forth in congressional treaty, executive order or federal statute;
- reserved water rights are based on federal laws rather than state laws;
- unlike the prior appropriation system of water allocation adopted by many western states, reserved rights are reserved indefinitely;
- the amount of a reserved right is based upon a determination of the resources available on the reservation, regardless of how many people historically or currently reside on the reservation;
- the priority to use water (or the “seniority” of the water right) is generally based upon the date when the reservation was established.

Kate A. Berry is an associate professor of geography. She is also the president of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, an organization of more than 600 professional and academic geographers in eight Western states and two Canadian provinces.

Art Curating

by Marjorie Vecchio, director of the Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery

In the years since the Winters case, in addition to federally designated Indian reservations, other federal reservations of land have also been granted reserved water rights, such as military reservations or National Parks.

An example of how native sovereignty connects to the realm of water rights can be found in the Northern Arapaho and the Eastern Shoshone of the Wind River Reservation. The Shoshone were granted land rights to the Wind River Reservation under a treaty in 1868 and a decade later the Arapaho were moved by the U.S. Army onto the Wind River Reservation. Since that time, the boundaries of the reservation were changed through a series of land cessions and restorations, but both tribes remained on the reservation. Despite their traditional differences, both tribes came together to secure water rights for the places both valued on the reservation. In 1985, after years of conflict and litigation between the tribes and the state and ranchers, a court decree awarded the Wind River tribes more than a half-million acre-feet* of senior water rights to the Big Horn River and Wind River.

Exerting their powers as a sovereign government, the tribes developed and enacted a Water Code in 1990 and, under the terms of the code, the tribes issued a permit for instream flows for the reservation to enhance conditions for fisheries and to ensure flows through the reservation. The state of Wyoming disputed the administration of water rights by the tribes as well as the instream flow permit that had been issued, and in 1992 the Wyoming Supreme Court ruled in favor of the state. While the tribes have not had success in asserting their administrative powers over water, they were able to secure water rights for the reservation and, in the process, developed institutional capacity that allows them to continue work on water rights matters and exert the powers as sovereigns. [N](#)

*An acre foot of water is the volume of water it takes to cover an acre of land to a depth of one foot, or approximately 325,853.4 U.S. gallons. An acre foot of water is roughly the amount of water a family of four uses annually.

1. A curator designs exhibitions by theme or artists, chooses the artists and then goes through their artwork deciding which pieces to show.

2. Many artists are “crossing over” to curate in order to reclaim artistic freedom in exhibitions, which in most institutions — museums and commercial galleries — are inspired by the market and audience income rather than the joy and intelligence of art.

3. Some artists prefer to have a conversation with a curator and design their own exhibitions, or make new work for the show, which is an exciting (or scary) prospect for a curator.

4. Studio visits with artists can end up as three-hour discussions.

5. Some curators follow, support and show the same artists for a lifetime.

6. Until recently, curators never went to school to learn their craft; they often just fell into it and programs did not exist. In the last 15 years, many master of arts programs for curatorial studies have popped up around the globe. This is a controversial topic in the art world as many believe the development of these programs are a part of the commercialization of higher education and doesn't make better curators.

7. Sheppard Gallery spends on average two to eight days installing an exhibition.

8. Not all exhibitions are purely between an artist and curator. If an artist is represented by a commercial gallery, the curator also has to deal with the dealer as an intermediary, often for approval of the exhibition, image rights for photographs, shipping of artworks, any sales that occur, etc.

9. Staying informed about the newest contemporary art means traveling to at least one or more international art fair each year,

10. A curator has another equally time-consuming and important job — especially in smaller galleries — as a writer. They have to write grants, public relations pieces, catalog essays and curatorial statements.

Marjorie Vecchio, Ph.D., is the first professional curator to serve as director of the Sheppard Fine Arts Gallery since it opened in 1960 as one of the few experimental, professional, contemporary art spaces in northern Nevada. Vecchio will curate “Orion's Belt,” her first exhibit as gallery director at the University of Nevada, Reno, Sept. 10 to Oct. 5.



Photo by Jean Dixon

Marjorie Vecchio

. . . Sing at the Met

By Dolora Zajick '76 (music), '78M.A.

Aficionados of classic vocal performance have a love for the Metropolitan Opera at New York City's Lincoln Center. It is one of the premier performing arts venues in the world, and for a talented vocalist theatrically presenting a coveted role, its stage is akin to playing in the Super Bowl. Mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick, a University of Nevada, Reno graduate who can reach in full voice the high F notes of Mozart's Queen of the Night aria in The Magic Flute, talks about the unique experience.

What does it feel like to sing Amneris at the Met? Once while singing this role in *Aida* there, I heard a collective audible gasp from the audience. I assumed I had made some sort of mistake and, thinking I had done something wrong, concentrated more on what I was doing. Meanwhile the prompter was desperately trying to get my attention. The audience gasped again, and the prompter looked frantic, so I concentrated even harder. It turned out that the set had caught on fire, and a stagehand was putting out the fire from behind the chorus in time to the music. It made the *National Lampoon*.

Such is the real stuff of a performance.

When I prepare the day of a performance, there is no time to think of one's famous predecessors. I do consider and study what they have done artistically when I am learning a new role, but the day of a performance I laze about all morning, then go to the theater three hours before to warm up.

When performing there is no time for fear, and it is all about concentration. There is no time to dwell on a past moment because all concentration is on the present. When most singers enter the stage, there is a surge of adrenaline similar to what professional athletes experience, a moment of fear that fades, but leaves the body functioning at a higher level than normal. Because of that, many



Zajick performing *Aida*.

performers become adrenaline junkies. The rest drink coffee.

Opera is craft as well as an art. When a singer looks at a theater, they don't think of a theater as hallowed with grand traditions. I am more likely to be thinking about acoustics. Are there dead or hot spots on stage? Does the set reflect the sound or does it absorb it, and how does the orchestra balance with the singing in this setting? Singers are more likely to be thinking technically, so that they can create

that magic for the audience.

One doesn't tend to notice any details that don't have anything to do with the performance. All concentration is on the things that can interfere with a performance. Does my costume and makeup suit my character? Is there a weak link in the cast that must be compensated for? Are the props in order? Am I properly warmed up? What do I do if the horses in *Aida* happen to poop on stage, or the tenor's wig catches on fire.

Any company that uses large animals such as horses and elephants in *Aida* runs into the poop problem. The Met solved it by having the Egyptian royal pooper scooper, a supernumerary dressed as an Egyptian with a long-handled dust pan and a broom.

Many things can go wrong. The conductor gets a cramp in his arm, the trumpet makes a big blooper, or worse yet, a singer falls into the prompter box or has a cold, the soprano has canceled, the first cover has the flu, the second cover breaks her leg and the replacement has had no rehearsal. Other things can happen, too. No one can find the tenor because he's hiding in the dressing room shower with a towel over his head. The baritone has become competitive and is upstaging everything you do. The soprano has decided to sing all her ensemble notes one-fourth beat longer than the cutoff, when everyone else has stopped singing. Even the props can do unexpected things.

“When most singers enter the stage, there is a surge of adrenaline similar to what professional athletes experience, a moment of fear that fades, but leaves the body functioning at a higher level than normal. Because of that, many performers become adrenaline junkies. The rest drink coffee.”

I was once singing the witch in *Rusalka* at the Met. I had a mechanical cat attached to my shoulder that had a tail that twitched back and forth, and a head that rolled from side to side with glowing eyes. At one point I would hit the cat's head with a big wooden spoon I was using to mix things into a cauldron to create a spell. One night I hit the head too hard and it fell off, and I had to finish the scene with a headless cat with its tail still swishing back and forth. I had no idea what to do with the head, so I shrugged my shoulders and threw it into the cauldron with all the other things. I managed to not to break the spell, and the audience thought it was part of the comedy.

The pros learn to cover such incidents. Film has the wonderful option of editing such things. Live opera does not have that safety

net. It is one of the elements of live performance, and as a singer, I've also learned to think on my feet.

Usually it all ends well with the audience having no clue of the drama going on. Sometimes the audience notices, especially when a singer has to cancel halfway through a performance.

After the performance is finished, the singers take their final bows. Until that moment, there is no time to think of the audience. Usually things go right. Nobody is booed. But once a crazy fan threw a flower with a stem wrapped in tin foil to give him better aim.

It didn't hit the concert master in the head, but landed at my feet.

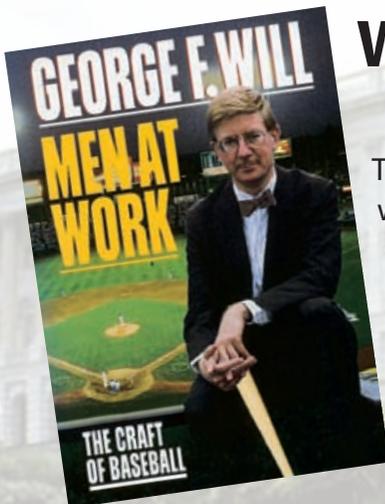
I take my bow and the crowd bravos. Sometimes we can create magic, but for every magical performance, there is a performance where things go wrong, and it is our job to keep the illusion going. That is what usually goes through the mind of an opera singer during a performance. If we do our jobs well, the audience experiences the mystique. We experience the audience response when it is all done, and have the satisfaction of a job well done. **N**

Zajick, an Oregon native who was raised in Nevada, received vocal training from the late University music professor Ted Puffer, founder and longtime artistic director for Nevada Opera. She joined the opera company's chorus when she was a premed student at Nevada and gained international renown after her performance as Azucena in Il Trovatore with the San Francisco Opera.

FOUNDATION BANQUET

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Proceeds benefit numerous educational opportunities at the University of Nevada, Reno.

BRILLIANT STUDENTS ARE GOOD FOR THE UNIVERSITY *(and vice versa)*

By Melanie Robbins '06M.A.

Honors students may not all be geeks, but they do set themselves apart from the throng. Deanne Leonard '07 (psychology/biology), for example, last May's Herz Gold Medalist, is not only a straight-A student with a soon-to-be-published research paper under her belt, she's also bilingual and an opera singer.

When others were riding tricycles, Leonard, now 22, was learning Spanish. When her peers were thumbing away at Nintendo, she was a member of the Reno Philharmonic Chorus and the Nevada Opera Chorus, becoming a soloist for the University of Nevada Women's Chorus while still in high school. Music and language aren't her only talents, however. She wants to be a doctor — possibly a plastic surgeon specializing in reconstructive surgery. She began her studies at the University of Nevada School of Medicine this fall.

The Herz Gold Medal is the University's top undergraduate academic honor.

Aside from possessing vast intellectual scope and curiosity, these top scholars — who were some 450 strong and growing during the 2006-2007 academic year — also muster unusual determination and commitment, as well as leadership qualities beyond their years.

For example, Raymond Hooft, 18, an incoming freshman and National Merit Scholar from Sparks, says he had to take extra classes in high school in order to qualify to earn the National Merit Scholar distinction.

"It's more of a commitment in time, but if you are willing to put in the work, you will reap the benefits later," Hooft says.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is a prestigious national competition that awards top high school scholars with distinction for academic performance. The program is based primarily on test scores, but a competing student must also provide letters of recommendation, submit an essay and be committed to obtaining higher education. While the program awards some monetary scholarships, it is the institutions of higher learning that compete with each other for these top students by offering scholarship packages and perquisites.

Consider the leadership qualities being honed in Honors Program student Grace Morris, a 20-year-old junior who is majoring in both economics and international business. Like many top students, Morris devotes time to extracurricular activities in addition to studying hard. She serves as the current president of the Black Student Organization, as well as a volunteer mentor in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, a national one-on-one youth mentoring program that offers positive role models to children in need.

Morris says: "Volunteering doesn't take up a lot of your time, but it does make a world of difference to the kids, and not to mention, you leave feeling really good about yourself."

Since President Milton Glick took office on Aug. 1, 2006, he has pressed to recruit more National Merit Scholars, as well as other top scholars to the University, citing the value their presence adds to campus life:

"Having the best and brightest in our classrooms elevates the learning experience for everyone. When

Continues on page 22

LINCOLN HALL



Tamara Valentine, director of the Honors Program, is dedicated to helping students like Kristen Spencer, 19, of Reno. Spencer is an undecided sophomore (and definitely not a “geek”) who’s leaning toward a science major. As one of the University’s top students, she appreciates the quality of the education she is receiving at Nevada: “The Honors Program is dedicated to giving everyone the step up needed to take their life to the top,” she says.

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

'Having the best and brightest in our classrooms elevates the learning experience for everyone.'

— Milton Glick

faculty know that they are teaching the best students, they treat all students differently. They have higher expectations and students respond accordingly," Glick says.

As a result of redoubled efforts by Student Services recruiters, academic advisers and faculty, the University welcomed its largest ever contingent — 10 students — of National Merit Scholars for the 2007–2008 academic year.

National Merit Scholars are highly coveted. Entering freshman Colin Kupitz, 18, of Las Vegas, notes, "Colleges were aggressively recruiting me for the last part of my senior year in high school. There were so many letters that I probably threw away a couple of offers for full rides — without realizing it."

Glick notes, however, that there's a lot more to developing a top-notch school than just having brilliant students, however desirable they may be: "Building a first-rate program isn't only about recruiting National Merit finalists — it's about providing programs, services and facilities that deliver a first-rate education and make our University a destination of choice for the best students in Nevada and the West."

The quality of the educational environment is exactly what brought Leonard — who would be a top student in any setting — back to continue her graduate education at Nevada, never hoping for any place "better."

"I really like the University of Nevada School of Medicine. It was my first choice not only because there are small class sizes, but because the environment itself is warm and inviting," Leonard says.

Leonard also chose to stay at Nevada because of the quality of her undergraduate education. Like all Honors Program students, she was encouraged to study abroad and do research — programs that are available to all undergraduates through two innovative programs — the University Study Abroad Consortium and the Office of Undergraduate Research — that, just like Glick envisions, ramp up the services offered to all students to a highly competitive level.

Through USAC and with the financial support of the national Phi Kappa Phi Study

Abroad Award, Leonard spent a summer in Puebla, Mexico and honed her Spanish by taking a medical terminology course. She can now not only converse fluently and is up on the latest slang, but can also communicate complicated medical information such as prescriptions and diagnoses in Spanish. Her skills were put to the test recently while volunteering at a local hospital. Staff called on her to translate for a Spanish-only family and explain complicated procedures and medication information, which she did during a six-hour marathon session.

"It was an amazing experience," she recalls.

Leonard also co-authored a research paper on visual perception with her mentor, Michael Webster, Foundation Professor of psychology. She presented her research at the 2007 meeting of the Vision Sciences Society in Sarasota, Fla., in May. The paper, "Cone-specific gain changes compensate color appearance for differences in spectral sensitivity," will soon be published in the *Journal of Vision*.

Of her Nevada undergraduate experience, Leonard says, "The Honors Program is a very outstanding learning environment, and I would like to express my gratitude to the wonderful faculty, administration and staff at this University." This sentiment is echoed by other top students who have experienced Nevada.

Christina Kim '05 (political science) took on the academic challenges of the Honors Program with gusto: "The requirement of writing an honors senior thesis was invaluable. I think that undertaking a thesis project not only helps with research and writing skills but also provides a good way of wrapping up your undergraduate years. What better way to graduate than with a polished work product that you spent countless numbers of hours on?" Kim, 24, from Reno, began graduate studies at the UCLA School of Law this fall.

Join the Honors Program Alumni Chapter!

Contact: Dr. Tamara Valentine

email: tvalenti@unr.edu

Phone: (775) 784-1455

Address: University of Nevada, Reno, MS 0112, Reno, NV, 89557

And Jonathan Floriani, 20, a junior from Las Vegas majoring in biochemistry, raves: "The Honors Program is an amazing guide that enhances an already excellent curriculum here at UNR."

Students give much of the credit for the terrific Honors Program to its director, Tamara Valentine, and her hands-on staff. Floriani recounts how Valentine and the Honors Program staff went beyond the call of duty to help him start and operate a successful student organization. Synergy Operations "has been successful in building events that encourage teamwork, brains and brawn," he says of the organization he started last year.

Studying and even living together in the dorms create bonds of friendship between students, as well as generate an ideal learning environment. Floriani lived in White Pine Hall his entering year: "I met a majority of the friends I have now within the hall... during our usual shenanigans. These are the people that I can rely on for the rest of my life."

Two years ago, the Honors Program and the Department of Residential Life, Housing and Food Service created the Honors Residential Scholars Community, a living learning community on the second floor of Argenta Hall just for honors students. "They automatically have a community when they come in, which is good for students," Valentine says, adding that this "instant" community of top learners is especially important for students from Las Vegas, who don't know the northern Nevada students.

Kupitz, the National Merit Scholar from Las Vegas who began his studies this fall, says the guaranteed admission to the Honors Residential Scholars living learning community was the "sticking point" in selling him on Nevada: "The perks at Reno's Honors Program are better than those at any other college... the nicety of living near and with people that will be in my classes, combined with early enrollment, UNR's scholarship and the Millennium Scholarship, made Reno seem like the perfect choice. And it didn't hurt that I loved the campus when I went on the tour." 

Donors seek to keep brilliant minds in Nevada

By Melanie Robbins '06M.A.

The problem with National Merit Scholars is that everybody wants them. With 90-plus each year in Nevada and offers pouring in, keeping these top national scholars can be like trying to keep water in a sieve.

Donors like Sara '73 (English/journalism) and Leonard Lafrance feel strongly that it doesn't have to be that way. Inspired by Dean Ted Batchman's concern and President Milton Glick's initiative to bring more National Merit Scholars to the University, the Lafrances have established a \$100,000 scholarship fund to benefit top scholars studying engineering and computer science.

"It was a way to give back," says Sara, who, along with her husband, had a successful 23-year career in the software industry, prior to moving to Incline Village in 1998.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition that began in 1955. Of 1.4 million high school-age entrants each year, some 50,000 qualify, based on test scores, for recognition. Of those, only about 8,200 advance to the finalist stage and receive Merit Scholarships from the program.

In 2005, Sara and Leonard established the Lafrance Family Foundation with the mission of recognizing, nurturing, and supporting gifted young people in developing areas of the world as well as contributing to educational programs and establishing scholarships for gifted children in the local area. Their contribution of a National Merit Scholarship for the College of Engineering is in keeping with this endeavor.

