

NEVADA

Silver&Blue

America's boom state and the university that's all over it. • Spring 2007

RESEARCH BRINGS HOPE
TO FALLON CANCER
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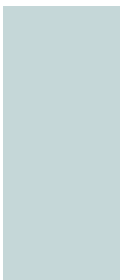
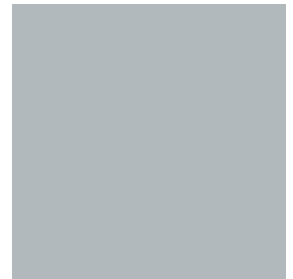
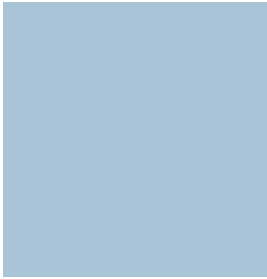
MARCH MADNESS SPECTACULAR

TWO BASKETBALL TEAMS
IN THE POSTSEASON

(TURN THE PAGE TO RELIVE THE LOVE AT LAWLOR)

N

Ron Oden



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Supporting our Angels

Nursing scholarship endowment to widen circle of Nevada health professionals

The University of Nevada, Reno Foundation recently received one of the largest estate gifts ever from Ann Kirkwood to support Orvis School of Nursing students. Kirkwood attended Nevada in the early 1940s and was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Ann cared about people and their education and before her passing at age 85 in March 2006, designated \$3.3 million for a scholarship endowment for students at the nursing school. Her kindness will leave a great legacy. Not just for nursing students who will benefit directly from her scholarship, but for the entire health care community, which needs these well-prepared professionals.

The Kirkwood bequest is a milestone for the Orvis

School of Nursing. It enables the University to continue developing competent nursing graduates and build a growing circle of health professionals in Nevada.

Bequests are gifts made through an individual's will or living trust to provide support for a favorite charitable organization.

These gifts can provide a number of avenues for creating a legacy that helps fulfill the University's mission of teaching, research and service, and allow you to honor your name and

your family's name, and associate forever with a favorite cause — while reaping significant tax benefits.

The University's Planned Giving office will help you find the best method of giving for your circumstance. Please see the Planned Giving office's contact information below.



Bequests may take the form of unrestricted or restricted gifts

Unrestricted Gift

Remembering the University in your will is a fitting testimony of your high regard for higher education at Nevada. When you name the University as a beneficiary, you have many choices. A gift without restrictions is often the most useful because it allows the funds to be applied toward Nevada's most pressing needs.

Restricted Gift

You also have the right to restrict your gift by specifying in your will how the funds will be used. One example of a restricted gift is the requirement that the University Foundation holds the principal as an endowment and uses only the available earnings as you indicate. You may also allow the Foundation to determine how the donation will best serve the University's mission.

Is the University of Nevada, Reno already a designated charity in your will, trust or other estate-planning document? Let us know and we can help to confirm that the University can fully honor your wishes.

Your foresight and generosity is valued. While the benefits of your estate gift will not be fully realized until a later date, we can recognize your generosity today through membership in the University's planned giving society.

To learn more about establishing a legacy by including the University in your estate, please contact :

**University of Nevada, Reno Foundation
Office of Planned Giving**

Bob Eggleston or Lisa Riley

(775) 682-6016 • Fax (775) 784-1394

or email beggleston@unr.edu or lriley@unr.edu.



Photo by David Calvert; inset photo by Jean Dixon

Lawlor loyalty

Over the past four seasons during Nick Fazekas' record-setting run as a Wolf Pack men's basketball player, the rites of March have included four Western Athletic Conference championships. The Wolf Pack wrapped up a 14-2 WAC regular-season record March 3 with a 69-65 victory over rival New Mexico State at Lawlor Events Center before 11,462 white-T-shirt-clad Pack fans. The night, appropriately, was called a "White Out." Seniors Fazekas, Kyle Shiloh and Dennis Ikovlev said good-bye to the Pack faithful and hello to a fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament bid. The Nevada women's basketball team joined the men's team in a national tourney when the Pack earned its first postseason appearance, a berth in the 48-team Women's National Invitation Tournament.