Their scholarship fund is working. Three engineering National Merit Scholars have chosen Nevada over other potential schools.

According to Raymond Hooft, 18, an incoming freshman from Sparks who will be majoring in civil engineering, the scholarship clinched the deal. But it was also the warm welcome he received from the University's



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Sara and Leonard Lafrance are thrilled to help National Merit Scholars such as incoming freshmen Tyler Aas and Raymond Hooft, who are aspiring engineers.

recruitment team that made him feel like staying in his hometown.

"It was how much they seemed to want me. I met with President Glick and Provost Frederick, and after meeting with all different kinds of people, I kind of felt at home," Hooft says.

Tyler Aas, 18, also an incoming National Merit Scholar from Reno, said the money was important to his decision, too. Having taken two math classes at Nevada while a senior at Reno High School, Aas says that he "already had a good impression of the school." Aas will major in mechanical engineering.

Joshua Gansberg, 18, also an incoming mechanical engineering major and a National Merit Scholar, hails from Carson City. He chose Nevada because of its proximity to his home, and because the quality of education here is comparable to that he could find anywhere.

"Why go far away to get basically the same caliber of school?" he notes, rhetorically. Like others, Gansberg fielded a number of offers from other institutions.

Despite still being just a short drive from their parents' homes, all three freshmen will be striking out on their own for the first time and are looking forward to living in the Honors Residential Scholars Community, a living learning community in Argenta Hall.

As another aspect of giving back to the

University, Sara chairs the College of Engineering Advisory Board, and the Public Affairs and Advocacy Committee for the University Foundation Board, where she is a trustee.

"The College of Engineering has phenomenal, leading-edge programs. It's a well-kept secret, but it shouldn't be," Sara notes.

The college maintains 15 laboratories and research centers, including Computer Vision and Robotics, Bridge Engineering, Virtual Reality, and Earthquake Engineering, which is among the top ten facilities in the nation, boasting the \$20 million James E. Rogers and Louis Wiener Jr. Large-Scale Structures Labora-

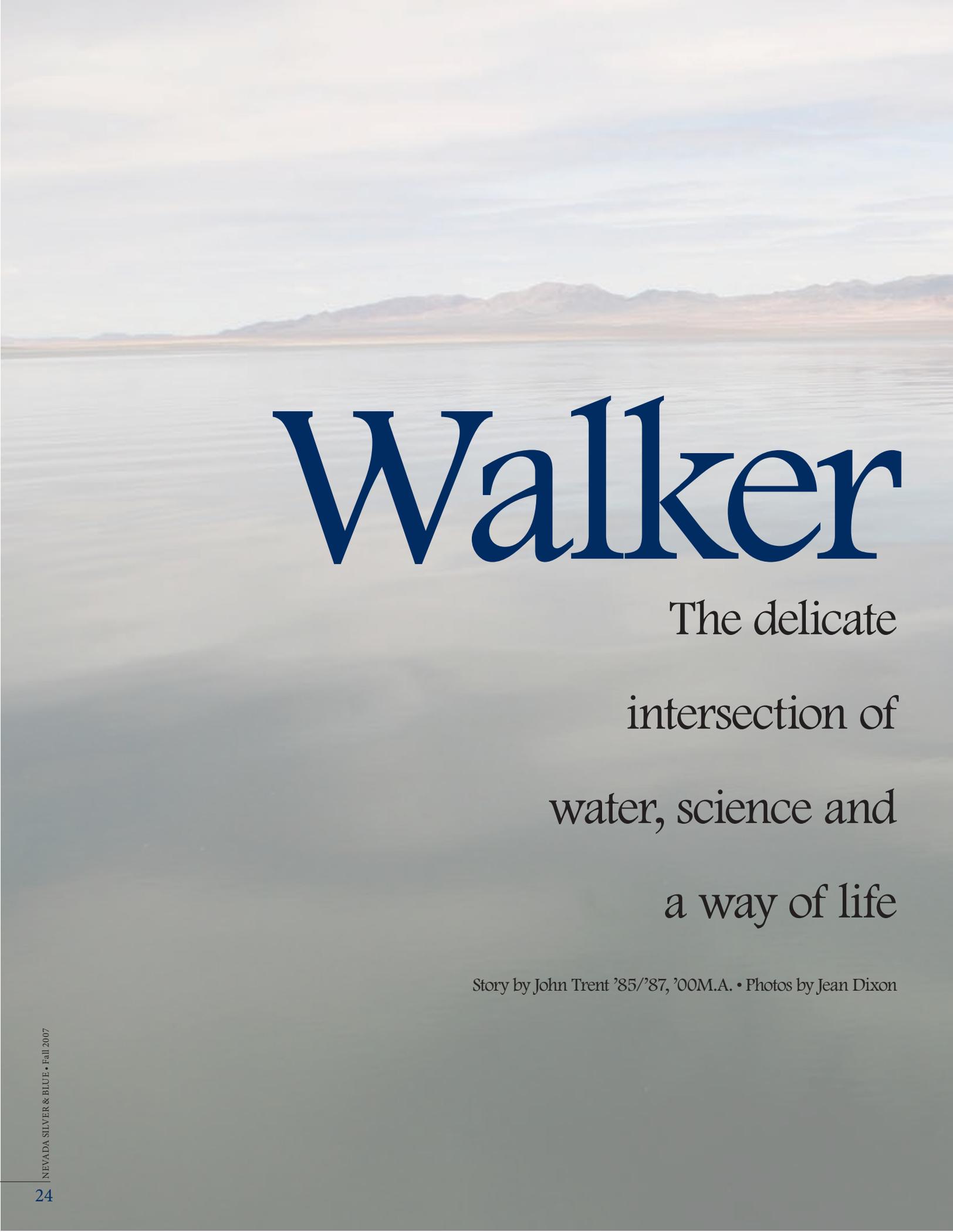
tory. The 9,000-square-foot laboratory holds the only set of three, 50-ton earthquake shake tables in the United States.

Dean of the College of Engineering Ted Batchman notes that the Lafrance's gift will support not only the student recipients, but also the community:

"Through the Lafrance Family Foundation, Sara and Leonard Lafrance support excellence. For years the college has been hearing from our industry partners and our community members that we are losing Nevada's excellent students. We've heard the best and brightest students go to schools in other states. These are our future leaders and this scholarship helps us keep them here as citizens, key managers and entrepreneurs."

Sara and Leonard are also members of Sierra Angels, a Northern Nevada investment group that focuses on promising early stage companies. Sara is active in several educational and service organizations, including Guide Dogs for the Blind, and serves on the Board of Trustees for KNPB Channel 5, Reno Public Television.

Leonard has recently been involved with the development of another software company, and SCORE (Service Core of Retired Executives) a national non-profit association that counsels small businesses.



Walker

The delicate
intersection of
water, science and
a way of life

Story by John Trent '85/'87, '00M.A. • Photos by Jean Dixon



Lake

The drive from Las Vegas to Reno in January 1969 was interminable for the young Nevada State Assemblyman.

There was much on Harry Reid's mind as he left southern Nevada that morning, headed out on a long, solitary drive for Carson City and the beginning of that year's session of the Nevada State Legislature.

Reid, still in his 20s, had left hesitantly that morning. He was leaving his wife, Landra, and their two young children behind, at home. There was also the matter of his Las Vegas law practice and how he would manage it, living for the next 120 days out of a cramped room at the Frontier Motel.

Continues on page 26

“I remember I had a lot on my mind during that drive,” recalls Reid, now majority leader of the United States Senate.

Reid remembers the endless stretches of sagebrush, the vast sameness of the land that made the loneliness well in him even more strongly.

And then, just after cruising through the small northern Nevada town of Hawthorne, Reid’s thoughts were broken. A massive lake rose like a mirage from the desert floor.

Reid couldn’t believe his eyes. Years earlier, during the late 1950s, he had traveled on a school bus from his hometown in Henderson, Nev., for the state baseball championships, and had passed the same spot.

The lake hadn’t registered then.

Now, though, the sight of Walker Lake pulled something deep from within Reid.

“I thought, ‘My land, I can’t believe this,’” Reid says. “This lake . . . it’s just like it shouldn’t belong. But it did belong. Nature had put it there, and it was quite a sight to see.”

As Reid notes, 18-mile-long, 6-mile-wide Walker Lake has always been a bit of an anomaly. It is one of only six desert terminal lakes in the United States with a fresh water fishery, and one of only three — Pyramid Lake and Summit Lake are the others — in Nevada. It is the terminus for the Walker River watershed, whose ebbing and rising flows upstream from the lake have helped support the agricultural communities in the Smith and Mason valleys for more than 100 years.

And therein lies the problem, at least as far as the health of Walker Lake is concerned. Walker Lake is rapidly disappearing. The lake’s level has declined 145 feet since 1882, with increased salinity that has major implications for the wildlife that the lake supports, including a once thriving fishery, as well as thousands of



breeding and migrating water birds.

The solution seems easy enough: Get more water into Walker Lake.

Yet how can this be accomplished without irreparably damaging the agricultural economies of Walker’s upstream communities, such as Smith Valley and Yerington? How can this happen so that the economic viability of the neighboring Walker River Paiute Tribe as well as the residents of Hawthorne, can also be enhanced?

It is one of the most difficult dilemmas Nevada has, one that is emblematic of a larger debate throughout the country regarding water and how use of this most precious of Western resources can be maximized in a time of uncertain precipitation and global climate change.

“From the get-go, throughout the West, the problem has been over-allocation. That was how the agricultural economy of the West was able to develop,” says Jim Thomas, research professor at the Desert Research Institute. Thomas has studied the Walker Basin watershed for nearly 20 years. “Unfortunately, irrigation seems like it always ends up in the crosshairs of this debate. It will always be a complicated issue for the West, because it’s mixed with the needs of different users and producers, as well as the roots and values of all these people.”

In an effort to solve the Walker dilemma,

the Nevada System of Higher Education has embarked on an 18-month, \$70 million study of the Walker Basin. The project, sponsored by Reid (D-Nev.) and co-sponsor Nevada Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.), has been authorized and funded through a congressional appropriation. Research by the University of Nevada, Reno and DRI is limited to \$14 million of this figure, with the rest set aside for the acquisition of water rights from willing sellers.

Research done by University and DRI scientists will explore the best means to get water to Walker Lake while maintaining a strong economy and improving the ecosystem of the Walker Lake watershed. It will involve developing a watershed and decision-support model and will evaluate economic impacts of water purchases, low-water use drought-resistant crops, water conservation, in-stream health of the Walker River, as well as sediment and salt delivery to the lake.

“Decades of litigation involving Walker hasn’t solved many of its problems,” Reid says. “In Congress, we’ve worked to save Nevada’s two great terminal lakes, and we’ve managed to save Pyramid. We’re taking the same approach with Walker. Walker is very, very important, and it’s important to keep it healthy, keep it alive. A healthy Walker Lake speaks well of Nevada . . . an unhealthy Walker Lake doesn’t speak well of our state. We have some of the finest scientists in the world at UNR and DRI, and their comprehensive research is going to provide critical information that will not only help improve the health of Walker Lake, it will help sustain the local economy.”

The appropriation also includes funding for acquisition of water and/or water rights from willing sellers at fair market value for approval from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The acquisition program will be reviewed in an

Environmental Impact Analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act.

“We are striving to do all of this in the most open and transparent manner possible,” says Nevada System vice chancellor Dan Klaich, noting that a stakeholders committee group of 16 individuals serving as representatives of agencies or organizations in the Walker Basin as well as members from other Nevada communities and statewide agencies, has met three times since December.

“The Walker research projects are on a very fast track,” adds Thomas, who is serving, along with Mike Collopy, director of the University’s Academy for the Environment, as coordinator of the research end of the effort. Thomas received his Ph.D. from Nevada in 1996. “We’re very pleased with how it’s moving along, and we anticipate having some research results in a year. What distinguishes this project from previous work at Walker is how this project isn’t just looking at potential scenarios if water rights could be leased or purchased.

“Now we’re looking at providing the best information to help efficiently move water into the lake — and this is just as important — while also providing information to have a strong economy in the basin. This isn’t just about getting more water to the lake now. It’s a big-picture approach that hopefully will leave everyone and everything much stronger.”

Adds Collopy: “It’s also very important to both the University and DRI that the research

LOOK ONLINE

For more information about the Walker Basin Project, visit: <http://www.nevada.edu/walker/>

conducted by our faculty provide objective data that contribute meaningfully to the lively debate that accompanies discussions of water use and whatever policy decisions are ultimately developed. Our faculty and students are interested in helping the ecologies and economies of the state of Nevada.

“We hope that those who live and work in the Walker River Basin understand that we are committed to providing the most reliable and helpful information.”



John Snyder, shown with daughter Alexandra, 13, and son, Darwin, 7 in his home outside of Yerington, can trace his roots in the Mason Valley back more than 100 years. The onion and alfalfa producer says of his life: “But it’s the quality of the living that we like so much.”

TO BETTER UNDERSTAND what is at stake, you take the drive on Highway 95A, past Fernley and toward Yerington, stopping at one of the onion farms, neatly framed with cottonwoods, not far from Wabuska.

You meet John Snyder. He is 49, a father of seven, a grandfather of two. He has held his face to the high Mason Valley sun for most of his life, working the nearby onion and alfalfa fields that have been part of his family for more than 100 years. He is an unassuming man with a kindly voice that is as measured and meaningful as a church hymn — a voice perfect for telling stories. Even when he sits still, listening to a visitor talk across the kitchen table in his home outside of Yerington, Snyder radiates a deep sense of contentment.

“Bless All Who Enter” reads a sign above the kitchen.

“One of the greatest things this type of life teaches you is patience,” Snyder says. “You have to have patience. You plant and you hope that conditions are right to get a good crop, and you hope that prices are good for a good market. Most of the time, it’s just eking out a living. But it’s the quality of the living that we like so much.”

Snyder has led a diverse life. He’s never strayed too far from an agricultural life, though he earned a degree in engineering from Cal Poly San Luis-Obispo, and worked

for a time for the Walker River Irrigation District as an assistant manager, as well as for the Lyon County School District as its information technology director.

From 1998-2002, Snyder and his wife, Cindy, and two of the couple’s three children lived in Quito, Ecuador, directing a children’s home. The experience was so rewarding, the Snyders adopted four children from the home, three of whom were special needs children. Two of the children — Michelle, 6, and Elita, 2 have passed away due to complications from their disabilities.

Today, happily, Snyder counts his biological children, Steven, 27, Sarah, 25, Jonathan, 23 — as well as his adopted children from Ecuador, Darwin, 7, and Alexandra, 13 — as part of the great bounty that his life has given him. Alexandra, with glossy dark hair and a beaming smile that could launch a thousand ships, suffers from severe cerebral palsy. But, Snyder adds, Alex is your typical teenager in almost all other respects.

“She loves to talk on the phone with her friends,” Snyder says, smiling as he sighs the

Continues on page 28

universal father's lament of having a teenage daughter. "Sometimes you can't get her off the phone."

Snyder realizes that he could be the last in a long line of ranchers and farmers from his family. Youngest son Jonathan works on the farm but will soon be putting his degree as a youth pastor to full-time use. Snyder's 2,000 or so acres could be in completely different hands at some point in the future.

"I care about this valley a great deal," he says. "I know there are many court decisions that are giving preference to environmental issues, but they're placing the rights above the livelihood of the people, and I don't think that's right. So I see (changing the agricultural lifestyle) as very detrimental to this community, and this valley."

Yet, as strongly as Snyder feels about the value of agriculture and its place in the mix of the diverse elements in the Walker Basin equation, he realizes that it is important to listen. To hear out what the researchers have to say, to read their findings and then decide what the best course of action might be. To learn potentially valuable lessons that can help an industry that on its own — aside from the issue of the health of the lake — is evolving and facing challenges. To that end, he has been working with the Nevada Small Business Development Center to determine the economic impact and to help mitigate the impact caused by losses of water for area agricultural interests.

"The more I thought about it, the more I considered it, I thought it would be good to have someone from within the valley, who knows this culture, to help with this project, so there is some understanding," Snyder says. He adds with a chuckle, "Certainly some of the people that I've talked to in the valley are very apprehensive, and think I've gone over to the dark side. But after talking to them, they understand that I do have the interests of this valley, the interests of agriculture, first and foremost."

He is intrigued by what he has heard and learned so far.



Staci Emm, a native of Schurz and a University of Nevada Cooperative Extension educator who has studied the attitudes of the residents of the Walker Basin, from the agricultural interests upstream to those who live near Walker Lake. Her conclusion: "There is a lot of common ground." To Emm's left is the white house where her grandfather once worked the land of Schurz.

AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS professors Tom Harris and Kynda Curtis hold dual appointments in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. They, along with Cooperative Extension

educator Staci Emm, a native of nearby Schurz, are in the midst of a study with clear implications for Snyder and others like him along the Walker River.

"We're looking at current cropping and watering strategies, as well as potential alternative cropping and watering strategies," explains Curtis, a friendly, brisk-speaking native of Alaska, who has been at the University for four years. "The goal is to put this information into economic models to give people an idea of how they might be able to change their irrigation strategy or change their cropping regimen and still remain profitable. We're trying to give people ideas on how they can improve what they're doing."

The first part of the study has been a survey that has been sent to more than 300 landowners up and down the Walker River watershed. Curtis has been amazed by the response: 55 questionnaires returned in little more than two weeks.

"I was afraid that people would be reluctant to be give up some of this information, but evidently we were clear that this is going to be

used for educational purposes," she says, noting that she and her colleagues have a list of about 300 alternative crops that will probably be pared down to "five or eight that would be marketable, that would work in the Walker Basin."

"Most ag producers are environmentally conscious," Curtis says. "It's very important to them that their land remains usable, which means maintaining the quality of the land. We're hoping that our study, which looks more at the supply side of the water than the demand side of the water, will help give people some options so if the water diminishes, they will still be able to maintain their way of life and their business, and maintain their land in a useful state."

Harris, who has taught at Nevada for more than 20 years and, in Curtis' words, "knows everybody in this state" because of his easy-going personality and pleasant West Texas drawl, likens a study like this to the stock market, and diversifying one's portfolio.

"It's a hot-button issue, that's for certain," Harris says of water and Walker. As is his

Walker Basin research projects to gather storehouse of data

By John Trent '85/'87, '00M.A.

custom, Harris quickly moves from the realm of the personal to that of the business model — where there is usually little or no hot-button to press. “What we want to do more than anything else is give the people who live and work there a whole range of economic alternatives ... what they can expect, for example, given the variability of prices and potential variability in yields with reduced water to Walker River and the use of low-water crops. We need to help them understand how things might go in a good year, and we need to help them understand how things might go in a bad year. Maybe the information will be more telling for a bad year, I don't know. Then they'll have a full distribution of returns, and then they can decide what they want to do.”

Emm, who graduated from Mineral County High School in Hawthorne, and then from the University before joining Cooperative Extension, based much of her master's thesis on a study of attitudes in the Walker Basin.

Emm laughs quickly, but has a thoughtful demeanor. As she strides through the agricultural fields of Schurz, she still maintains much of the athletic fluidity that distinguished her during her playing days on state championship girls basketball teams in Hawthorne in the early 1990s. Quick as a cat, she is under and through a barbed wire fence. Then, she patiently waits as two visitors from the city awkwardly turn the same graceful movement into a teetering-on-disaster limbo line.

Like Snyder, Emm's family can trace its roots in the area back through the generations.

“My grandfather was born on a ditch bank in Smith Valley,” she says, touring part of her family's holdings on the Walker River Paiute Reservation in Schurz. She points to a tiny white house in the distance. “On my dad's side, his grandmother was one of the Indians who was relocated to the Yerington Reserva-

There has already been one “first” associated with the Walker River Basin research effort, and it occurred in the spring.

Scott Tyler, professor of hydrogeology, and one of the principal investigators on a research project to develop a hydrologic decision-support tool to help guide water right acquisitions, is using a series of fiber



Photo by Jean Dixon

University hydrology researcher professors Mark Walker, left, and Scott Tyler discuss cable testing to be used in environmental monitoring of area lakes and rivers, including the Walker Basin.

optic cables that were deployed from the center of Walker Lake in August.

In an earlier test-run at Lake Tahoe, the Distributed Temperature Sensor instrument — consisting of optical fiber that is able to receive temperature information at all points along the installation — Tyler was able to show, for the first time ever, clear evidence of internal waves at the thermocline boundary that resulted from storms and high winds the day before the deployment. The thermocline is the underwater boundary between the sun-warmed top water mass and a colder bottom water mass.

Data collected from studies such as Tyler's will be critical in capturing important relationships between such factors as climate, water (both in the lake and in river stream flows and ditches), groundwater pumping and irrigation practices.

“We're very fortunate that there are

places where the two research institutions, DRI and UNR, fit together very well, and bring a lot of expertise to the table,” says Jim Thomas, research professor at the Desert Research Institute, who is serving, along with Mike Collopy, director of the University's Academy for the Environment, as coordinator of the research end of the effort. “DRI is taking the lead in watershed modeling and is also working, in Scott's case, with groundwater modeling. And then there are areas where the University is taking the lead: alternative crop schemes, agricultural economics and socioeconomic factors. This project has been a perfect fit for the University and DRI to handle.

“The bottom line is we're providing a great deal of unbiased information. It's the essence of good science: providing the unbiased information so the decision-makers can make the best decision possible.”

Other research projects include:

- Socioeconomic, political and environmental analysis of land and water rights acquisitions in the Walker River ecosystem;
- Alternative agriculture and vegetation management;
- Plant, soil and water interactions;
- Assessment of the importance of water acquisitions to the health and in-stream environment, aquatic ecology and Total Dissolved Solids loading to Walker Lake;
- Development of recommendations to maximize water conveyance and minimize degradation of water quality in Walker Lake due to erosion, sediment transport and salt delivery;
- Economic analysis of water conservation practices for agricultural producers;
- Formulation and implementation of economic development strategies to mitigate economic and fiscal dislocations;
- Development of a water rights GIS database and associated demographic, economic and property databases of the Walker Basin;
- Wild horse and burro marketing study.

Continues on page 30

tion. My grandfather came here because he wanted to own the land — that’s how the family ended up here. They actually lived over there, in that little white house.”

Emm, who lives on a road leading to the back side to Walker Lake, within calling distance of her parents’ 100-acre property, says that there are actually many more similarities than differences between the disparate Walker interests.

“The majority of water rights holders have been in this basin for generations,” she says. “So you know that their personal and economic decisions are going to be very difficult for them to make because their lives have got a lot of basin history and culture behind them.

“I think there is common ground,” Emm continues. “There is a lot of common ground. I think there are solutions, but I think we need

to look at this as a kind of huge puzzle, and it’s going to take a little time to fit all of the pieces of the puzzle together.”

Near Yerington, only about 20 minutes away from Schurz but in some ways an entire world away, Snyder nevertheless echoes Emm’s words.

“I’m cautiously optimistic about the project,” Snyder says, “as long as people’s minds stay open and we aren’t forced to do anything that we don’t want to do, I think we can figure out a hopeful solution, a potential solution.”

Not long after, a Grant Smith Construction truck pulls up near Snyder’s front door, to dump 10 yards of sand for Snyder’s active 7-year-old son, Darwin, to play on. Darwin, with great glee, is on top of the pile before it even has a chance to settle.

“Darwin, you’re not getting any of that sand

in your shoes now, are you?” Snyder asks.

Darwin grins at his father. He continues to frolic, kicking sand everywhere. Norman Rockwell couldn’t have painted a more expressive or poignant picture, with a father watching his son tearing up and down the pile of sand like a small, joyful tornado, at home in the community where his family has farmed for generations.

It is a sight that clearly belongs in the Walker Basin.

Just as the sight of a healthy lake — the kind of blue desert jewel that took the breath away from a young freshman Assemblyman nearly 40 years ago — clearly belongs in the Walker Basin.

Perhaps both can continue to belong in the Walker Basin ... forever. 



The stark beauty of Walker Lake captured the attention and imagination of U.S. Sen. Harry Reid nearly 40 years ago when he was a young Nevada State Assemblyman. Today, thousands still flock each year to fish, photograph and experience the large desert lake.

Understanding DIFFERENCES

is the key to helping Latino business owners find their place on state's landscape

By Sean M. Grady

Throughout Nevada, Latinos, many relative newcomers to the state, have been a swiftly growing part of the population.

Naturally, they also have been a small but growing presence in the state's business world: retail, medicine, construction, real estate and a host of other professions and services.

For many Latinos, though, starting a business and keeping it going can be harder than usual, especially for those who are new to the American way of commerce. It is not merely the language barrier, but a series of cultural assumptions that can interfere with their path to success.

A BURGEONING POPULATION

First, the good news: Latino business owners in the United States, and in Nevada specifically, have made great strides over the past decade or so.

Across the nation, close to 1.6 million Latino-owned businesses were identified by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2002 Economic Census — the results of which came out in 2006 — a jump of 31 percent from the economic census of 1997.

(The Economic Census is a survey of a sample of the nation's more than 23 million businesses that the Census Bureau conducts every five years, for years ending in "2" and "7." That growth rate was triple the national average for all businesses, the bureau's report showed.

Moreover, the nation's Latino-owned businesses brought in roughly \$222 billion in sales during 2002, a 19 percent increase from 1997's figure.

"The growth we see in Hispanic-owned businesses illustrates the changing fabric of America's business and industry," says Louis Kincannon, the bureau's director.

Nevada in particular was one of the best states for Latino businesses, which experienced a 48 percent growth rate, placing the Silver State among the five top states for such growth and the only top-ranking state not on the Eastern Seaboard.

More recently, a wide-ranging report on the Reno-Sparks area — produced in 2004 by the University of Nevada, Reno and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Northern Nevada — identified 563 Latino-owned stores, restaurants, financial firms and other businesses.

That figure is for a group whose members — both those born in the United States and immigrants — are relative newcomers to the area.

"Most of the (Latino) people who are here have come here in the last 10 years," says Kate Berry, an associate professor in the University's Department of Geography who has studied the local Latino business community.

Before the mid-1990s, the best estimates assessed the Latino population as between 20 and 30 percent across the entire state.

Census Bureau demographics show the Latino population of Reno is about 22 percent and Las Vegas is about 27 percent, while rural towns post far higher percentages. For example, the Latino population in West Wendover, on the Nevada-Utah border in Elko County, is close to 60 percent.

And, surveys indicate there really is no such thing as a "typical" Latino-owned business.



Special publications, such as the two shown here, have helped Latino business owners in the state tell their story, and perhaps just as important, define their place in Nevada's economy.

"What we have found is there is a higher diversity in the number of businesses, from high-tech to landscaping," Berry says.

A TALE OF TWO CULTURES

Behind the statistics, though, is a story of acculturation somewhat different from that of most other ethnic groups in the United States.

Though the majority of local Latino businesses are less than five years old, their owners often come in with prior experience in their homelands, Berry says.

That, sadly, is where many of their troubles start.

Aside from the occasional savings and loan crash or government corruption scandal, most Americans have a sense that they can trust their national institutions on a day-to-day basis.

However, Latino emigrants come to the United States having learned much harder lessons: don't trust the banks, don't trust the government and, especially, don't trust the police.

"That is cultural, because the dynamics in

Continues on page 33

A helping hand way up

By Sean M. Grady

It's a typically American challenge. How do you help business owners in an ethnic group — some whose families have been in the United States for generations, others who came to this country only recently — succeed both in their communities and in society at large?

At the Nevada Small Business Development Center — a statewide business assistance program of the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas — staff members help by getting as much information into business owner hands as possible, and by connecting them to other folks who want to help them succeed.

A case in point:

Ever since the 1990s, the most-frequented zone of Latino-owned businesses in the Truckee Meadows has been the Wells Avenue corridor from Shopper's Square on Plumb Lane to Second Street in Reno. Other business owners have set up shop on such streets as Reno's Peckham Lane or on Prater Way in Sparks.

However, when Jesus Gutierrez started up his restaurant, Fresh Mex, in 2005, he chose a prominent storefront in the Keystone Shopping Center, placing his business right next to the heavily trafficked intersection of Keystone Avenue and Fifth Street.

Fresh Mex is the embodiment of a plan he and his brother, Gerardo, put together during the years they worked at the Eldorado and Silver Legacy hotel-casinos in downtown Reno.

The brothers had their future plans in mind when they moved from Mexico to the United States in the early 1980s.

"We always thought about running our own restaurant," Jesus Gutierrez says. "It was part of the dream."

The Gutierrezes opened their business using their own savings, without taking a business loan. This practice is common among



Photos by Sean Grady

Nevada Small Business Development Center helped Jesus Gutierrez, owner of Fresh Mex, with a business plan and signage, key ingredients for business success.

Latino emigrant business owners: some distrust banks after seeing their homeland's money drastically devalued, while others simply do not know that such assistance is available.

However their savings could go only so far, and that distance did not include the large outdoor signage that Fresh Mex needed to draw attention to itself. Instead, the brothers resorted to less visible measures that did not catch the eye nearly as well.

Fortunately, the restaurateurs learned of the Nevada Small Business Development Center, where — thanks to a donation from Wells Fargo Bank — the center and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Northern Nevada had a program in place to help Latino business owners.

In Fresh Mex's case, solving the main problem was simple. The center put the restaurant in touch with Signtronix, a California-based sign company specializing in affordable signage for small businesses.

Better still, when the sign company

learned the full extent of the brothers' story, it provided the new signage — a tall, post-mounted plastic sign and a set of banners for the restaurant's front and side walls — at no charge.

At the same time, the center helped Fresh Mex put together a formal business plan and took other steps to help improve the restaurant.

The extra help has turned out to be a boon, one that continues to improve how the restaurant does business.

"Any question you have, those folks up there have an answer for you," Jesus says.

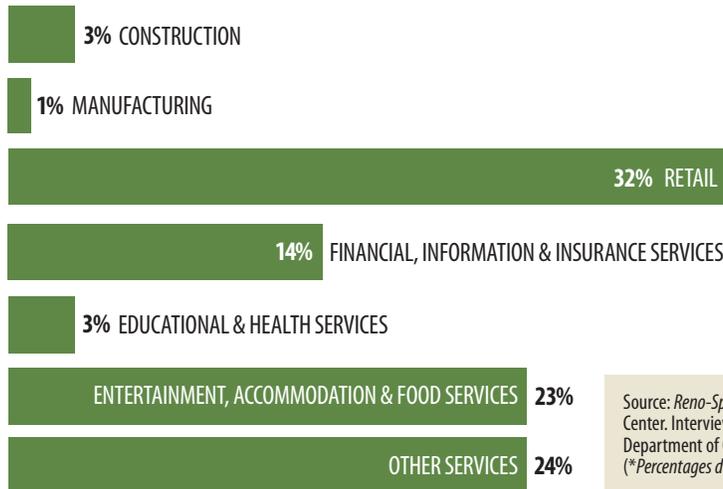
And what happened to the restaurant's business after the new signage was in place?

"It went up by about 300 percent," he says.

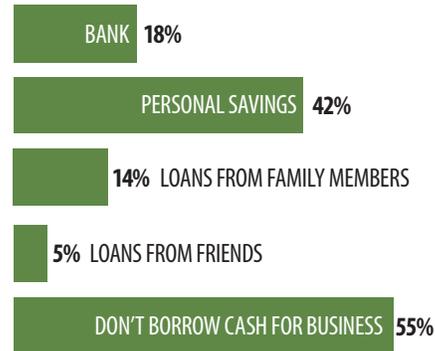
Jeremy Wingert '07 (accounting), a former counselor at the Nevada Small Business Development Center who now works at the California Franchise Tax Board, contributed to this article.

The Hispanic community is a very broad and diverse community. The Cubans in Miami, Puerto Ricans in New York, and Mexicans in the Southwest all have very different interests, cultural traditions, food preferences, and personal expenditures. In this light, the understanding of Hispanics is not complete if the various Latino cultures are grouped into a single Hispanic category. Unfortunately, the majority of U.S. Census data, federal expenditure surveys, state demographer estimates, and other demographic and economic statistics are not reported by specific Hispanic origins, but for Hispanics as a whole. Because the Hispanics in the Reno-Sparks region are 75 percent Mexican, a better understanding of the Mexican households and spending patterns is needed. (Excerpt from *The Hispanic Business Report*, 2004.)

Types of Hispanic-owned businesses



Business financing used*



Source: *Reno-Sparks Hispanic Business Report*, produced in 2004 by the Nevada Small Business Development Center. Interviews with locally-owned Hispanic business owners were done by the University of Nevada, Reno Department of Geography in conjunction with the Northern Nevada Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. (*Percentages don't add to 100% because many of the business owners use more than one source of financing.)

our home countries is that everything is so corrupted,” says Marcel Fernando Schaerer, a member of the Nevada Small Business Development Center’s Reno Advisory Board and president of International Professional Development Services, a business counseling firm.

(The Nevada Small Business Development Center is a statewide business assistance program of the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.)

In fact, the majority of Latinos start or expand their businesses with personal savings or loans from family members and friends, rather than taking out business loans, the 2004 University of Nevada, Reno/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce report found.

Then again, many business owners would be willing to tap into the available money supply. The problem is, they do not know how to go about doing so.

Maury Centeno, manager of U.S. Bank’s Vasar Street branch and president of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, says the problem often boils down to paperwork.

“As a banker, I notice that up to 90 percent of

these small-business owners have been rejected by a bank — not because the bank ‘didn’t like’ them, but because they didn’t put a business plan together, or because they put one together incorrectly,” she says.

On top of these cultural obstacles is the problem of illegal immigration, which intensifies the fear of apprehension and deportation of employees and family members even in businesses whose owners are citizens or legal residents.

All together, these obstacles slow down the success of individual businesses.

“They have a tendency not to open businesses that are integrated with the rest of society,” says Tom Cargill, a professor in the University’s Department of Economics.

As a result, while these businesses are not excluding non-Latino customers on purpose, neither are they pursuing these customers to any great extent, Cargill explains.

OUTSHINING THE CLOUDS

It would be a mistake, though, to take a gloomy view of Nevada’s Latino business world.

“When I look at the Latino population, I see

pluses all over the place,” Schaerer says.

One of the biggest pluses is *familia*, the sense of both the nuclear family and the extended family coming together in all aspects of life.

“The concept of *familia* is what brings the whole extended family to take care of the business,” Shaerer says.

This greater family involvement equals greater flexibility in running a business, and in providing employees emotional support and even baby-sitters when needed.

“There is also the flavor of the different products that come up around that culture,” Shaerer says. “It’s an enduring tapestry of different products and services.”

An equally big plus is the number of ways in which business owners can get financial and other forms of help from banks and counseling services to other businesses. (See the accompanying article, “A helping hand way up.”)

“There are a lot of people who want to help the Hispanic business community succeed,” says Winnie Dowling, deputy state director of the Nevada Small Business Development Center. [N](#)



University of Nevada, Reno
Foundation

Do you have a match?

Corporate matching gifts are a great way for Nevada alumni and friends to maximize personal contributions to the University and increase the impact of their gift.

Many corporations match the gifts their employees give to non-profit and charitable organizations. These matching programs have been made part of many corporate giving initiatives both to extend the reach of corporate giving and to encourage employees to be actively involved in supporting their communities. You may be able to double, or even triple, the amount of your gift at no additional cost to you!

To see if your employer has a matching gift program, follow the link below to the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. CASE maintains a database of more than 7,500 companies that support matching gift programs.

If you have questions please contact Development and Alumni Relations at 775-784-1587. We can provide further matching gift information and assistance.

To see if your company will match your gift, go to:

<http://giving.unr.edu/matchinggifts.aspx>

How do I get my gift matched?

Each company has its own guidelines for employees, spouses, retirees, and widows/widowers. Most corporate procedures are very simple:

- Request a Matching Gift Form from your company.
- Complete and submit the form to Nevada along with your gift.
- The University will verify the completed form and return it to the company.
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Completed forms can be sent with your personal gift to:

University of Nevada, Reno Foundation
Mail Stop 0162
Reno, NV 89557

HOME MEANS NEVADA

UNIVERSITY & ALUMNI NEWS

Inside

| | |
|---|----|
| ▶ University News..... | 36 |
| ▶ On Philanthropy..... | 42 |
| ▶ Alumni Award Winners..... | 44 |
| ▶ Letter from the Alumni Council President..... | 48 |
| ▶ Class Chat..... | 49 |
| ▶ Alumni Family Tree Challenge..... | 54 |
| ▶ Five Questions With..... | 57 |
| ▶ Chapter Updates..... | 58 |
| ▶ Remembering Friends..... | 60 |
| ▶ Tell Me How Nevada Was..... | 62 |
| ▶ What I've Done With My Life..... | 64 |

Photo by Jean Dixon

Gridiron report: Wolf Pack football faces 'most challenging' schedule in history

Starting on the road against Nebraska and Northwestern is never an easy chore for any football team.