LOOK ONLINE

More photos of Wolf Pack basketball action:
<http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue> or
<http://www.unr.edu/nevadaphotography>



Photos by John Byrne, David Calvert and Jean Dixon



University of Nevada, Reno
Statewide • Worldwide

NEVADA

Silver&Blue

America's boom state and the university that's all over it

www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

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Six months and counting

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Let me say how pleased I am to be a part of the Nevada family. We have an incredible opportunity before us to move the University forward; to make Nevada degrees—past and future—increasingly more valuable. For the long-term success of the University and our state we need to produce more college graduates. A college degree is a significant and worthwhile investment. It creates prosperity for our students, their families and communities, in turn impacting the well-being of the state of Nevada and contributing to the nation and the world by way of an educated workforce and citizenry.

Our talented faculty help amplify this impact through their efforts in the classroom and in the research lab. Two examples are Thomas Bell, professor of chemistry, and William Murphy, professor of microbiology and immunology. Tom Bell's research has led to the development of an extremely effective HIV/AIDS-fighting compound. This compound promises to contribute to a new generation of HIV/AIDS drugs. And, as you will read in this issue, Bill Murphy, one of the country's foremost cancer researchers, is heading a team of scientists investigating the causes of the childhood cancer cluster in the rural Nevada town of Fallon. You can be rightfully proud of these individuals, this University and its contributions; however, we can always do more.

I would like to enlist your help in turning more of our state's population into college students and more of our students into college graduates. Together we know we can enhance student success. I would like your input on ways to recruit, retain and graduate more students, including Nevada's best and brightest. If you are a recent alum or the parent of a student, tell us what we can do to create the best environment for success.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the success that our student-athletes have enjoyed this year. Our women's soccer and swimming and diving teams are Western Athletic Conference Tournament winners. Our student-athletes compete and win on the field of play, in the classroom and in life, and we share in their success. The Wolf Pack men and women have given us great basketball seasons. We congratulate the teams—players, coaches and staff. Winning teams invigorate our University's friends and supporters and give us something to rally around. A successful athletic program generates national exposure, providing more and greater opportunity for our institution. Finally, it adds to the University experience, which contributes to additional success in student recruitment, retention and graduation.

Sincerely,

Milt Glick

Contact me: <http://www.unr.edu/president/contact>

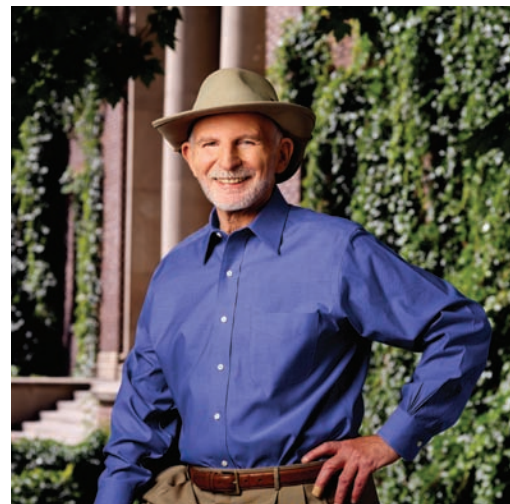


Photo by Jeff Ross

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Cover painting

Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) range from Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan to Nevada and eastern California, with the core sage-grouse populations located in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming and Nevada. Their population closely parallels the distribution of the sagebrush ecosystem.

Several University researchers have studied the bird and its habitat over the years. The bird itself is a species of aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational and scientific value. Sage-grouse are considered one of the true "bellwethers" of the animal kingdom, because their health and distribution are often indicators of the health of their environment.

Citizens, regulatory agencies and scientists helped create one of the most comprehensive conservation plans in Nevada history. The Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California, finalized in 2005 during the administration of Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn, identified actions to improve the sage-grouse's habitat before it reaches a threshold of vulnerability that would require the animal to be listed as a threatened or endangered species.

ORDER A POSTER-SIZE PRINT

Bird of the Sage is a painting on canvas by Nevada artist Ron Oden (www.ronoden.com), commissioned for the Spring cover of the Nevada Silver & Blue. Hand-signed Giclée fine art reproductions (printed on 13x19 watercolor paper) are available for \$35, postage and handling included. If you are interested in receiving a reproduction of "Bird of the Sage," send a check or money order in the amount of \$35 payable to Rainmaker Productions, P.O. Box 475, Tahoe Vista, CA 96148. Please specify if you would like the Nevada Silver & Blue nameplate included in the image, or without. Please allow 10 to 14 days for delivery.



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>

Letters to the Editor

The new Nevada Silver & Blue is outstanding. ... what a fun magazine to read.