Then, just to make sure that the latter part of the schedule presents a formidable challenge, mix in a Homecoming game on

LOOK ONLINE

To find out more about the Wolf Pack's progress, go to: <http://www.nevadawolfpack.com/>

Oct. 6 against perennial Western Athletic Conference power

Fresno State, followed by a road game the next weekend against BCS-busting Boise State and a very important Nov. 16 home game against Heisman Trophy hopeful Colt Brennan and the Hawai'i Rainbows.

It's no wonder that Nevada football coach Chris Ault has termed this year's Wolf Pack football schedule the "most challenging" schedule in school history. It's the type of

schedule that could, if the Pack plays well, propel them to their third consecutive bowl appearance. Nevada is coming off a victory in 2005 in the Hawai'i Bowl in Honolulu, Hawai'i, and a 21-20 loss to Miami in the 2006 MPC Computers Bowl in Boise, Idaho.

Nevada returns 14 starters and 44 lettermen from a 2006 season that saw the Pack finish tied for third in the WAC.

"This is a very strong football team and we have a very strong incoming class so we are very pleased," Ault said. "We need to identify the skills we need to develop. We need to create depth since



Photos by John Byrne

this is the most challenging schedule in history. This schedule will be challenging mentally and physically so it is critical for us to develop depth on both sides of the ball."

Academic Center will support success off the field

Wolf Pack student-athletes will walk through the doors of a new home for their academic pursuits in Fall 2008.

As the highlight of a June 28, 2007 ceremony, the University broke ground on the 8,000-square-foot Marguerite Wattis Petersen Athletic Academic Center, which will include a computer center, individual and group study areas, a student lounge, and tutoring and adviser offices. Academic services and programs for student-athletes have been housed in the Virginia Street Gymnasium, which was also home to Wolf Pack volleyball matches, the University Studies Abroad Consortium and some Department of Music



Photo by Jean Dixon

Representatives from the Marguerite Wattis Petersen and E.L. Cord foundations, PENTA Building Group, the Worth Group architectural firm, and the University shoveled the first Academic Center dirt.

and Dance faculty offices.

"This building will be the last critical piece for what will be the entryway for our

campus," said University President Milton Glick. "When people think about the image of this University, they will think about the Mathewson/IGT Knowledge Center, the Joe Crowley Student Union and the Marguerite Petersen Athletic Academic Center, which will connect with the E.L. Cord Academic and Athletics Performance Complex. This will be where the action is."

The academic center will be a two-story building located between Legacy Hall and the Robert Cashell Fieldhouse, both of which are directly south of Mackay Stadium. WorthGroup Architects designed the building, with PENTA Building Group handling construction.

Hot press for the N

The state's first hillside letter — the venerable University "N" on Peavine Peak — is featured in a new book, *Hillside Letters A to Z*.

The whitewashed, outlined N — 150 feet long and 140 feet wide — was originally created by University juniors Clarke Webster and Harvey McPhail in the spring of 1913.

"It did not seem right that Nevada spirit should show itself less plainly than either California to the West of us or Utah to the East," McPhail writes in the 1914 *Artemisia* student yearbook.



Photo by Jean Dixon

Corning's 204-page book includes the story of the letter's creation on the southeastern side of the slope, a poem about the landmark that appeared in *The Nevada Sagebrush* student newspaper and information on the letter's current caretakers.

The late James J. Parsons, longtime professor of geography at the University of California-Berkeley, in a 1988 article listed the N as the 13th university letter to be created on a U.S. mountain or foothill. It is estimated there are 43 landmark letters in Nevada.

National honor society recognizes student clinic

The honor society of American medical schools selected the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Student Outreach Clinic for a \$1,000 service project award. It was the second consecutive year the clinic, which provides much needed care for Washoe County's medically underserved population, gained national attention from the Alpha Omega

Alpha Society. Under the direct supervision of licensed medical school faculty physicians, students offer free monthly clinics providing general, children's and women's care.

For the second consecutive year, "The monies from this grant will keep our women's health services operational for the next year," said Dr. Daniel Spogen, professor and chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine in Reno and Student Outreach Clinic faculty director.

LOOK ONLINE

Learn more about the Student Outreach Clinic at <http://www.unr.edu/med/students/SOC>.

Faces on the Quad

HEATHER SANDERSON AND WINIFRED SCHAROSCH

Reno, Master's (Elementary Education); Reno, Prebusiness



Sanderson and Scharosch are each recipients of the University Balloon Race Scholarship Committee's \$2,000 student award. The committee, in its 21st year, selects two students annually to receive scholarships based on grade-point average, financial need and community service. Sanderson, who has worked for eight years as a children's librarian at the Duncan-Traner school library, began a 16-week internship at Spanish Springs Elementary School in July 2007. She hopes to teach fifth- and sixth-graders. Scharosch, a stay-at-home mom for many years, intends to declare a marketing major in Spring 2008 and design programs that attract casino customers. An employee in the promotions department at Gold Ranch Casino, she is determined to get her degree — a goal she set for herself almost 30 years ago when her son was in kindergarten.



LYLA FADALI

Reno, Mathematics

A summa cum laude University Honors Program graduate in May 2007, Fadali turns the right-brain, left-brain notion upside down. The 22-year-old speaks French and Arabic, plays the harp and has completed undergraduate research in biomass wastes. She also conducted research on Lie groups, studying mathematical objects and structures' continuous symmetry. Fadali, who will study for a doctoral degree at the University of California, San Diego, also practices a two-handed, Korean sword martial art.



LAURA GARCHAR

Reno, Geological Engineering

A 20-year-old senior, Garchar completed close to 400 hours of research in the NASA Student Internship Program at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Garchar participated in an intensive, 10-week summer program in which she assisted her mentor with an ongoing aerospace research project. A member of the University's Honors Program, Garchar has hopes for a career in planetary sciences. On campus, she is studying the Desert Queen geothermal system in Nevada's Hot Springs Mountains.

Joe Crowley Student Union

New campus 'living room' opens

The University campus is getting stickier.

"A sticky campus is a vibrant, welcoming and comfortable environment that encourages students to stick around when they get out of class and become fully engaged in the University," said President Milton Glick. "It is an electrified campus atmosphere where students go not just to take classes, but to gather and learn from each other."

"Right now our highest priority is to increase success in student retention and graduation rates," he said. "Creating an engaging environment for students is a key to that success."

To that end, the north campus is being transformed into what Glick describes as the University's "living room" with the addition of the Joe Crowley Student Union and the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, construction projects launched during the administration of former University President John Lilley. Adding to the transformation is the Marguerite Wattis Peterson Athletic Academic Center, slated to open in 2008, (see story on page 36) and a new central plaza area.

"Just as a living room is the central place for a family to congregate, this area will become the hub of our campus," said Glick.

The Joe Crowley Student Union opens this fall, and events are being planned to showcase the new facility to the public the weekend of Nov. 15. The four-story, 167,000-square foot, environmentally friendly, "green" building is close to Lawlor Events Center, Mackay Stadium, Lombardi Recreation Center and Fitzgerald Student Services. It is the direct result of a project spearheaded by the Associated Students of the University of Nevada.

"The new student union was completely initiated and funded by the students," said current ASUN President Sarah Ragsdale. She credits former ASUN President Alicia Lerud and her cabinet for getting the project off the ground in 2001 and innumerable dedicated students for their tireless efforts in the years since. "Student leaders have spent countless hours and resources turning this idea into reality, and we're extremely excited and proud of the result," said Ragsdale.

The building features a two-story bookstore; sports grill with recreation room; 7,500-square-foot food court; 1,200-seat grand ballroom; 220-seat theater; 2,000-square-foot student organization center; and outdoor seating area with a setting for speakers, concerts and activities.

"This will completely change the way we plan events," said Ragsdale. "We anticipate a huge draw and a full calendar with concerts, movies, barbecues, and intellectual events such as debates, seminars, and lecture series highlighting professors and alumni."

Ragsdale notes the student union will be a place for students to be both active and passive, with informal seating on every floor, and windows overlooking views of the Sierra Nevada. "It's a much needed place for students to simply hang out and have open dialogue and discussion, shop at the bookstore, or read in a lounge chair."

Glick agrees this is all a critical part of the college experience. "It's not just about buildings, it's about rethinking our approach to student life and student programming," he added. "If we just think of them as buildings, then we have failed. To fulfill our mission, these must be places where students and the community congregate to have learning



Photo by John Byrne

The entire Crowley brood — Joe and Joy Crowley and their children and grandchildren — recently donned hardhats and toured the student union.

'Just call me Joe.'

experiences that expand minds and cause greater engagement in the University and in their studies.”

The Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center is slated to open in Aug. 2008. Just south of the Joe Crowley Student Union, the five-story, 295,000-square-foot center will be one of the most technologically advanced libraries in the country. With International Game Technology, Chuck and Ann Mathewson presented a combined \$10 million gift to the project.

On the south end of campus remains the beautiful and traditional Quad. Still surrounded by buildings that host classrooms and administrative functions, it may

become a bit quieter as student activities migrate north.

“This is the beginning of a true campus town environment, a place where the University meets with the community,” said Glick. “The entrance off North Virginia Street will serve as the new gateway to the campus, and I believe that when people enter the University grounds they will more fully feel the intellectual energy of our campus.”

Ragsdale agrees: “We take incredible pride in our school, and our hope is that people walking onto our campus will get the feeling of... I'm in Wolf Pack territory now!”

— Christine Haynes

Keeping union 'green' topped student priority list

The building inspired and paid for by students reflects considerable student input in its design. Top on the list for students involved was a desire to incorporate environmentally friendly elements into the building's design. The new Joe Crowley Student Union represents an integrated design process, which considered how the design elements would interrelate to create an overall “greener” building. For example, the building's white roof reduces the cooling load which allows the building to have a smaller chiller, resulting in less energy consumption.

Other “green” highlights include:

- Day lighting system to reduce artificial light use to minimize energy consumption
- Very low water use fixtures in bathrooms, reducing potable water use
- High efficiency, fritted window glass
- On-site cistern containing water from the building's cooling towers to be used for irrigation
- Pervious pavers to help capture and infiltrate storm water back into the ground, eliminating one storm drain and proportionally reducing the water flow to the storm water system

When it came to naming the new student union in 2005, the undergraduate and graduate student organizations agreed. “The students’ recommendation to name our union after Dr. Crowley is a tribute to a man whose contributions have affected and will affect generations of students to come,” said then-ASUN President



Jeff Champagne.

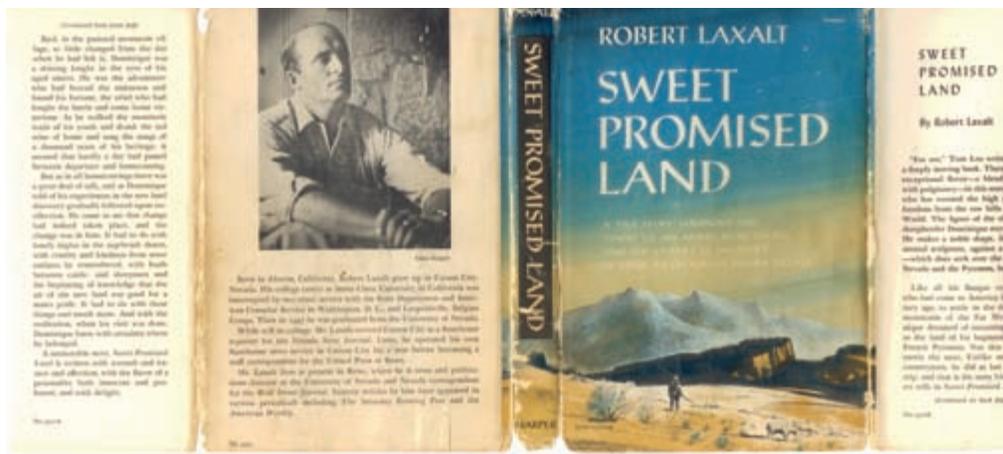
Joe Crowley is a soft-spoken, approachable and beloved man, renowned for his self-deprecating sense of humor. He joined the University's political

science faculty in 1966, was named interim president in 1978, and named to the permanent position later that same year. He served 23 years as the University's 13th president, stepping down in 2000.

His tenure as president marked a period of tremendous growth and development for the University and the state. Along the way, Crowley remained steadfast in his commitment to the role of student government and to the University's land-grant mission to serve Nevada. Crowley's work included establishment of the Core Curriculum, which added breadth and vigor to the institution's academic offerings; promotion of international education through his support for the University Studies Abroad Consortium; revitalization of the Honors Program as well as creation of the Presidential Scholar Program, which attracted bright minds from throughout the state and the country; support of the Upward Bound and Talent Search grant competitions, which made Nevada more affordable for low-income and first-generation college students; and his continual search for greater knowledge as a teacher and scholar.

A military veteran and published author, Crowley also served as president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association from 1993 to 1995.

He and his wife, Joy, have four children and seven grandchildren, all living in Reno.



The original dust jacket from a first edition copy of *Sweet Promised Land*, published in 1957.

FRESHMEN LEARN THE VALUE OF

'Sweet Promised Land'

When the letters began arriving in the mail in late July, many members of the University's class of 2011 were introduced to one of the most respected names in Nevada writing.

"The timing couldn't have been more perfect," President Milton Glick admitted, noting that by happy coincidence the Class of 2011 Summer Scholar Project — an effort to welcome freshmen to campus through an important piece of Nevada literature — featured Robert Laxalt's classic book, *Sweet Promised Land*, considered one of the finest books of its genre. *Sweet Promised Land* is also celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The Class of 2011 Summer Scholar Project asked all freshmen to read *Sweet Promised Land* over the summer. Faculty, staff and administrators then met with the students in August during orientation week for study groups that discussed Laxalt's book.

Laxalt, known as Nevada's greatest writer, passed away in 2001 at age 77. But his 17 books — and in particular, *Sweet Promised Land*, considered to be his finest work — continue to live on.

LOOK ONLINE

For more information on the Summer Scholar Project, visit http://www.unr.edu/features/sweet_promise/

"This was our entering freshmen's first opportunity to participate with faculty, staff and administrators in an academic setting as they begin their college career, and I can't think of a better book to serve as the centerpiece," Glick said. "Our mission to enliven curiosity, cultivate critical judgment and encourage our students to make an informed contribution to the development of American society is well-served through the reading and discussion of *Sweet Promised Land*.

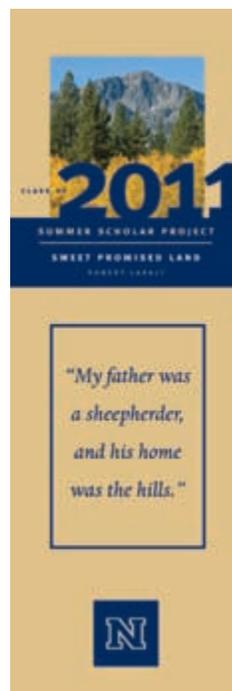
"Robert Laxalt and his family will always have a special place on our campus. What better way to honor a great writer and a great Nevadan than to have Nevada students reading, discussing and learning from his greatest work?"

Laxalt's connections to the campus are strong. He was a 1947 graduate of the University with a degree in English. He joined Nevada's faculty in 1954 as director of news and publications. He founded the University Press in 1961, and served as a journalism and writing instructor — influencing an entire generation of the state's writers — and for the final

two decades of his life was the University's writer-in-residence.

His advice to his students? They were words that still resonated as campus study groups convened in August for the Summer Scholars Project.

"Take your writing seriously," Laxalt would tell his students, "but never take yourself too seriously."



◀ The Reynolds School of Journalism sponsored commemorative bookmarks that accompanied the books provided to the Class of 2011 to honor the schools' friend and colleague. The bookmark serves as an invitation to attend the 2007 Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writer Program, Oct. 24. Support of the project is being provided by the Center for Basque Studies in the amount of \$15,000, which was raised through private donations to provide copies of *Sweet Promised Land* for each incoming freshman student. Additional funding was provided by Athletics.

'Bob was passionate about encouraging new generations of writers.'

— Rosemary McCarthy, interim dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism.



AND FEEL
good
ABOUT IT!



Friday, October 5
11:30 am to 1:30 pm
University of Nevada, Reno Quad
Don't forget to wear blue!

HOMECOMING 2007

The Nevada Alumni Association and ASUN encourage you to catch the "Blue Flu" on Friday, October 5th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Leave work for an hour or two, and attend our Free Community BBQ on the Quad!



For a complete list of Homecoming events, go to www.unr.edu/alumni.

775.784.6620 : 888.NV.ALUMS
www.unr.edu/alumni

Russ & Peggy Boynton make good chemistry

Every donor's unique values and experiences shape his or her philanthropy. Russ Boynton '70M.S. (chemistry) and his wife Peggy '60 (chemistry) have been gracious benefactors of the Physical Sciences Library on the University of Nevada, Reno campus for more than 35 years.

Russ received his bachelor of science in 1958 from the University of California, Berkeley, and in 1960 Peggy received her bachelor of science from the University of Nevada, Reno, each majoring in chemistry. The couple married in 1960 and moved to Orinda, Calif. where Russ began work with Chevron. He took a leave of absence in 1966 to pursue his master's degree in chemistry from Nevada.

While Russ was at the University, the chemistry library was very small. "I had to travel back to the San Francisco Bay Area to do basic research," he says. "After graduation, we wanted to make sure that no student of chemistry would ever have to travel to do basic library research."

Russ and Peggy were brought up to believe

that you should give back whenever you can. "We may not be able to build a library and stock it with books all at once, but by donating every year, a collection can be built," said Peggy.

"Unless you are very wealthy, you cannot give millions. Give what you can afford, and your gifts will mount up."

The Boyntons' budget each year includes their philanthropy. "We are lucky enough to be able to make a yearly contribution to the University. We could not be more proud of what the chemistry department has done with our donations and we feel that we have made a difference."

Brenda Mathenia, head of the DeLaMare and Physical Sciences Libraries, affirms that the Boyntons have indeed made a tremendous difference. "The Boynton's generous

gifts provide much needed funding to purchase texts and unique resources," she says. "The resulting collection is a testament to Russ and Peggy's commitment to high quality education and demonstrates a profound understanding of the critical role libraries play in the long term success of students."

The University Libraries are forever grateful to the Boyntons for making philanthropy a part of their family budget and part of their enduring legacy on campus.

To learn more about supporting the University's libraries, please contact Director of Development Millie Mitchell at (775) 682-5682 or email mimitchell@unr.edu.



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

DeLaMare librarian Brenda Mathenia helps biochemistry student Mark Lemos. Last spring, Mark was a finalist in the Nevada Lt. Governor's Award for his business plan that integrates clean, renewable, alternative energy for Nevada's future.

Hart Foundation gifts continue to keep Nevada competitive

To everyone who knew them during their lifetime, it was clear that Thomas and Thelma Hart were devoted to each other. Together they made a home in Reno and in their estate plans provided for a foundation that would continue to make the region that welcomed them, a better place.

Today the Hart Foundation's trustees continue the Harts' legacy by supporting several campus projects. The projects listed below allow the University to continue its mission of developing a high level of service culture to students pursuing a higher education. The Hart Foundation supports many campus initiatives including:

MARGUERITE WATTIS PETERSEN ACADEMIC CENTER

This new facility will better empower the Wolf Pack Academic and Compliance Service Team to spend more time where it counts — in the center, ensuring that students are making the most of their education. Tutoring, class advisement, career counseling and life skills training are just a few of the services that will be housed in this building.

LATINO RESEARCH CENTER

The Hart Foundation's latest gift was made in support of this

center, which is a unit of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. The research center aids in the advancement of the state's Latino community through education, research, advocacy and outreach, relevant to the region.

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA MEDICAL SCHOOL BUILDING

Nearly 1,500 physicians who practice medicine throughout Nevada and the United States began their studies in this building on the north end of campus. Beginning with the entering class of 2007, class size will increase from 52 to 62 students.

GRADUATE STUDENT COMPUTING LABORATORY

This laboratory is available to graduate students around the clock, and has extensive state-of-the-art facilities for performing research, such as high-performance computers and peripherals. Facilities like this aid graduate students in their pursuit to publish research results in journals and at conferences.

To learn more about supporting programs or facilities like those above, please contact Associate Vice President of Development Bruce Mack at (775) 784-1352 or email bmack@unr.edu

Reynolds Foundation awards \$1.5 million for endowed chair in journalism

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation has approved a grant of \$1.5 million to the Reynolds School of Journalism and Advanced Media Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno.

The grant establishes a permanently endowed position named the “Fred W. Smith Chair in Journalism.” The chair, named in honor of the current chairman of the Las Vegas-based Reynolds Foundation, is to be occupied by the dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism.

“The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation is pleased to provide funding for an endowed chair that will help the Reynolds School of Journalism attract the best possible candidates to fill the vacant dean’s position,” states Foundation chairman, Fred W. Smith. “The earnings from the endowment will give the new dean additional resources to build upon the momentum created by the late Cole Campbell. Our ultimate goal is for the Reynolds School to be recognized for excellence in the areas of education, research and preparation of students for professional practice.”

University President Milton Glick expressed his appreciation for the grant. “We are very grateful for the generosity of the Reynolds Foundation and are delighted with their decision to honor Fred W. Smith with this chair,” said President Glick. “The Reynolds School of Journalism is at the cutting edge in a rapidly changing profession. With the

strength of the school augmented by the chair, it positions us to attract the leading candidates in the nation to be the next dean.”

“This endowment enriches the school and the dean’s position in a marvelous, expansive way,” said Rosemary McCarthy ‘85M.A. (journalism), interim dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism.

“We are deeply grateful to the Reynolds Foundation for its continued support of the school and its endeavors. The gift will support the dean and thus support

the school in its interests in innovative media and scholarship.”

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation is a national philanthropic organization founded in 1954 by the late media entrepreneur for whom it is named. Headquartered in Las Vegas, it is one of the largest private foundations in the United States.



For more information on supporting the Reynolds School of Journalism, please contact Director of Development Kristen Burgarello '97 (journalism) at (775) 784-4471 or email kburgarello@unr.edu.

2007 ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Mary-Ellen McMullen



Love of the University of Nevada, Reno is a family tradition for 2007 Nevada Alumni Association Alumna of the Year, Mary-Ellen McMullen '73 (education).

When she was just 13 years old, her family moved to Reno from the East Coast so that her father, Edmund Cain, could serve as dean of the College of Education at Nevada. As a result, the University was always a part of her early life and a natural place for her to pursue her undergraduate studies.

"I've witnessed a lot of changes since those days. I was in the College of Education majoring in English and minoring in journalism. Most of my education classes were in the Thompson Education Building, which is now just the Thompson Building. When I was a senior, the college moved into the "new" education building which is now Edmund J. Cain Hall, named after my father, who oversaw the construction of the building. Now, of course, we have the magnificent Raggio Education building."

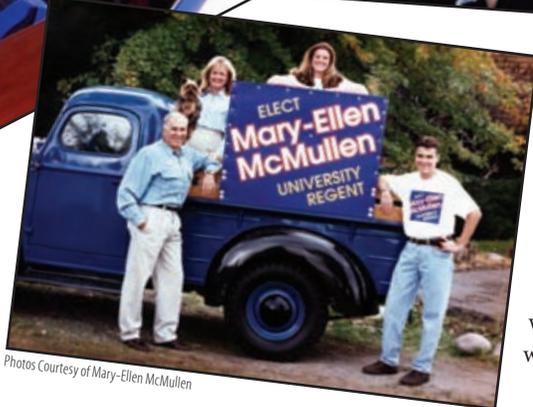
Beginning in 1968, the Alumni Association has honored an alumna/us each year whose life reflect the ideals and mission of the University of Nevada, Reno in community activities, professional accomplishments, personal life and service to the University and Association.

During her time as a student on campus, Mary-Ellen was active in student government. She was elected to student Senate and then the Activities Board. As it turns out, this is where she met her husband of, now, 33 years, Sam McMullen. He was serving as student body vice president.

If you know someone who you think should be on this list in the future, please contact the University of Nevada, Reno Alumni Association at (775) 784-6620 or (888) NV ALUMS.

Soon after graduation, the young couple was off to Washington, D.C. where Mary-Ellen worked for Sen. Howard Cannon and Sen. Alan Bible while attending George Washington University to obtain a master's

Continues on page 46



Photos Courtesy of Mary-Ellen McMullen

'As a student being involved in Student Government, as a young alum giving my time and efforts for the Alumni Council, and now as a member of the Foundation helping to create and sustain a culture of giving financially to the University so that it will continue to prosper, all are things that I have enjoyed being a part of.'



EDMUND J. CAIN

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

degree in women's studies. Sam attended Georgetown University Law School. "I was thrilled to come back to Nevada and teach alongside Dr. Ann Howard. Her Women in Literature class inspired my passion to learn more about the role of women in all disciplines."

Upon graduation, teaching was just the beginning of a new chapter in Mary-Ellen's portfolio of service at Nevada. After returning from Georgetown, she has served as acting assistant dean of students; special school recruitment

coordinator; director of annual giving for the Foundation and publications/public relations coordinator for the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Her volunteer activities for the campus have included the Alumni Council, where she served as first vice president from 1982-1984, as well as chairperson of many committees. Today, she is currently in her second six-year term as a trustee of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. "My long-term involvement and support of

the University is encouraged by the fact that so many great people make this University great," Mary-Ellen shares. "Nothing that happens here is because of any one person. All of us together can really have an impact and make a difference. I know that I received a great education at the University, and I know how important it is in this time of rising educational costs to provide a quality education to the people of Nevada. I want future students to have the same opportunities that I had." 

Mary-Ellen at Nevada

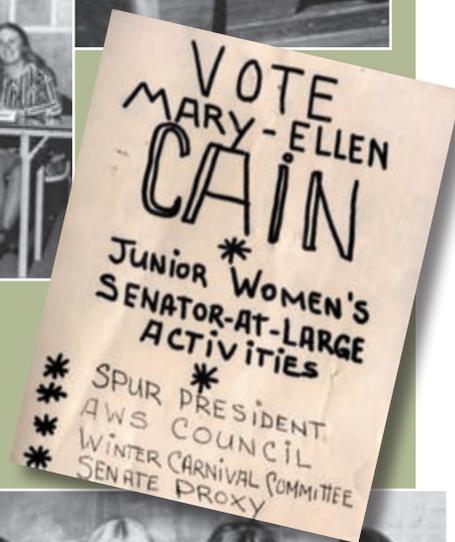
I have so many favorite campus memories from my time at Nevada:

▶ Attending N. Edd Miller Day and honoring our University president at a time when all other campuses across the country were protesting.

▶ Becoming friends with Frankie Sue Del Papa, Dan Klaich, Jim Hardesty, Bill Cobb, and of course my husband, Sam McMullen. All of them were people that even in college we knew were going to be leaders in their fields in our state of Nevada.

▶ Working with Dean Cecelia St. John, a friend and mentor who cares so deeply about our University.

▶ As president of Pi Beta Phi trying to keep the men of Coffin and Keys from climbing through the windows of the sorority house to say hello in the early morning of their initiation. I was not successful!



Photos Courtesy of Mary-Ellen McMullen

2007 Nevada Alumni Association Award Winners

Alumna of the Year



Mary-Ellen McMullen '73 (See page 44.)

Professional Achievement Award



Jay Kornmayer '74
(*economics*)

A Nevada native, Jay began his career with Wells Fargo in 1973. He has managed the company's Gaming Division, a national specialty industry business line, since its inception 25 years ago. Jay leads a team of more than 40 banking professionals, who bring the broad spectrum of Wells Fargo products and services to clients in 28 states. Jay also volunteers his time to a number of community and business organizations.



Jeff Codega '76
(*civil engineering*)

Jeff's Reno-based company, Jeff Codega Planning & Design, was established in 1992 and is the area's leading provider of signature planning, surveying, civil engineering, landscape architecture and construction administration services. JCP/D has created many of northern Nevada's most recognizable and successful industrial, commercial, residential and public works projects including Caughlin Ranch, Montreux, Somersett and the Silver Legacy.



Karole Morgan-Prager '84
(*journalism and political science*)

Karole is the vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of the McClatchy Company, which is headquartered in Sacramento, Calif., and publishes 31 daily newspapers and approximately 50 non-dailies. Prior to joining McClatchy in 1995, Karole was associate general counsel at the Times Mirror Company and an associate at the Morrison & Foerster law firm in Los Angeles. Karole attended law school at UCLA.



Maureen Mullarkey '88
MBA

Maureen began with International Game Technology as a financial analyst. She progressed quickly to manager of finance in 1991; director of finance in 1993; vice president of finance in 1996; CFO and vice president of finance in 1998; CFO, vice president of finance and treasurer in 1999; CFO, senior vice president and treasurer in 2001; and became CFO, executive vice president and treasurer in 2003.



Ty Windfeldt '01
(*health science*)

As director of marketing for Hometown Health, the health insurance division of Renown Health, Ty oversees all functions of the marketing department, customer services and provider relations, including new business development, key account management, direct sales and retention, networking and relationship building, and contract negotiation. During his tenure with Hometown Health, Ty has increased its market share to more than 40 percent.

University Service Award



Ronald Zideck '59
(*business administration*)

Ronald R. Zideck believes in strong relationships between Nevada business, education and government. He is currently a member of the University's Legislative Steering Committee, and previously held the position of director of planned giving for the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. In January 2007, he was appointed to the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation's Board of Trustees.



Kevin Melcher '79
(*physical education*)

In 1980, Kevin relocated to Elko to begin a career of teaching, coaching and administration with the Elko County School District. He has continued to support and serve the University through participation on the Alumni Council, Elko-area University activities, membership on University advisory committees, and he is currently a member of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Advisory Committee.



Robert Buss, Friend

For more than 15 years, Bob has been the chairman of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Audit and Finance Committee. During that time, he has seen a nearly ten-fold growth in the Foundation's investment portfolio. Since he and the late Joseph McMullen developed the Investment Policy and the Procedures charter for the portfolio, assets have increased from \$8.3 million in 1989 to over \$90 million today.

Outstanding Young Alumnus



Carla Higginbotham '97
(*speech communications*)

Carla graduated in 2003 from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in the top 5 percent of her class. After law school, Carla returned to Reno and served two judicial law clerkships, later becoming an associate attorney at the Nevada law firm of McDonald Carano Wilson, LLP, where she specializes in appellate work and complex civil litigation.



Romeo Lazzarone '03
(*marketing*)

Romeo has been in the insurance and financial services industry for more than four years. He is a registered representative for New York Life and a financial services professional and broker for The Lazzarone Group. Romeo is a member of the New York Life Insurance Company's Executive Council and active in the community. Romeo is the president of the University of Nevada College of Business Administration Alumni Association (COBAAA).

Alumni Association Service Award



Michael Klaiich '82
(*accounting*)

Mike has served the Nevada Alumni Association for the past 13 years. He is a past president and treasurer of both the College of Business Administration Alumni Association (COBAAA) and the Nevada Alumni Association. Mike currently serves as a trustee of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and is the treasurer of the Great Reno Balloon Race. Mike is a CPA and partner in the local firm Muckel Anderson CPAs.

Dear Nevada Alumni,

Show your Homecoming spirit by catching the Blue Flu! Support the University and our award-winning football team by wearing blue to work on Friday, Oct. 5. Ask your business to participate, and we'll send you a Blue Flu poster to display at your workplace. Get your poster by calling the Nevada Alumni Association at (888) NV ALUMS. Plus, join the Nevada Alumni



Association and ASUN for a barbecue on the Quad on Oct. 5 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Admission is free – if you're wearing blue!

The many outstanding activities taking place during Homecoming include Old Guy's Night at the Wal', college events, Greek activities and the Annual Homecoming Gala, honoring outstanding alumni and friends. In this issue, you'll find a complete listing of events and meet our 2007 award winners. For a complete list of activities, visit <http://www.unr.edu/alumni> and click on the Homecoming 2007 button.

This football season, during each home game, the Nevada Alumni Association will host a tailgate party at our new location in Wolf Pack Alley (north side of Mackay Stadium). Wolf Pack Alley will also be home to bounce houses, music and activities. Look for our blue pavilion two hours prior to kick off. And as always, dues-paying members receive a discount!

In November, the new Joe Crowley Student Union will open. This much anticipated addition to the University is for students, as well as alumni and the community. If you haven't been to campus recently, I encourage you to stop by. The JCSU will house a 220-seat movie theatre, a restaurant and grill, the new, two-story ASUN bookstore, Starbucks, Port of Subs, a hair salon, and many other services that students and alumni are encouraged to use.

Finally, this is my last letter as president of the Nevada Alumni Council. I would like to thank all the board members for a great year of progress. I welcome Cindy Buchanan as the incoming president and wish her the best of luck next year!

Sincerely,
Randy Brown '89, CPA
President, Nevada Alumni Council

NEVADA ALUMNI COUNCIL

*Randy Brown '89, CPA
President*

*Julie Ardito '89
Past President*

*Cindy Buchanan '95
Treasurer/President-Elect*

*Mike Dillon '94
Vice President for Community Outreach*

*Roberta Bibee '83
Vice President for Marketing & Membership*

*Michael Pennington '95
Vice President for Student Involvement*

*Mary Harmon '93, '97
Vice President for Volunteer Involvement*

Seema Bhardwaj '02

Chad Blanchard '93, '03

Kelly Bland '91

Todd Cabral '91

Sarah Ragsdale (ASUN President)

Stephanie Clemo Hanna '96

Jim Conkey '83

Roger Diedrichsen '71

Dawn Etcheverry-Miller '94

Jason Frierson '96

Kerri Garcia '92

Carlos Ledon '01

Judy Machabee '91

Lisa Lyons-Maloney '88

Patrick Martinez '95

Marlene Olsen '74

Mercedes Parsons '84

Jeff Pickett '89

Lauren Sankovich '98

Chris Vargas '95

Charlie Walsh '86

'50s

Milt Sharp '54 (civil engineering) recently retired from a civil engineering career spanning more than five decades. At the time of his retirement he was employed as senior engineer with Quad Knopf of Reno. For most of his career Milt practiced civil engineering in Nevada and nearby areas of Northern California, as the owner/manager of his firm. Milt maintained close ties to the University, having served as president of the Nevada Alumni Association. He also remained closely involved with his fraternity, Sigma Nu, as a member of their housing corporation and as president for many years. As an undergraduate, he was president of ASUN. Milt's three children Melissa Sharp '82, Margaret (Sharp) Decker '84 and Matthew Sharp '89 are also Nevada graduates. He and his wife, Doris, live in Reno and continue to participate in University functions and are avid supporters of Wolf Pack athletic teams.

'60s

Loralee (Smith) Justus '60 (elementary education) recently retired from the Elko School District after 28 years.

'70s

Sheila Caudle '71 (journalism) recently joined Cozen O'Connor's Houston office in the insurance department. Her litigation background includes matters involving medical malpractice, antitrust, defamation and securities litigation. Sheila also has extensive case management skills, having coordinated defense efforts in various complex coverage cases, as well as supervising and authoring coverage opinions requiring expertise in the law and procedure of multiple states.

Stan Goodin '71 (marketing), an agent and financial advisor with New York Life, has earned membership in the Million Dollar Round Table's Top of the Table. This is the highest level of achievement with the organization. Stan specializes in estate planning, business succession planning and investments.

Donna Lee-Kistler '77 (nursing) was recently designated as president-elect of the Association of California Nurse Leaders, and will serve as president beginning in 2008. Donna was selected in 2005 as Best



Stan Goodin '71
(marketing)



Dennis Eckmeyer '83
(industrial mechanics)



Donald Craig Houk '85 (criminal justice)

Nurse Leader of the Year by *Advance for Nurses*, a publication for registered nurses in southern California and northern Nevada. Donna is nurse manager of the Orthopedics/Trauma/General Surgery Unit at University of California, Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, supervising more than 50 employees. Donna maintains close ties to the Orvis School of Nursing and currently resides in Sacramento with her husband, Ray Kistler, and son, Adam.

'80s

Robin Lee (Lapham) Titus '81 (medicine), an avid runner, competed in four marathons last year and is now employed at South Lyon Medical Center as a Lyon County health officer.