Jim Nightingale '64 (civil engineering)
Carmichael, Calif.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the staff and anyone else behind the new Silver & Blue! In design, content, writing and editing, it's a quantum leap beyond the old. It projects an image and a message that the University can be proud of. The new design is outstanding, but I am particularly impressed by the lively writing, no doubt guided and supported by your editing. In contrast with past issues, the new one reads as if people who have been on the staff for years were finally given the green light to use their best chops. I look forward to the next issue.

Tom King

Oral History Department
University of Nevada, Reno

Just a note to express my delight with the new layout of the Silver and Blue! It is infinitely more readable, more professional, and less like some advertising slick. I don't recall ever sitting down to read an issue cover to cover, as I did tonight. Even my husband, who usually ignored it, took an extended peek! Thank you!

Harriett Warren

Reno

I just read through Silver and Blue and wanted to say that I enjoyed it very much. The make-over is really nice, great editorial, photos, art and not too long!

Trace Robbers

National Judicial College

WRITE US: Send your letters to *Nevada Silver & Blue*, University of Nevada, Reno, Jones Center/108, Reno, Nevada 89557 or email at silverblue@unr.edu. Letters may be shortened or edited.



DOCTOR SHORTAGE

I found your article regarding the physician shortage very interesting and timely. That said, I believe that perhaps you understated how critical the health care issue is about to become. Several significant facts might influence how quickly the crisis will evolve. From a population perspective, one of the most important issues on the near horizon is the rapidly increasing number of geriatric residents in Nevada. The geriatric specialist in Nevada is essentially nonexistent. And primary care will also become a relic in the next few years. As you touched upon, physicians are not going into primary care because of financial considerations... Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance "hoops" and restrictions. There will be a point in the very near future when critical mass will be crossed, and realistically, Nevada will not be able to provide adequate care for its residents. The crisis is currently acute in the rural communities. This was a very important article you wrote and more needs to be said.

Dr. Stephen Mark Shaw

Reno

PUBLIC OFFICES

Silver and Blue,
In response to your question on running for office, I was just reelected to my second term as Douglas County (Nevada) Assessor.

Doug Sonnemann

'79 BS, '82 MS (agricultural economics)

MAKING THE ARGUMENT

To the Editor:

Psst, hey you. Yeah, you. Can I bum a cigarette? Gee, thanks a lot. I've been getting so many dirty looks I felt bad about buying another pack. I'm surprised you're walking around so casually, smoking. Haven't you heard? The health-conscious Inquisitors are hunting down anyone who smokes and making them wear little cigarette badges. Yeah, so that way people will already form an opinion about you just from knowing you're a smoker. Wow, they even accused me of giving a baby lung cancer the last time I lit up at Bully's. Well, good smoke. Take it easy and watch where you light up. Be careful. They are on the lookout.

The amount of hypocrisy dripping from the column "Make all public places smoke-free now" by Chris Pritsos in the Winter Edition of the *Nevada Silver & Blue* sticks to my sense of outrage like tar stains on my teeth.

Sincerely,

Daniel Echebarria (Smoker)

Campus Pharmacy
University of Nevada, Reno

To read the complete letter, go to our website:

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

LOOK ONLINE

When the legendary entertainer Bill Cosby speaks, everyone listens. Such was the case when Cosby addressed the Nevada men's basketball team earlier this season. Cosby wasn't the only American to take note of the ninth-ranked Wolf Pack's success. Alphie, the athletic program's mascot, was prominently featured in a national public service advertisement for college students. Plus, sounds from Senior Night at Lawlor Events Center and more pictures of the Wolf Pack's record-breaking season.

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



Photo by John Byrne



Photo by Jean Dixon

CORRECTIONS

The major for alumna Nicole Vance '96 was listed incorrectly in the Winter 2007 *Nevada Silver & Blue*. Vance's University major was business finance.

In the Class Chat brief on Waldo Walker's election as chairman of the Washoe Tribe, one of the tribe communities was omitted. The communities in western Nevada are Stewart, Carson and Dresslerville.