Dennis Eckmeyer '83 (industrial mechanics) has qualified for the Million Dollar Round Table's prestigious Court of the Table

for New York Life, attained by those who demonstrate exceptional professional knowledge, client service and ethical conduct.

Roberta "Bobbie" (Fluke) Evans '85M.S. (educational administration), '88Ed.D. (educational administration/higher education) has been named dean of the University of Montana School of Education. Bobbie previously served as the education school's interim dean since July 2006.

Donald Craig Houk '85 (criminal justice) is currently deployed to Afghanistan as a security advisor for the United States Agency for International Development and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, overseeing security contracts for a \$1.4 billion reconstruction and redevelopment. Craig is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and currently lives in Gilbert, Ariz. with his wife, Bren. He is also a board certified protection professional and a specialist in security management.

Continues on page 50

Prepare for

Greatness

HOMECOMING GALA '07

Please join us in honoring this year's Alumni Association Award recipients.

Oct. 4, 2007 ~ Reno-Sparks Convention Center
6 pm Cocktails ~ **7 pm** Dinner & Program
Tickets and tables available for purchase.

Call (888) NVALUMS
 or (775) 784-6620
 or email nvalumni@unr.edu
 to reserve space.



Todd Rich '90 (marketing) was named director of the Nevada Department of Personnel by Gov. Jim Gibbons. Todd will oversee recruiting, classification and compensation of state employees. Todd is also the co-author of the book *Common Sense Communication*, a collection of inspirational quotes and guidelines intended to improve communication skills.

'90s

Julie (Chapman) Moore '91 (logistics management) is the human resource manager and owner of Ground Zero Marketing in Folsom, Calif.

Jodi Paige (Ramsey) Wass '93 (counseling and educational psychology) recently obtained her license for marriage and family therapy. Jodi has opened a private practice in the Gardnerville/Minden area, specializing in adolescents, grief and sexual issues.

Pamela (Andres) Rutherford '94 (health education) has recently taken time off a 10-year career in the hospital and health care industry to raise her children. In 2004, Pamela assisted her husband in the startup and operations of Spanish Springs Construction, Inc. The Rutherfords' family hobbies include riding horses, driving quads and the current construction of their new home.

David Pearson '95 (speech communications) has accepted appointment as the vice president of sales for Contractor's Labor Pool Resources, Inc. David will be responsible for company's overall sales strategy and execution.

Kristina Hine '96 (elementary education) recently received her master of divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. During seminary, she completed her internship in Belfast, Ireland.

Mark Handelin '96 (biology) and Catherine (Evans) Handelin '97 (nutrition) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Laurel Emily, born March 2, 2007.

Kirsten Mashinter '98 (English language and linguistics) was awarded an English Fellowship for 2007-2008 from the U.S. Department of State. Kirsten will be working with the University of Pristina Faculty of Education in Prizren, Kosovo to teach existing education courses and develop additional courses for their emerging curriculum.

Eric Peterson '99 (health education) is a journeyman electrician for Truckee Meadows Electric Inc. and is enjoying his two children, Tyler (4) and Erin (2).

Continues on page 56

WWW.UNR.EDU/ALUMNI
• (888) NV ALUMS •

GET PACKING.

Take a trip with the Nevada Alumni Association's **Pack Tracks Travel Program**. Our first class customer service includes planning before, during and after your trip, so all you have to do is enjoy the experience. Alumni and friends are encouraged to explore our trips!

For more information, visit
www.unr.edu/alumni
 call (888) NV ALUMS or (775) 784-6620, or
 email packtracks@unr.edu.

Join us in 2008 when we travel to these exciting destinations:
 China • Paris • South Africa • Spain • Croatia & Venice • Swiss Alps & Salzburg • German Holiday Markets • Italian Riviera

Grill.



Swill.



Chill.



**JOIN US FOR FOOD, DRINKS,
GIVEAWAYS AND MORE!**

FOOTBALL TAILGATERS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT,
www.unr.edu/alumni or call
775.784.6620 or (888) NV ALUMS.**

HOME GAMES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Nevada vs. Nicholls St.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Nevada vs. UNLV

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 (Homecoming)
*Nevada vs. Fresno State**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27
*Nevada vs. Idaho**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16
*Nevada vs. Hawai'i**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1
*Nevada vs. Louisiana Tech**

All home tailgate parties begin two hours prior to kickoff. Space is limited, so stop by early. Located in Wolf Pack Alley north of Mackay Stadium under the big blue pavilion.



Lifetime Members: FREE
Annual Members: \$5 (per person)
Non-Members: \$10 (per person)

Special thanks to:



*Conference games

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. A LOT.

FALL SEMESTER 2007

SEPTEMBER 15

Nevada Alumni Association
Pre-Game Party • 2 hours before kickoff
Wolf Pack Alley (North of Mackay Stadium)

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter
Game Day BBQ & Beer • Throughout the Game
Northwest Corner of Mackay Stadium

SEPTEMBER 29

Nevada Alumni Association
Pre-Game Party • 2 hours before kickoff
Wolf Pack Alley (North of Mackay Stadium)

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter
Game Day BBQ & Beer • Throughout the Game
Northwest Corner of Mackay Stadium

HOMECOMING 2007

OCTOBER 1

ASUN • Homecoming Charity Date Auction
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Jot Travis Student Union, Auditorium

OCTOBER 2

ASUN
Bulldoze the Bulldogs Game • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
University of Nevada, Reno Quad

ASUN
Root Beer Pong Tournament • 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Jot Travis Student Union, Auditorium

Mackay Alumnus of the Year Reception
Hidden Valley Country Club

Nevada Alumni Association
Scholarship Reception • 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Morrill Hall Alumni Center, Clark Room

ASUN
Wolves Frolic (Talent Show) • 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Jot Travis Student Union, Auditorium

OCTOBER 3

Nevada Alumni Association
Office Decorating Contest • 10 a.m.
University of Nevada, Reno Campus

ASUN
Beat the Bulldogs BBQ • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
University of Nevada, Reno Quad

COBA Alumni Association and ASUN
Student Lounge Dedication • 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Ansari Business Building, Room 207

OCTOBER 4

ASUN • Qdoba Burrito Eating Contest
11 a.m. - 1 p.m. • University of Nevada, Reno Quad

Nevada Alumni Association
Annual Homecoming Gala
6 p.m. Cocktails, 7 p.m. Dinner
Reno-Sparks Convention Center

ASUN • Movie Series • 9:30 p.m. - 12 a.m.
Jot Travis Student Union, Auditorium

OCTOBER 5

Nevada Alumni Association and ASUN
Blue Flu BBQ • 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
University of Nevada, Reno Quad

Parent Family Weekend
BBQ and Welcome Reception • 12 p.m.

College of Engineering
Scrugham Medal Recipients Panel with Students
2 p.m.
Harry Reid Engineering Laboratory, Rooms 109-110

College of Engineering • Scrugham Medal Dinner
5:30 p.m. Cocktails, 6:30 p.m. Dinner
Circus Circus Reno, Mandalay Bay Ballroom B

AAUN • Hall of Fame Dinner
6 p.m. Cocktails, 7 p.m. Dinner
Silver Legacy, Silver Baron Room

Nevada Cheer, Dance and Mascot Alumni Chapter
Alumni Dinner • 6 p.m. • Wolf Run Golf Course

ASUN • Bonfire • 7 p.m.
Parking Lot North of Mackay Stadium

Nevada Alumni Association
Old Guy's Night • 9 p.m.
Red's Little Waldorf Saloon

ASUN Homecoming Social • 9 p.m.
University of Nevada, Reno Quad

Delta Delta Delta Pancake Breakfast
10 p.m. - 4 a.m. • Delta Delta Delta House

OCTOBER 6

Lombardi Recreation Center
Wolf Trot 5K Fun Run
7:30 a.m. Check In, 8 a.m. Race Begins

ASUN
Homecoming Parade: Beat the Bulldogs • 9 a.m.
Virginia Street, From 9th Street to 16th Street

Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Chapter
Homecoming Brunch
Jot Travis Student Union, Alumni Room

Nevada Alumni Association
Pre-Game Party • 11 a.m.
Wolf Pack Alley (North of Mackay Stadium)
Joined By: Asian American Pacific Islander Alumni Chapter, Honors Program Chapter, Alumni and Friends of the Reynolds School, Mackay Alumni Chapter, Native American Chapter, Sacramento Chapter, and the Young Alumni Chapter.

Parent Family Weekend
Pre-Game Party • 11 a.m.

Phi Delta Theta
3rd Annual Family Weekend and Alumni BBQ
11 a.m. • Phi Delta Theta House

Homecoming Football Game vs. Fresno State
1:05 p.m. • Mackay Stadium

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter
Game Day BBQ & Beer • Throughout the Game
Northwest Corner of Mackay Stadium

Alpha Tau Omega Annual Homecoming
Family BBQ and Party
Immediately following the game • ATO House

Sigma Nu Homecoming at the House
Immediately following the game • Sigma Nu House

OCTOBER 7

Pi Beta Phi Alumni "Blueberry Breakfast" 10:30 a.m.
Red's Little Waldorf Saloon

OCTOBER 24

Alumni and Friends of the Reynolds School
Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writer Program
Featuring Clay Jenkinson

OCTOBER 27

Nevada Alumni Association
Pre-Game Party • 2 hours before kickoff
Wolf Pack Alley (North of Mackay Stadium)

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter
Game Day BBQ & Beer • Throughout the Game
Northwest Corner of Mackay Stadium

NOVEMBER 16

Nevada Alumni Association
Pre-Game Party • 2 hours before kickoff
Wolf Pack Alley (North of Mackay Stadium)

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter
Game Day BBQ & Beer • Throughout the Game
Northwest Corner of Mackay Stadium

DECEMBER 1

Nevada Alumni Association
Pre-Game Party • 2 hours before kickoff
Wolf Pack Alley (North of Mackay Stadium)

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter
Game Day BBQ & Beer • Throughout the Game
Northwest Corner of Mackay Stadium

ASUN = The Associated Students of the University
of Nevada, Reno. For more information,
visit asun.unr.edu.

775.784.6620
888.NV.ALUMS
www.unr.edu/alumni



**Special thanks to these businesses for encouraging employees to wear blue on Homecoming Friday.
If your business is "going blue", too, and you're not on this list, please contact us.**

Accountants, Inc., Applied Staffing Solutions, BBC Advertising, Builders Association of Northern Nevada, City National Bank, City of Reno, College Courtyard Apartments, Colliers International, Dillon Insurance, Eclipse Running, EDAWN, Eisman & Newmarker Peak Dental Practices, Fahrendorf, Vitoria, Oliphant & Oster, Firestone, First Independent Bank of Nevada, Fuel Reno, Hale Lane Law Firm, IGT, IntoHomes Inc., JIH Incorporated, KTVN TV - Channel 2, Lazzarone Group, Legacy Wealth Planning, Lessinger Team, Lumos and Associates, M3Planning, Manpower, MassMedia, Muckel Anderson, NAI Alliance, National Automobile Museum, The Harrah Collection, Nevada Payroll Services, Nevada State Bank, Northern Nevada Business Weekly, Olsen & Associates Public Relations, Panattoni Construction, Pitts Orthodontics, Proctor, Davis and Company, Q&D Construction, Reliable Framing, Inc., Reno eNVy, Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Reno Vulcanizing, Robert Half International Inc., Rose-Glenn Group, Saint Mary's, Scruples Bar & Grill, Sierra Pacific Federal Credit Union, Sun West Bank, The Success Partners Group, Tripp Dentistry, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Washoe County School District, Wells Fargo, Western Nevada Supply

List as of 7/31/07

Strike up

THE BAND

HOMECOMING

07

OCTOBER 1-6

Since **N** 1874

- Oct. 4** Homecoming Gala: 6 pm Cocktails - 7 pm Dinner & Program - Reno-Sparks Convention Center
- Oct. 5** Blue Flu Free Community BBQ: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm - University of Nevada, Reno Quad
- Oct. 5** Old Guy's Night: 9 pm - Red's Little Waldorf Saloon
- Oct. 6** Nevada vs. Fresno State Football Pre-Game Party: 11 am Wolf Pack Alley (north of Mackay Stadium)
KICK OFF: 1:05 pm Mackay Stadium

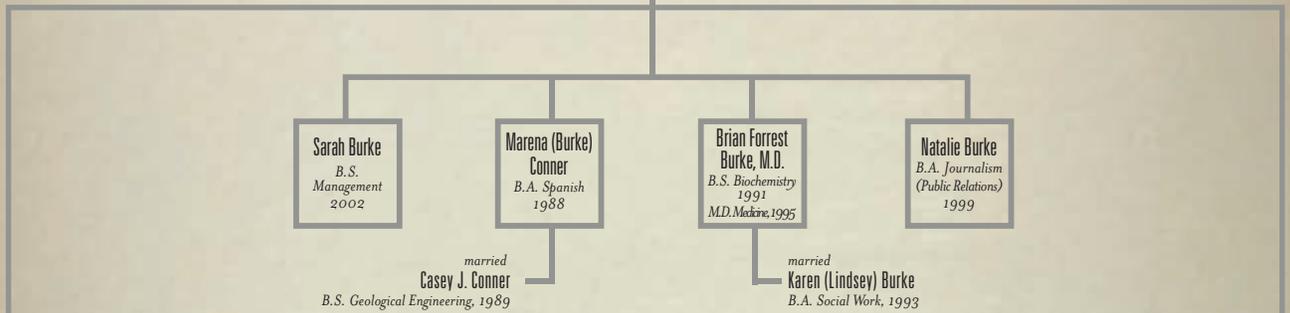


HOME MEANS NEVADA

775.784.6620 : 888.NV.ALUMS
www.unr.edu/alumni

For a complete list of Homecoming events, go to www.unr.edu/alumni.

BURKE FAMILY TREE

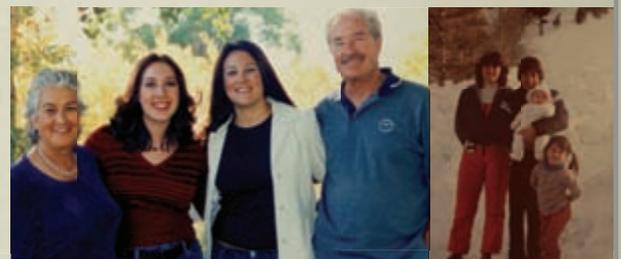


A success story from the past.

Brian and Delores Burke moved to Reno for all that Nevada offers, including a great university. They provided an opportunity they did not have themselves, supporting a child enrolled at Nevada for twenty years straight from 1983 through 2003, resulting in four bachelor degrees and one medical school degree. They have also welcomed two other Nevada grads into their family, Casey and Karen. Today, Marena, Brian Forrest, Natalie and Sarah are proud to call themselves Nevada alumni.



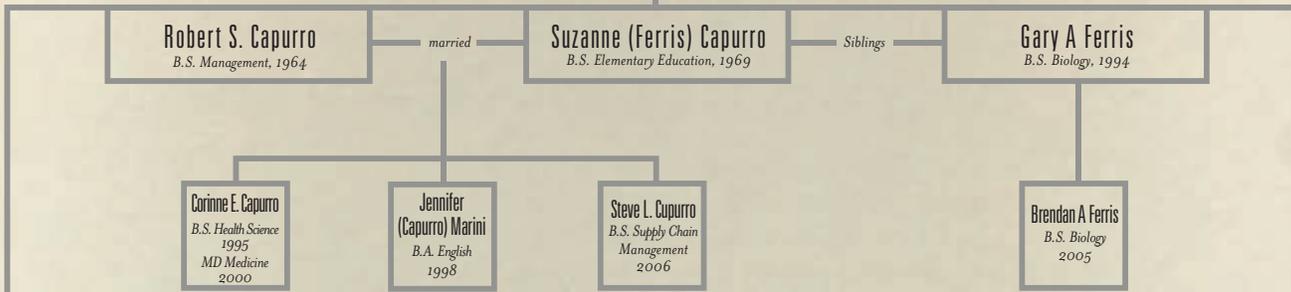
The Burke Family



(Family): (left to right) Delores, Sarah, Natalie, and Brian; (Skiing): (left to right) Marena, Brian (with Sarah), and Natalie



CAPURRO-FERRIS FAMILY TREE



A stepping stone to the future.

For the Capurro and Ferris families, going to Nevada was their first choice. Together, they personify what graduating from the University of Nevada is all about – with successful careers that span a wide range of fields.

From banking, logistics and secondary education to oral surgery, obstetrics/gynecology and pharmaceuticals, the university was a key stepping stone for them and hopefully future generations, too.



The Capurro Family



(Graduation): (left to right) Robert Capurro, Brendan Ferris and Suzanne Capurro; (Wedding): Robert and Suzanne Capurro



FAMILY
TREE
CHALLENGE

How many University of Nevada, Reno alumni make up your family tree? Let us know, and you could all be featured in the next issue of the Silver & Blue. For details, visit <http://www.unr.edu/alumni> or call (888) NV-ALUMS.

'00s

Courtney Peterson '01 (general studies) is currently working on her MBA while working as assistant director of patient access at Renown Regional Medical Center.

Eric Kurdziel '01 (logistics management) recently completed his MBA at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, and has accepted a management consulting position with Alvarez and Marsal Business Consulting in Chicago.

Cherlyn Crosby '01 (general studies) is currently in her second year at Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She and her partner, Jennifer, married on April 21, 2007, in Windsor, Canada.

Hannah Zive '02 (political science) has been named member relations and marketing manager for the historic Thunderbird Lodge at Lake Tahoe. Hannah oversees member communications, marketing, advertising and media relations. Hannah was also recently engaged to Nick Serrano. They are planning a fall 2007 wedding.



Daniel Lipparelli '02 (social work) quit his job, sold his car and, with his brother Luke found himself on a plane to Kenya to work at an orphanage. Daniel has started a non-profit government organization in Kenya and a non-profit in the United States named Transformed International. One undertaking of this organization includes sending shipments of handcrafted African products to Reno with proceeds going to beds for children, shelters, food for the needy, educating orphans and starting microbusinesses for widows. In the near future, Daniel would like to take his non-profit to Rwanda and India. To find out more about Transformed International, visit <http://www.transformedinternational.org>.



Eric Kurdziel '01
(logistics management)



Brian Landrus '02
(applied music)



Sherry Rupert '05
(finance)



Barry White '05
(journalism)

Brian Landrus '02 (applied music) was top of his class at the New England Conservatory, graduating with two degrees, one in jazz composition and the other in jazz performance. Brian also won the Gunther Schuller Medal, awarded to a graduate student who has made extraordinary contributions to the life of New England Conservatory. Brian recently recorded a new CD and plans to move to New York City.

Juliana Crespo '03 (journalism), '07M.A. (English) was accepted to Indiana University's master of fine arts program in fiction.

Amanda Brookhyser '04 (English) attends law school at Drake University.

Hannah Figurski '04 (English) is finishing law school at the University of California, San Diego, where she was moot court winner in her first year and edited the law review.

Mark Glodowski '04 (marketing) is very busy starting Silver and Blue Outfitters, a Nevada Wolf Pack sports apparel store with Brad Platt '00 (electrical engineering). The Wolf Pack nation has never looked so good!

Sherry Rupert '05 (finance) was recently awarded an Excellence in Tourism award from the Nevada Commission on Tourism. According to Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki, "The award recognized exceptional volunteer efforts in promoting the state's number one industry." Sherry works as executive Director of the Nevada Indian Commission and is currently the president of the Nevada Alumni Association's Native American Chapter.

Barry White '05 (journalism) currently works in Sacramento for ABC as an editor and photographer.

Mary Alauria Sell '06 (English) is studying law at Lewis & Clark in Portland, Oregon.

Irena Yamboliev '06 (English/biology) has entered the Stanford University doctorate program in English.

Claire Watkins '07 (English) is enrolled in the master of fine arts program at Ohio State to study fiction.

Karole Morgan-Prager

Karole Morgan-Prager '84 (journalism and political science) is vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for the Sacramento-based McClatchy Company, the third largest newspaper company in the United States.

1. Is it harder to defend reporters since the Valerie Plame CIA leak investigation in which former New York Times reporter Judith Miller was jailed for contempt of court and former Time reporter Matthew Cooper was threatened with imprisonment for refusing to testify?

Certainly the situations involving Judith Miller and Matthew Cooper give attorneys advising newspapers and reporters cause for concern where confidential sources are involved. It's interesting to note that there never has been a nationally recognized reporter's privilege — it's just that the Justice Department, for example, has become more willing to subpoena reporters than it perhaps was in the past. As a result, the lack of a national shield law has become more problematic and efforts to pass federal shield law legislation are continuing. Reporters need to be smart about the

way they handle confidential sources and to be on the record whenever possible. But there

will be instances where assurances of confidentiality are necessary in order to bring important stories to the public. Think of the news that would not have come to light if sources had not been promised confidentiality — the Abu Ghraib and Walter Reed Army Medical Center scandals just to name two. In order to protect the ability of journalists to continue to play the role that is so important to democracy, it's imperative that reporters are not forced to reveal their sources without a compelling reason.

Melanie Robbins '06M.A. is an associate editor of *Nevada Silver & Blue*.



Photo by Jean Dixon

2. What strategies are newspaper chains such as McClatchy using to embrace a future that includes new media?

We see the future as "platform agnostic." In other words, we'll deliver our news and content to our readers and users where they want it when they want it. This of course has its legal challenges, as we work in areas of media that our newspapers haven't traditionally been. So that means becoming more experienced and creative in dealing with videos, blogs and user-generated content on platforms including the Internet, cell phones, and PDAs. We look for ways to work creatively to use technology to our greatest advantage.

3. The McClatchy Company purchased Knight Ridder — at the time the second largest chain of newspapers in the country — on June 27, 2006. What was it like being general counsel for McClatchy during the merger?

Very busy. It was a complex transaction because not only did it involve acquiring a big company, but we also sold 12 newspapers that, although great newspapers, did not fit McClatchy's strategy. Unfortunately, the Knight Ridder acquisition happened just at the time that we've come into a very difficult

advertising environment. This has been a challenging time, but with those challenges come the greatest rewards.

4. The *American Journalism Review* has lauded McClatchy for keeping its foreign bureaus and blending Knight Ridder's strong Washington bureau with McClatchy's. In a time when other large newspapers (*Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*)

are making headlines for axing staff and eliminating foreign bureaus, what is it about McClatchy that let's it hear a different drummer?

We are really proud of our bureaus. Some of the best reporting in the country on major national issues like the lack of WMDs in Iraq and the U. S. attorney firings scandal has come out of our Washington bureau. At McClatchy we are determined to remain true to our mission, which includes public service journalism aimed at better informing citizens. It's that kind of journalism that is indispensable in creating and sustaining our democracy.

5. Ten or 20 years hence, what do you see as the future for newspapers?

Newspapers will still be here — in print, online or on whatever platform comes next. Reliable news and information have always been valuable — they were valuable 400 years ago when the first newspaper was published, and they'll be valuable in the years to come. Of course, business models are evolving and will continue to evolve, and it will be the successful newspapers that are able to embrace change. They will have taken full advantage of technology to reach growing audiences with compelling content. I'm looking forward to it.

Alumni Band

Kiara (Donohue) Wolf '92, '97
unrbandalum@hotmail.com

Here it is, September already. It's almost time for Homecoming, and that means Alumni Band! By now, you have oiled your valves, bought some new reeds, and found your Alumni Band shirt. What, you didn't know about Alumni Band!? Email us right now to get on the mailing list and find out about all the plans for Homecoming 2007, as well as updates on your old friends. See you in October!

Alumni & Friends of the Reynolds School

Kristin Ghiggeri Burgarello '97
kburgarello@unr.edu

On Saturday, October 6 during Homecoming week, all alumni of the Reynolds School are invited to the Nevada Alumni Association's tailgate prior to the football game. Visit www.unr.edu/alumni for more information on this event. We'll have a table specifically for RSJ alumni to visit with friends and faculty of the school — see you there! Also, please mark your calendars for our annual Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writer Program on Wednesday, October 24. Clay Jenkinson will be this year's speaker. We're looking forward to another exciting event.

Have you moved, gotten married or started a new job? If so, please contact Kristin Burgarello, director of development, at kburgarello@unr.edu or (775) 784-4471 to update your information. For more frequent updates on the school, please visit <http://journalism.unr.edu>.

Asian American Pacific Islander Alumni Chapter

Renee (Wong) Gonzales '96
unr_aapi@yahoo.com

Join the Asian American Pacific Islander Alumni Chapter! The AAPI Alumni Chapter plans to address the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander alumni from all schools of the University of Nevada, Reno. For more info about membership and events, contact Renee (Wong) Gonzales '96 or visit our alumni webpage at <http://www.unr.edu/alumni>

COBAAA

Ro Lazzarone '03
rljazzarone@ft.nyl.com

On May 3, COBAAA's annual golf tournament raised approximately \$12,000, to be used towards continued support of COBA, including student scholarships, student organization support, student lounge remodel, event sponsorship, and career services office funding. Upcoming COBAAA-sponsored



2006 and 2007 Native American Graduation reception on May 3 at Morrill Hall. From left, back row: Ryan Rogers, Nicole Jamieson, Marcey DeLorme, Mikel Alvarez, and Shana Thomas. Front row: Shane Smith-Triplett and Lorraine Marshall.

events include the Disney-themed Pack Picnic on the Quad Wednesday, Aug. 1 and the student lounge opening in early fall. COBAAA continues to focus membership growth through ongoing contact with students, alumni, and local businesses and has just elected new officers: President — Ro Lazzarone '03; President-Elect — Dan Flowers '97; Treasurer — Justin Thomsen '05; VP Development — Jennifer Boland '00; and VP Public Relations — Nicole (Moschetti) Vance '96. Thanks to COBAAA's outgoing officers!

Fallon

Roger Diedrichsen '71
dog@phonewave.net

The Fallon Alumni Chapter recently awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to the following graduating seniors of Churchill County High School Class of 2007: Amy Nygren, Rachel Lecker, Eric Tavor and Alexandria Pierce. On May 6, the Fallon Chapter took a sold-out bus of Pack fans to Peccole Park for the Wolf Pack/Louisiana Tech game. Everyone had a great time. On Aug. 5, the chapter held its annual mystery bus trip scholarship fundraiser. The location is still a mystery at time of publication. We held a Western barbecue at the Frey Ranch in Fallon on Aug. 26. This event also supports local scholarships to the University of Nevada, Reno.

Coming Up: A Football Rooter Bus; for information, call Jane (Jabines) Moon '92 at (775) 423-6983. "Steppin' Out" dinner and show trip in late fall; call Mike McGinness '71 or Dee (Pearce) McGinness '70 at (775) 423-5889 for more information. Annual Winterfest dinner on March 15, 2008; call Ernie Pontius '77 or Shelia (Austin) Pontius '75 at (775) 423-6607 for details.

Native American Chapter

Sherry Rupert '05
srupert@gmail.state.nv.us

The Native American Chapter is excited about becoming more active in the community by volunteering for and sponsoring local and university events. The chapter participated and volunteered in the June 15 to 17 Stewart Father's Day Powwow in Carson City, Nev. At the powwow, the chapter recruited new members and raised money by selling alumni apparel. The NAC also sponsored and volunteered at a "Pack Picnic on the Quad" event on Aug. 8 at the University.

If you would like to join the chapter or want more information on upcoming events, please visit the chapter website at <http://www.unr.edu/alumni/chapters.aspx>, or contact Sherry Rupert at (775) 687-8333.

The Young Alumni Chapter welcomed families and friends for the summer's first Pack Picnic on July 11. YAC members served refreshments and participated in the fun and games, while enjoying the cool sounds of Sol Jibe.



Melissa Molyneaux '06, Chris Kinney '01, Ro Lazzarone '03, Lesley Davis '04, Arkaitz Aldecoaotalora '01, Lauren Sankovich '98, Seema Bhardwaj '02.



Arkaitz Aldecoaotalora, Lauren Sankovich, Chris Kinney.



Melissa Molyneaux, Chris Kinney.

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter

Jim Farley '99
jfarley47@verizon.net

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter held its annual golf tournament June 1 at Lakeridge Golf Course. There were more than 120 former players, coaches and football supporters who played in the tournament. A special thanks to our sponsors, players and contributors for another successful tournament. The Football Alumni Association now has a website available at <http://nevadawolfpackfootballalumni.com>. For football alumni interested in joining the chapter, email Jim Farley.

OSNAA

Kathie Baldrige '05
orvis_alumni@hotmail.com

As of our last meeting, OSNAA is 85 members strong and still growing. We are forming several special subcommittees and have had a strong response from members wishing to volunteer. The Orvis School of Nursing will be hosting a brunch to celebrate its 50th anniversary on Oct. 6 in the Jot Travis Student Union, so mark your calendars for this special event!

Young Alumni Chapter

Seema Bhardwaj '02
Seema.Bhardwaj@GT.com

On July 11, YAC welcomed families and friends for the summer's first Pack Picnic on the Quad. YAC members served refreshments and participated in the fun and games, while enjoying the cool sounds of Sol'Jibe. In August, YAC members hit Reno's latest hot-spot: Nikki Beach at the Grand Sierra Resort. Attendees enjoyed food and drinks in a sandy beach setting without leaving Reno! Stay tuned for more details on YAC's fall events, including Homecoming in October and the ever-popular Mystery Bus Dinner!

Remembering Friends

Ruth King '37 (English) died peacefully at home on June 22, 2007. Ruth graduated from the University with a very strong record in math as well as English and teaching courses. She was an honors student, member of Phi Kappa Phi and a member of the sorority Kappa Alpha Theta. Below are some words she wrote about her life. "My father began teaching at the University of Nevada the year I was born. I became a teacher upon completion of my education. However, my profession was homemaking for my husband and family... really two families in that our two oldest were almost grown when we started again with two little girls. Our children are Jeanie, Jim, Carol and Karen." During her time of teaching, she also occasionally taught music, as well as math and reading. Ruth is most remembered for being totally accepting and loving of her kids. Ruth once said she felt like "the chicken that hatched a duck egg and then sat on the shore and watched it swim."

Ralph Wilson Shearer '41 (electrical engineering) died June 10, 2007 at his home in Reno. He graduated from Reno High in 1935, and received an appointment to Annapolis Naval Academy. He later accepted a scholarship at Nevada, where he was a member of the Ski Team, the Glee Club, played drums in the ROTC band and joined SAE Fraternity. After graduating, he worked summers on the Hoover Dam. In 1943, he won an "E" medal for work on the B-29 and worked on the Whittle jet engine to

support the Bell P-59. In 1948, he met and married the love of his life, Jeanne Thomas. They had three children. In 1954, he graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with an MBA degree and certificate of Industrial Relations. He later returned to Reno and did professional engineering at the University Planetarium, Sierra Pacific Power and Rocketdyne. He tested Gemini engines for the lunar module. Ralph was a kind, soft spoken, generous gentleman and will be sadly missed by his family, friends and community. Ralph is survived by his sister, Gwen Patton; daughter, Karen (Ken); granddaughter, Sierra; daughter Debra (Bob) Ballinger and grandchildren Mike and Amy Ballinger and Jeff Cooper; daughter Lynne and her family. He was preceded in death by both his sons, Steven and Douglas Shearer.

Charles E. Johnston '47 (mining engineering) passed away on March 2, 2007 in Carson City. Charles was attending the University of Nevada, Reno studying mining engineering when World War II broke out. He only had one semester to go until graduation, when he enlisted in the Army. As Charles knew how to survey, he went to war as a forward artillery surveyor. He was in many theatres, but the most difficult was his service with the 16th Army battalion in the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, he met his bride-to-be, Pearl Don, in Hollywood, Calif. Charles returned to the Mackay School of Mines and graduated in May 1947. In June 1947 Charles and Pearl

Don married, and were together for 59 years. They had two girls, Nancy and Anita, whom he loved very much. Charles is survived by his daughters and their husbands, Jay and Doug, along with two grandsons, Jon and Caleb.

Charles Frederick Coe '48 (mechanical engineering) died April 17, 2007 in Cupertino, Calif. Charles was born on March 15, 1923 in San Mateo, Calif. During World War II, Charlie flew 31 missions as a navigator on B-17's in the European theater as a member of the 303rd Bomb Group — the Hell's Angels. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and a European Theater of Operations Medal. In 1945 he married Shyrle Uhalt, of New Orleans. Charlie retired from NASA Ames Research Center after 32 years of research on aerodynamics, dynamic loads, aero elasticity, structural dynamics and instrument design. As a member of the Space Shuttle Structure Team he proposed and carried out special wind-tunnel tests on space shuttle tiles. He designed the unique tile airtload instrumentation that made these tests a success. In recognition for his work, Charlie received NASA's Exceptional Engineering Achievement Medal in 1981. Besides his many friends, Charles will be deeply missed by his daughters Lizabeth Coe and Francesca Coe Sherrill; and grandsons Charles Alexei Coe and Peter Frederick Coe. A gift may be made in memory of Charles Coe to the scholar-

ship he established, the Coe Family Scholarship Endowment through the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. Contact Melanie Perish, College of Engineering – Dean's Office, Mail Stop 256, University of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557.

Bill "Coach I" Ireland '52 (physical education), an influential force in the state's collegiate athletic programs died peacefully surrounded by family on July 31, 2007 in Reno. Bill was loved and admired by everyone who knew him. His players regarded him as an exceptional coach, teacher and role model. While a student at Nevada Bill met and married Jeanne Brunetti, a beautiful blonde Pi Phi who captured his heart from across a crowded dance floor. Together they raised four girls and three boys. Bill's first coaching assignment was at Nevada as the first graduate assistant under athletic director Jake Lawlor. A year later in 1953, he coached all sports at Fernley High School, winning 10 state championships in four years. In 1960, Bill became the head baseball coach and assistant football coach at Nevada, leading his baseball team to win the NCAA West Coast regional championship. In 1967, Bill moved to Las Vegas to lead UNLV's first football team and became the school's athletic director in 1972. Honored as the "Father of UNLV football," Bill was inducted into the UNLV Hall of Fame in 1987. In 1997, he received the nationally recognized Neyland Athletic Directors Lifetime Achievement Award. Bill is



Ralph Wilson Shearer '41 (electrical engineering)



Bill "Coach I" Ireland '52 (physical education)



Bert F. Scales '61MS (geology)



Charlotte (Garfinkle) O'Ryan '75 (social psychology)



Cathy (McCown) Chichester, '79, (CPA)

survived by his wife and their children: Christopher Ireland (Davis Masten), Kerry Ireland (Joe Herold), Kimberly Carano, Kelly Ireland, Michael Ireland (Lucinda Owens), Patrick Ireland and Terrence Ireland (Linh Tran). He is also survived by 16 grandchildren, as well as his sister Patricia Helmick (Jim Helmick), his mother-in-law, Rina Brunetti and sister-in-law, Eleanor Brunetti. Donations can be made to the Bill Ireland endowed baseball scholarship (c/o AAUN: Ireland Scholarship, Wolf Pack Athletics, Legacy Hall 232, Reno, NV 89557)..

Henry Ehrlinger III '57 (metallurgical engineering) died on May 25, 2007 in Carrier Mills, Ill. He was the widower of Lorraine (Schaublin) Ehrlinger, whom he married in 1949. In 1970 he married Rose Butler Wilson, who preceded him in death in 1997. Henry was born in Kellogg, Idaho, on Aug. 5, 1925. Six weeks after his 18th birthday, he was in the military service during World War II, seeing service in the Philippines on Luzon and the battle of Manila with the 754th Tank Battalion. His mining career led to

employment in Texas, Nevada, Arizona, Illinois, Pennsylvania and almost 10 years in Mexico. He was an active member of the Society of Mining Engineers, serving as chairman of the Industrial Minerals Division. After his retirement from the Illinois State Geological Survey in 1993, he resided in Eldorado, Ill. where he was active in Main Street activities and enjoyed his association with the Harrisburg Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society (barbershop singing). Henry is survived by two daughters, Constance and Paula; a stepdaughter, Christie Lee; stepson, Vernon; a sister, Ann; one grandson, Eric; six step grandchildren; and five great-step grandchildren.

Thomas D. Beardsley II '67 (biology) died of cancer on April 30, 2007 in Edmonds, Wash. Tom was a member of Sigma Nu and earned his block N in cross-country, a talent that carried over to his brief military career, when he won the cross-country championship at Ft. Ord while undergoing basic training. In his twenties and thirties, he traveled extensively, finally settling in Dutch Harbor, Alaska. After a decade

there, he moved his environmental consultancy business elsewhere in Alaska, and ultimately settled in Seattle. Tom was devoted to his three children, Chloe, Noah and Cedric, ages 19, 14 and 11. He is also survived by his sister, Patti, and brother, Bruce '64 (history).