SURVEY

41% of Nevada high school students engage in healthy behaviors to lose weight or keep from gaining weight

SAYS WHO: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the results of their 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance survey showed that only 39.8 percent of high school students nationally engaged in healthy behaviors to lose weight, such as eating less food, portions with fewer calories or low-fat foods. In addition, 37 percent watch at least three hours of television daily during the school week and only 20 percent had eaten fruits and vegetables at least five times daily during the previous week. The research was based on a survey of health-risk behaviors such as tobacco, alcohol and drug use, and dietary, physical activity and sexual behaviors among 13,953 ninth through 12th graders from every state. Nevada ranks low on the obesity scale, with only 21 percent of its adult population considered obese, but nationally, the rate of overweight children and adolescents is on the rise.

Ten healthy eating tips

1. Don't skip meals. Make time to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner.
2. Eat calcium-rich foods. Teens need the equivalent of three cups of low-fat or fat-free milk every day.
3. Drink water and avoid soft drinks, fruit drinks and sport drinks.
4. Eat a minimum of 1.5 cups of fruit and 2.5 cups of vegetables every day.
5. Eat a minimum of 3 ounces of whole-grain cereals, breads, crackers, rice or pasta every day.
6. Be a smart snacker. Carry a nutritious snack (e.g., fruits, vegetables, nuts, pretzels or popcorn).
7. Use the Nutrition Facts food label to compare foods and beverages.
8. Avoid any diet that greatly restricts either the types or amounts of food eaten, unless prescribed by a health professional.
9. Eat with your family.
10. Avoid reading or watching television while eating.

— Jamie Benedict, associate professor, Department of Nutrition

NUMBERS

Population growth: the *new* Top 10 states

July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006

After holding the "fastest-growing-state" title for 19 years, Nevada dropped to second place. According to census figures for the year ending July 2006, Arizona took the top spot with the help of migrating Californians seeking affordable housing.

TOP 10 FASTEST-GROWING

State	Percent Change
1. Arizona	3.6
2. Nevada	3.5
3. Idaho	2.6
4. Georgia	2.5
4. Texas (tie)	2.5
6. Utah	2.4
7. North Carolina	2.1
8. Colorado	1.9
9. Florida	1.8
10. South Carolina	1.7

TOP 10 NUMERIC GAINERS

State	Change
1. Texas	579,275
2. Florida	321,697
3. California	303,402
4. Georgia	231,388
5. Arizona	213,311
6. North Carolina	184,046
7. Washington	103,899
8. Colorado	90,082
9. Nevada	83,228
10. Tennessee	83,058

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/007910.html>

NUMBERS

TONIGHT'S HOMEWORK

Help us find a film that says *Nevada*

This is our second contest. Before we talk about the readers who won the first, it's time to whet appetites for another competition.

Nominate a film you believe most insightfully depicts an element of Nevada life. In 50 words or less, give reasons why the film (or scene in the film) deserves to be singled out from the throng. There are many related to Nevada to choose from in the hundred or so years of commercial film production — *The Misfits*, *Five Against the House*, *The Ox-Bow Incident* and *Ocean's Eleven*, for example. So have at it. The deadline for contest entries is Wednesday, May 23, 2007.

Submit ideas to silverblue@unr.edu, or send them via regular mail to: *Nevada Silver & Blue*, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno NV 89557-0108. Include a phone number where you can be reached, and tell us

your sweatshirt size (S, M, L, XL). If you're an alum, please include information on graduation year and major in your letter.

Judges include Emeritus Professor of English Robert Merrill, Deputy Director of the Nevada Film Office Robin Holabird and members of the *Nevada Silver & Blue* editing team.

Now, about the winners of the inaugural Tonight's Homework contest, which ran in the Winter 2007 *Nevada Silver & Blue*. Fifty readers took the challenge to be pseudo-authors of an imaginary Nevada history book covering 1987-2007. We asked for titles and received some interesting submissions (a total of 83, in fact). Here is a sample of the nonwinning entries:

- *Basque to the Future*
- *Had Enough? Hold On*
- *A Proliferative State*
- *Two Decades of eNVy*
- *Adventures and Growing Pains*
- *Wild Horses Couldn't Drag Me Away*
- *Hot, Snow-Capped and Battle-Born.*

Members of the *Nevada Silver & Blue* editing team, along with Emeritus Professor of History James Hulse '52, '58MA, judged the contest.