Bert F. Scales '61M.S. (geology) died June 18, 2007 at the age of 74. At the time of his death, he was the president of Natural Reserves Group, Inc., an oil and gas exploration and production company in Houston, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Yvonne, two sons and three grandchildren.

Charlotte (Garfinkle) O'Ryan '75 (social psychology) died June 8, 2007 at age 72. Charlotte worked for the Nevada State Employment Office and also as a Drug Abuse counselor at Omega House. She is survived by sons, daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Cathy (McCown) Chichester, '79, (CPA) (MBA, Golden Gate University, 1984) died Jan. 21, 2007 at the age of 49 after a valiant battle

with pancreatic cancer. Cathy worked in the Accounting Department of the College of Business Administration as a work study student while attending the University. She was a successful business woman having owned several businesses, and most recently her own CPA firm. Cathy was a native Nevadan born June 19, 1957 in Las Vegas. Cathy received her CPA certification from the State of Nevada in 1982. Everyone who knew Cathy will remember her exuberance for life, her special knack of making people laugh, her exceptional talent playing the piano and her enthusiasm for golf. Cathy's one regret upon learning of her illness was that she wouldn't have time to break 90. Cathy is survived by her children, Stephanie and Alex Chichester, Mother, Charlotte McCown, Father Chuck (Carol) McCown, Sister, Christy (Wayne) Buss, Nephew, Dustin (Ewa) McCown, Partner, Brian McKaig (Brad and Bo); her beloved cat, Fluffy, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Her family wishes to acknowledge the care provided to Cathy from the Circle of Life Hospice.

Breaking the football racial barrier

Marion Motley and Cleveland Browns teammate Bill Willis, along with Los Angeles Rams Kenny Washington and Woody Strode, helped break pro football's color line for good in 1946. A year later and with a good deal more media coverage, Jackie Robinson toppled baseball's unwritten mandate excluding black players from playing in the major leagues. Motley, a former Wolf Pack fullback and linebacker competing for Nevada from 1940 to 1942, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1968 for his superior running, powerful blocking and aggressive tackling. In an April 1992 interview with Helen M. Blue for the University of Nevada Oral History Program, Motley talks about the difficult days of racial discrimination he faced while competing in road games with the Wolf Pack. Named as one of the seven best running backs on the NFL's 75th anniversary team in 1994, Motley died in 1999 at age 79.



Photo courtesy University of Nevada Special Collections

Marion Motley (41) was a pioneer for Nevada athletics in many ways. He lettered in football for the Wolf Pack from 1940 to 42, but gained his biggest claim to fame in 1968 with his induction to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He is the only Nevada athlete so honored.

[Due to technical difficulties during the recorded interview, Motley's account opens with his description of the Idaho coaching staff, just before the kickoff, informing Wolf Pack head coach Jim Aiken and black first-year player Motley that he would not be allowed to compete in the 1940 Nevada-

Idaho football game, played in Moscow, Idaho. During the interview, Motley apparently confused 1940 Idaho coach Ted Bank with Francis Schmidt, who took over the Vandal

The University of Nevada Oral History Program produces and preserves primary-source oral histories that document the history and culture of Nevada and the Intermountain West. Visit <http://unr.edu/oral-history> for more information.

program in 1941. The edited version of the transcript below reflects that correction.]

Marion Motley: [Idaho Head Coach Ted Bank] called Jimmy Aiken over and said, "Well, Marion can't play the first half. He can't play." That's what he told him; I couldn't play because I was a freshman. Jim got very aggravated and called me over. I went over

there, and I was standing there talking to him. When he told Jim that I couldn't play, I had to grab Jim and pick him up around his waist and hold him off the ground and keep his feet up. He was going to punch this guy in the mouth; he was going to fight him. I said, "Oh, no need of that, Jim. You guys go ahead and play the game. I can sit on the bench."

Before the game started, though, the stands were roaring, "Get that nigger! Kill that nigger! Kill that alligator bait!" They were saying all that type of stuff. It didn't bother me because in those days you were used to it. When you were in Rome, you did like the Romans do.

But Jim and this guy and Bank were discussing it, and Jim told me, "Motley, go over there and tell all the football players, 'Come on, we're going home.'" He told Bank, "You let me bring my football team up here and wait right to the game time to tell me that." He said, "You go out there, Motley, and tell them," and I started out.

Then Bank said, "Wait a minute. Wait, wait,

wait." The stands were full, but they were supposed to beat us 30-0! Then he said, "Marion can't play the first half, but he can play the second half."

Jim thought about it and said, "Well, that sounds reasonable."

So I didn't play the first half, but the game for us started in the second half, because the first time I put my hand on the ball, I went to the goal line. When I dropped the ball down, it was a touchdown. I looked back, and the referee was beckoning me to come bring the ball back.

I ran about 50, 55 yards. Then about three or four plays later I went to about the 6-yard line, and they brought the ball back! In all, they only beat us 6-0, and if I had played the first half, they wouldn't have beat us that bad. They wouldn't have beat us! But that was one of the incidents I had during my college career with the University of Nevada.

Blue: *Were there any other instances like that?*

Motley: When I went to Brigham Young,

[in Provo] Utah [seven weeks before the Idaho game], the kids used to follow us around on the street when we were out walking before the game, and they were asking me, “Where’s your tail? You’re supposed to have a tail.”

I said, “If you don’t get away from me, I’ll put my foot in your . . .” Then I told the guys, “Well, look, I’m going back to campus. I’m not going to have this kind of carrying on. I can avoid it by going back to my room.” So I went back to the hotel. Then we played the game, and they beat us 6-0 [the two teams actually tied 6-6]. Those guys were supposed to beat us 30 or 35-0. We played them right up to the hilt with 15 players, and they had about 60 or 70 players out on the football team.

Blue: *What about the Arkansas A&M [now Arkansas-Monticello] game? There was some flap about that, too. I don’t think there was anything where they were trying to prevent you from playing, but I heard somewhere that you really wiped them out. They were calling you names.*

Motley: Yes, we did beat Arkansas pretty bad. I don’t remember what the score was, but we did beat Arkansas pretty bad.

Blue: *Of any of the teams you played when you were here at UNR, were there ever other black players on other teams?*

Motley: San Jose had some. San Francisco had one or two. I think College of the Pacific had one or two, but the other colleges didn’t have any.

Blue: *Were there any other black students at the time here at UNR?*

Motley: No.

Blue: *You were the only one for that first year? [Motley said another black student, Ray Freeman, came for the academic year 1941-1942, but left after football season concluded.]*

Motley: Yes. I was treated very well. No one gave me any flak; no one called me names. I think that Jim being from the East meant he had coached a lot of black players. I think he sort of paved the way for me coming in. Everybody was nice.

Blue: *You left here, then, in 1942? You stayed and played that season, and then you left?*

Motley: Yes, I left then and came to Can-

ton, my hometown. I brought my family with me, and I was inducted into the service right here in Akron, Ohio.

Blue: *OK. Can you just go through again real briefly how you came to be with the Cleveland Browns?*

Motley: What happened is that when I was at Great Lakes [Naval Training Station in Illinois] I heard that a team was forming, because a couple guys on the team that later came out for the Browns had contracts. They were signing players during the war in 1945, and in 1946.

Anyway, I was playing football for Great Lakes. I was supposed to get out in July or August, and Paul Brown [who coached the Browns from 1946 to 1962] asked me to stay to help him out with the football team to get through the season. I stayed and played football for him, and then December the third, I was released from the service and went back home.

When I got back home, Jim Aiken tried to get in touch with me to get me to come back to school, which I was contemplating. Then Paul Brown called me one night about three weeks after the training camp had started in Bowling Green, Ohio, and he asked me if I would come up to try out. I said I’d love to come up and try out.

I went up the next day, and they had practice at three. I got there about one, and we had wind sprints, so we ran and did things of that sort. Then he told me I made the team! That was the beginning of playing for the Browns.

Blue: *Were you one of the first black players?*

Motley: In this era, yes. Bill Willis and I were the first two. We played all of 1946. As a matter of fact, we got another one in 1947. We got Horace Gillom, who played at University of Nevada [in 1946]. He was a punter and an end. In the middle of the season in 1947, he came out of the service, and we picked him up [to play for the Browns].

Blue: *Being the first black at UNR and then later in the NFL must have been a big deal [Arthur James of Elko is the earliest documented black football player to play for Nevada, lettering in 1921].*

Motley: Well, the deal wasn’t so big as

the type of treatment we got. Bill and I were there the first year. We were really battered from side to side with the referees not calling anything when they saw it, but we were just determined not to jump up and fight and get kicked out of the game, so we just stayed and took it. We punished them just as well as they punished us, though. “If you hit me, I’m going to hit you back. I might not get you this game, but I’ll get you the next game.”

Blue: *Did you feel that way when you were here at UNR?*

Motley: Well, our players didn’t have a problem; it was the other players. They called us names and everything, and I just wouldn’t even talk to them. If I caught one in my way, I ran over him. I ran smack over him. I tried to take him going in one end and coming out the other, so we got a lot of respect that way. They finally just went along with our program because we were going to be there.

In the pros we had guys doing the same thing. They called us all kinds of names and hit us when we turned our backs. The referee would be standing within looking distance and never call it, but when I got my chance to hit one of those guys, I hit him! I didn’t let up on him. I hit him right through the elbow and tried to bash his brains. Those were the times when you had to make the best of it. It was tough; it was rather rough.

Motley’s emergence at the University of Nevada inspired Aiken to recruit Horace Gillom and Bill Bass, two black players who played for the Wolf Pack in 1946. In 1947 and 1948 under head coach Joe Sheeketski, Alva Tabor and Sherman Howard suited up for Nevada. In their second season with the team it appeared they would be barred from playing in a game against the University of Tulsa, but Sheeketski would not relent. He started Howard at fullback and brought in Tabor to relieve All-American quarterback Stan Heath in the second half. Nevada won, 65-14, and Howard and Tabor were the first blacks to compete in college football in Oklahoma.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE THAT YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF?

There are three facets of my life that make me proud. Professionally, I am proud to have started our winery with my husband, John, in 1973. It was a time when there were fewer than 30 wineries in the Napa Valley and the wine business had not yet earned "cottage" industry status.

To have played and to continue to play a major role in the development of Trefethen Family Vineyards, is very rewarding. Our Chardonnay was recognized as the "best in the world" in Paris in 1979 [at the Wine Olympics organized by the French food and wine magazine, *Gault Millau*], and again in 1980. This year, *Decanter* magazine has judged our Cabernet Sauvignon the best, red Bordeaux varietal in North America. Terrific accolades! It is also very fulfilling to go to a restaurant and see people enjoying their evening with a bottle of our wine. To think that in some small way I have contributed to the enjoyment of their day is a real turn-on.

Personally, I beam when I think of my crazy, splendid family. My wonderful husband, John, has entered his third or fourth childhood (I've lost track) and is now racing Porsche GT3 Cup cars. He's among the top racers in his division. I am proud of the way we have passed on our values to our grown children. They have integrity, compassion and respect for others and a passion for life. Our son, Loren, is a Stanford graduate, and has recently joined the winery with energy, enthusiasm and a sense of humor. Our daughter, Hailey, will graduate from Santa Clara University in 2008. Currently in Costa Rica working with primates, she is mature, thoughtful and compassionate beyond her years. They are splendid people who contribute to the lives of those surrounding them.



Photo Courtesy of Janet Trefethen

One of the first female chief executive officers for an American winery, Janet Trefethen, '71 (journalism), owns a world-class winery in California's Napa Valley. A former resident of the University's Manzanita Hall, Trefethen manages, with her husband, John, the only 19th-century, wooden, gravity-flow winery surviving in Napa County. Trefethen Vineyards, <http://www.trefethenfamilyvineyards.com/>, in the Oak Knoll district, has been in business since 1968. It produces 60,000 cases a year exclusively from the family's own vineyards.

Our dinner table is usually stimulated by good conversation and delicious wines.

Another feather in my cap was finishing in the top 5 nationally in 2005 on my cutting horse, Wholly Cats. What a thrill to succeed at cutting!

WHAT DO YOU MOST REGRET?

For someone like me who is passionate about life and wants to do so many things, there can be all sorts of regrets. I wish I could take art classes, play the piano, be multilingual and have a master of business administration degree... climb Mount Everest... and win the Tour de France. The list could go on and on.

But, specifically, I wish I had pursued a double major at Nevada. I regret not having a business degree in addition to one in journalism.

I wish I had said "yes" when John wanted to buy land in Sun Valley, Idaho, 30 years ago.

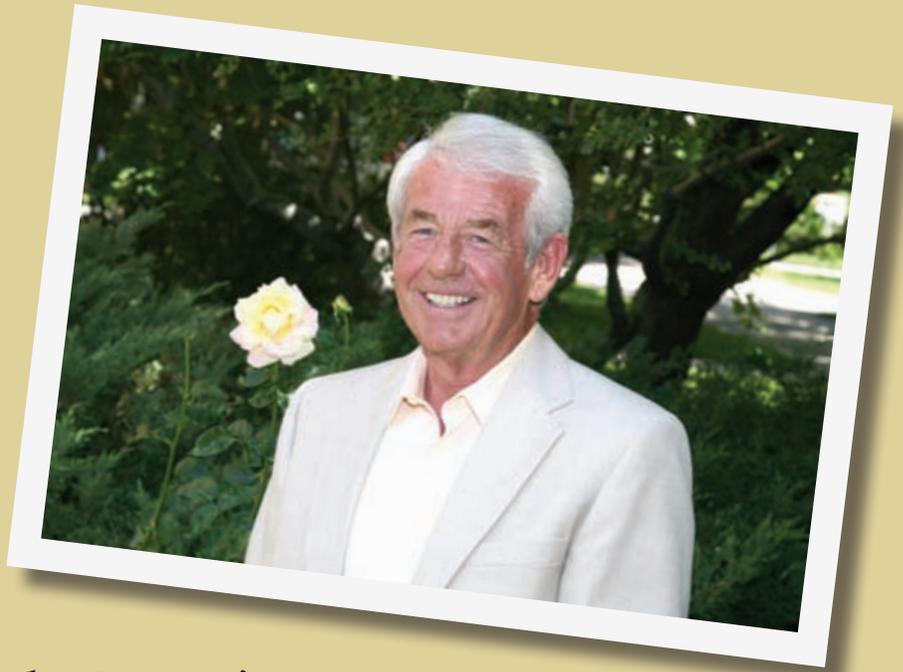
I regret that we have not found a way to share our sustainable farming practices with the Chinese farmers and others. But there is life left to live, and perhaps some of those regrets can become accomplishments.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT AFTER COLLEGE?

Don't be in a hurry. People live longer today and there are different things to be experienced and enjoyed at different times in our lives. Take the time to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. Follow your heart and persevere and remember to enjoy each stage of life.

WHAT I'VE DONE WITH MY LIFE asks an alum who has been out of school for a while to answer the three questions above. Email your submission to silverblue@unr.edu, or send it via regular mail to: *Nevada Silver & Blue*, University of Nevada, Reno, Mail Stop 0007, Reno, NV 89557-0007. Include a phone number. Don't exceed 650 words. Submissions may be posted at <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue>.

'I hope to convey my strong beliefs in the power of hard work and education to students attending the University of Nevada, Reno...'



Edward C. Coppin '62 (physical sciences) has created a scholarship at Nevada to provide financial assistance to students from Pershing County through a gift annuity with the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. An annuity provides a fixed-sum income to a donor during his or her lifetime, and ultimately funds an area of particular interest. In Ed's case, his annuity will later fund the endowed scholarship bearing his name. During his lifetime, Ed has opted to fund the scholarship on an annual basis with his annuity income, and the first Edward C. Coppin Scholarship was awarded this fall.

Raised in Lovelock, Ed received the Josephine Beam Educational Scholarship to attend Nevada. His dedication to learning and hard work was instilled at an early age. "My mother was a strong believer in education and my father valued a strong work ethic," says Ed. "After graduating from Nevada, I received a National Science Foundation grant to attend graduate school at Indiana University and have always deeply appreciated the financial support I received throughout college."

Higher education led to a teaching career. Ed taught at Pershing County High School for a short period, Traner Middle School in Reno, and then Incline Village High School until he retired in 1993. He enjoyed a parallel and distinguished 29-year military career in the Air Force and Nevada Air National Guard, eventually retiring with the rank of colonel. Following his retirement from teaching, Ed became involved in the banking business and was instrumental in the formation and success of several banks in Lake Tahoe and Reno.

After several very successful careers, Ed now says he feels a responsibility to share his good fortune. "I hope to convey my strong beliefs in the power of hard work and education to students attending the University of Nevada, Reno and hope that they benefit from financial support as I did."

Ed is part of an ever-growing group of alumni and friends whose contributions make an incredible difference for students at the University.

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between the Foundation and the donor, whereby the donor makes an initial gift of cash or securities to the Foundation, and the Foundation agrees to pay the donor a fixed-sum income for the rest of his or her lifetime. The establishment of a gift annuity provides valuable tax benefits for donors, but perhaps more valuable is the satisfaction donors gain by helping students and continuing the mission and good works of the University.

To learn more about gift annuities, contact Lisa Riley or Bob Eggleston in the Planned Giving Office at (775) 784-1352 or giving@unr.edu.



University of Nevada, Reno
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GLORY DAYS

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HOMECOMING

2007

OCTOBER 1-6



- Oct. 4 Homecoming Gala:** 6 pm Cocktails · 7 pm Dinner & Program · Reno-Sparks Convention Center
- Oct. 5 Blue Flu Free Community BBQ:** 11:30 am to 1:30 pm · University of Nevada, Reno Quad
- Oct. 5 Old Guy's Night:** 9 pm · Red's Little Waldorf Saloon
- Oct. 6 Nevada vs. Fresno State Football Pre-Game Party:** 11 am Wolf Pack Alley (north of Mackay Stadium)
KICK OFF: 1:05 pm Mackay Stadium



775.784.6620 : 888.NV.ALUMS
www.unr.edu/alumni

For a complete list of Homecoming events, turn to page 52 or go to www.unr.edu/alumni.

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