HISTORY BOOK TITLE WINNERS:

- **Che' DeVol** '05 (English), So. Lake Tahoe, Calif.
The Rise of Modernity in a Venerable Land
- **Melodie Harney**, Sparks, Nev.
State of High Velocity
- **H.R. Panik** '76 Ph.D., Carson City, Nev.
Twenty Years of Fast Forward

LOOK ONLINE

All entries are on 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>

SIGN, HERE

One of the fastest ways to experience something altogether different from the glitzy Las Vegas Strip is driving into the small town of Blue Diamond, Nev. On State Route 159, just 23 miles southwest of Nevada's largest city, is a village populated by nearly four dozen wild burros and 439 people. This sign reinforces the variable population of the free-roaming animal, whose numbers on the road swell when the burros anticipate motorists may have food to share. Photo by John Cratty '96M.S. (computer science), Columbus, Ohio.



SEEN AN INTERESTING SIGN IN NEVADA?

Shoot it (with a camera) and send it in: silverblue@unr.edu or *Nevada Silver & Blue*, MS108, University of Nevada Reno, Reno, NV 89557-0108. If we use your submission, we'll send you an enamel "N" logo lapel pin. Other submissions will be posted online at <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue/online/index.html>

Shake, rattle and an economic role for University earthquake research

By Sue Putnam

M Saiid Saiidi was 12 years old when a magnitude 7.3 earthquake rattled Iran, the country of his origin. Today, the civil and environmental engineering professor is leading a project team that recently set a new milestone in earthquake research.

In February 2007 Saiidi and his team tested a four-span, 110-foot-long model of a bridge with a series of seismic simulations at the University's earthquake lab. It was the largest test of its kind: a simulated magnitude 7.5-8.0 earthquake, two times the strength of the 1994 Northridge, Calif., earthquake.

In this same lab, a cargo ship fendering system was recently tested by simulating the impact of a large vessel berthing against a wharf.

Critical to advancements in earthquake preparedness and safety, the James E. Rogers and Louis Wiener Jr. Large-Scale Structures Laboratory also demonstrates versatility that benefits business and industry. Funded in part by the National Science Foundation, the lab is one of only three "shake-table" facilities within the national George E. Brown Jr. Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES). Each facility is unique and offers the means to simulate a particular kind of seismic activity.

Funded research projects comprise the most important and the greatest number of tests conducted in the University lab. However, service-to-industry tests, conducted for paying clients, are accommodated when there is an opening on the facility's schedule.

Availability is an issue. The lab has three large-scale shake tables, and design and engineering is under way to construct a fourth. This fourth table will operate independently, allowing the lab to conduct multiple, simultaneous tests. Increased capacity means important



Photo by Jean Dixon

The world's largest earthquake simulation tested a 110-foot-long model bridge. More than 400 sensors on the structure compiled data that was broadcast live to scientists and engineers around the world.

research will continue, and more service-to-industry tests can be conducted as well.

Ian Buckle, director of the Center for Civil Engineering Earthquake Research at the University, sums up the lab's benefit to Nevada's private sector: "We can help make local industry more competitive nationally and internationally."

For a product that must withstand extreme force or vibration, the lab can test the point of fatigue or failure and contribute to design improvements. Buckle cites the example of a northern Nevada manufacturer whose primary customer is in Japan. "We have worked with them over the years to make the company more competitive," he says.

Buckle also notes that a stream of service-to-industry projects benefits engineering students working in the lab. "These projects don't affect

their dissertations, but they allow the students to see different kinds of tests. They gain experience and ancillary knowledge," he says.

Even the quick turnaround time for these projects presents a learning opportunity. "One of the key elements with business and industry is that it must be done yesterday. They want to get in and out, and receive their data as soon as possible. The timeline is longer for research. From the design phase to the peer-review process, a research project can have a timeline of a year or two or three," Buckle says.

The lab's research projects also contribute to new applications for business and industry. The seismic simulation test in February tested new bridge construction materials, such as nickel titanium.

Continues on page 8

Sue Putnam is a University public relations director

"The testing method was very effective in simulating the simultaneous effects of pier and abutment movements," says Saiidi. "It meant the bridge design was very successful in meeting our performance objective, which was to keep it from complete collapse under the maximum credible earthquake."

Saiidi and the team hope to dramatically improve the construction of bridges so they can withstand damage from even extremely destructive earthquakes. The tests will help determine how well new design codes work and whether they should be the benchmark for bridges worldwide.

Members of the National Science Foundation, engineers and researchers from around the world watched the test in the Large-Scale Structures Laboratory via live webcast. Join-


LOOK ONLINE

Watch a video of the earthquake simulation test of the 110-foot-long bridge at <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue>.

ing Nevada researchers in the lab were senior bridge designers from Caltrans and the Nevada Department of Transportation, agencies that have financed other earthquake engineering research projects directed by Saiidi, as well as students and researchers from Berkeley, UC San Diego, Florida International University, Georgia Tech, Stanford, University of Kansas and University of Illinois, Chicago.

"This work is possible because of NEES," Saiidi says. "We received a \$2 million grant two years ago from NSF through the NEES program, and have been able to pull this project together because of that funding."

Another economic benefit for Nevada is reduced future losses. "The (College of Business Administration) did the impact analysis of our research expenditures on the region, and we calculated the impact of reduced losses in future earthquakes due to the implementation of our research findings. The reduced earthquake losses amounted to an annualized figure of \$8.6 million for northern Nevada," said Buckle. "Compared to this number, the impact of our research expenditures was minimal."

While economic contributions and engineering advancements are key benefits of the work conducted in the earthquake lab, Saiidi points to the ultimate and most important research outcome: "Hopefully the results will save many lives." 



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BRIEF

Public health workers where they're needed

More than 400 critical public health and human services positions are open in Nevada at any given time. The state Department of Health and Human Services is enlisting the help of the University's College of Health and Human Sciences to fill these jobs, which can range from social workers assisting the mentally ill and family services specialists placing foster children to health specialists working to prevent and prepare for disease outbreaks like avian flu.

Richelle O'Driscoll, the University's first associate dean for workforce development, helps connect the University's resources with the state's needs to bridge the gap. Her position is funded through a grant from the Nevada State Health Division.

"I want the college to be a model for the region and the nation in terms of things that universities and colleges can do to collaborate and address workforce development issues facing a variety of industries," O'Driscoll says. "Our goal is to supply Nevada with knowledgeable graduates who are transitioning into the workplace to meet the public health needs of this growing state."

O'Driscoll previously served the University as director of Extended Studies' management and executive development program.

Business data gold mine

The 2006 Reno-Sparks Business Activity Report incorporates demographics, traffic counts, retail sales, residential and commercial activity, and employment data in one report. Published by the Nevada Small Business

Development Center at the University, it is the go-to report for area developers, brokers, realtors, entrepreneurs and city and county planning agencies.

LOOK ONLINE

Learn more about the Business Activity Report including how to order a copy at <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue>.

BOOM TOWN



Photo by Jean Dixon

Name: Fernley

Where: 32 miles east of Reno on Interstate 80. Historic U.S. Highway 40 (now I-80), U.S. Highway 50 and Alternate U.S. 95 all intersect in Fernley.

Population, 2000: 8,500

Population now: nearly 20,000

Name: No one knows for sure how the town originally referred to as Canal Township came to be known as Fernley. The first documented reference was the 1905 *Official Guide of the Railways and Steam Navigation Lines of the United States*, listing Fernley as a railroad stop. A Dr. Fernley worked for the railroad and the town may have been named after him, but this explanation is undocumented. The real answer may have been lost when regional records were destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake or when the Lyon County Courthouse burned in 1909.

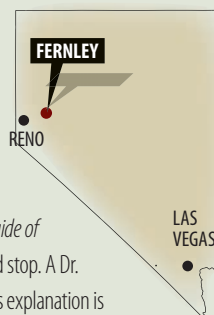
Western distribution hub: Many companies have located distribution centers in Fernley, including Amazon.com, Trex, Johns Manville, MSC Industrial Direct, UPS Worldwide Logistics, Quebecor World Nevada and Sherwin-Williams.

The boom story: "We've grown from a single blinking light in the center of town to three stoplights," said Joe Mortensen '76 (agriculture education), Fernley City Council member since 2001. The successful industrial parks and distribution centers contribute; however, Fernley's proximity to Reno-Sparks and affordable housing have led to a growing commuter population.

Incorporation as a city: Despite its century-plus history, the city of Fernley is less than six years old. The former township was incorporated as a city July 1, 2001.

Booming city and county: Lyon County, home of Fernley, is the second fastest-growing county in the nation. City and county governments are challenged to keep pace with infrastructure and service needs, from roads to schools. The biggest challenge? "Water," said Mortensen.

Youth development: Community-based assessments identified a growing need for after-school and youth development programs. In response, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension offers programs for young Fernleyites including 4-H and Project MAGIC (Making a Group and Individual Commitment).



CLEAN WATER

University researchers save Aspen Creek

By Melanie Robbins '06M.A.

A sulphur mine in east Alpine County, Calif., that dates to the Civil War polluted the waterways so much that Aspen Creek, which ultimately flows into the East Fork of the Carson River in Nevada, was virtually dead. Water running over the waste rock miners left behind leached out acidic toxins that poisoned the life in the creek. But today, thanks to an Atlantic Richfield-University of Nevada, Reno bioreactor project, Aspen Creek is flowing clean and clear.

"It's effectively as healthy as an unaffected stream nearby," says Glenn Miller, professor of natural resources and environmental science, as well as University director of the Leviathan Mine bioreactor project.

Deemed a Superfund site in the late 1990s due to contamination by acid mine drainage, Leviathan Mine was one of the worst polluters on the river, according to Miller. But the bioreactor, a doctoral dissertation project for several students including Tim Tsukamoto, '93, '99Ph.D., now a principal owner of Ionic Water Technologies, Inc. in Reno, essentially reverses the geochemical processes that cause pollution.

Melanie Robbins is an associate editor of *Nevada Silver & Blue*.

Mining brings to the surface rock that has been buried for millions of years, exposing it to air and weather. This weathering causes the rock to oxidize, which forms sulfuric acids that lower the pH of water running over the rock to toxic levels. At Leviathan Mine, groundwater bubbles up from seeps, a spot where fluid in the ground oozes to the surface and forms a pool. Rainwater and snowmelt also run over the exposed waste rock piles. The acidic water then leaches metals out of the rock and poisons the waterways.

But the University's bioreactor, like a sewage treatment plant, collects the toxic water before it flows into nearby streams and adds certain bacteria. Then the researchers feed the bacteria ethanol, and through a series of



Photo courtesy of Environmental Protection Agency

University expertise in the remediation of environmental problems has helped pave the way for a success story at Leviathan Mine, above, in east Alpine County, Calif. A University bioreactor, similar to a sewage treatment plant, has collected and treated the toxic water near Aspen Creek to make it clean and clear.

biological processes, the bacteria turn the sulfuric acid back into sulfides, which combine with toxic metals and pull them out of the water. This produces sludge at the bottom of the bioreactor ponds, which is later hauled away, while the clean water flows freely over the top.

The only problem is that ethanol costs between \$2 and \$4 per gallon, which can run up costs for a plant that operates all day, 365 days a year. So Kendra Zamzow, a University doctoral candidate in environmental sciences, has been experimenting over the summer

with a biodiesel fuel waste product supplied by Bently Nevada, a Gardnerville corporation. Bently manufactures about 300,000 gallons of biodiesel fuel each year by recycling used French fry oil. This process leaves about 20,000 gallons of waste. This waste, which was originally food-grade oil with potassium hydroxide and methanol added to convert it to biodiesel fuel, appears to be as good as ethanol as a food for the bacteria and also raises the pH. The waste is composed of alcohols, fatty acids and glycerin, which bacteria can eat, and the leftover potassium hydroxide neutralizes acidic water. Testing is still ongoing, but so far, "It works very well in the laboratory," Miller says.

If Bently Nevada can ultimately be paid for its waste product, the company could make biodiesel fuel more financially attractive. "It's win-win-win," Miller says.

LOOK ONLINE

- Environmental Protection Agency Leviathan Mine case study <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/aml/tech/leviathan.pdf>
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board Leviathan Mine Project: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb6/Leviathan/LEVI_Index.htm

Beast in the garden: Coming near you?

By John Trent

Often, if you see a mountain lion, it's too late. By the time you realize you've seen a mountain lion, the cat-quick reflexes of an animal that is both feared and admired have kicked in. They're usually out of sight in a matter of seconds.

Because of this, knowledge concerning mountain lions and their relationship with their environment is scarce. That's why University researchers are working on a project that promises to yield vital data regarding the predation and migration patterns of mountain lions in the Virginia Range east of Reno.

In December, scientists from the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural

John Trent, '85/'87, '00M.A., is a University public relations director



Photo Courtesy of CABNR

Interaction between man and mountain lion has been on the rise in recent years, as development has encroached on the great predator's habitat. University scientists are conducting a study of mountain lions in the Virginia Range to find out why.

Resources trapped a 125-pound, 7- or 8-year-old female mountain lion. She was released with a Global Positioning System telemetry

collar that has allowed the team to track the animal's movements through the winter. The study is part of a larger examination by the college's scientists regarding the effects of using contraceptives with the area's wild horse population. Scientists are determining if contraception and fewer foals can lead to prey switching by animals such as mountain lions.

"By tracking mountain lions, we'll be able to get a better sense of what they're doing, what species they're eating and whether they are crossing into the community or heading up into the Sierra at certain times of the year," said David Thain, assistant professor of veterinary medicine and state extension veterinarian for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. Thain is collaborating on the project with Meeghan Gray, a graduate student in the college.

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. . .live in Iraq

By Sammar Abdulmuttalib

Sammar Abdulmuttalib is one of the inaugural group of six students from the Middle East selected to study at the University through a U.S. Department of State initiative known as the PLUS program, "Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Study Program."

Until August 2006, the 21-year-old had never lived anywhere but Al Basra in southeastern Iraq. She flew first to Washington, D.C., and then on to Bozeman, Mont., where she honed her English speaking skills at Montana State University. A month later, Abdulmuttalib traveled to Reno to complete the final two years of her undergraduate studies in English literature and speech communications. The daughter of a Sunni father and Shi'ite mother, she lived through the first years of the increasingly violent civil war following the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq and the downfall of dictator Saddam Hussein. Saddam had been in power since 1979.

Before the war, I was in high school. But after the war, it was more scary. Unless it was for school, I didn't go out. We started school at 8:30 a.m., so I had to be there at 7:30. I had a driver for me and other friends. In Basra, it's a lot different than Baghdad. It's safer, but it's still not really safe.

We have sects in Iraq and you would feel really scared if somebody would follow you. Then there would be the fighting between the local people in the sects and the British troops. It's not like it happens on an everyday basis, it's just once in a while. It's not like Baghdad.

LOOK ONLINE

For more information on the Partnerships for Learning Undergraduate Study Program, <http://www.plus-aed.org>

There was a bombing at a police station a couple of blocks away from my home one school day in my neighborhood. There was a bus full of girls...students...they were going to school. They were passing by and a lot of girls died and were injured. I knew one girl who had a sister on the bus. It was in winter 2005, when I was in college at the University of Basrah.*

There was a bombing at a police station a couple of blocks away from my home one



Photo by Susan Bender

I was preparing to go to school that day. I felt really scared to go out, but what could I do, you know?

I actually support the war. I'm different. Because during Saddam's regime, we suffered a lot. Maybe not my family, but other families. Every time I hear people say, "The war is not good." But this is the only choice. What are the other options?

In Iraq, we talk a lot about politics and religion. My dad is Sunni and my mom is Shi'ite, so I'm in the middle. I don't really care about the different sects because we are in the same Muslim religion, so when the groups start fighting, I try not to get involved.

It starts with people. They have to understand that we are all in the same religion, have the same book, the Koran. So they should accept each other, even if they are from different sects. Everyone wants to get in the government and that's why you see the fighting.



Sammar Abdulmuttalib braved the uncertainty of war on many occasions while living in Al Basra in southeastern Iraq. Here she is pictured at Lake Tahoe in September 2006, experiencing happier times shortly after she arrived in the United States.

When Saddam was in government, we studied more about him and his party. I didn't get involved in his party because everyone had to be in the approved Iraqi party. My dad refused. It was a problem and they were telling me, "You will not get in college if you don't join the party."

I miss peace. I miss security in Iraq. I think that's what everyone would say. I don't think there will be peace soon, but I hope so. It needs time.

When I was going to college in Iraq, I listened to pretty much everything in English, especially the American accents. I tried to improve my performance in the language. I didn't have English-speaking people to talk to, but I listened to American music on TV. Before the war we weren't allowed to have satellite, but after the war we had American programs on Arabic channels. The programs I liked were *The Oprah Winfrey Show* and *Dr. Phil*.

After I knew that I was coming to the United States, I thought that everyone would be friendly. I wasn't really worried. Every time that other students asked me, "Where are you from,?" I'd say, "I'm from Iraq." Then they started asking me questions. The most common question was, "How did you get here?" They don't see a lot of Iraqis.

* For historic reasons the final -h is retained on Basrah in the name of the university. The name Al-Basrah in Arabic means "the over watching" or "the seeing everything."

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Teresa Benitez-Thompson

I'm 5-foot, 3 inches. I'm the brown girl and you don't see a Miss America that's got a last name like Benitez. So I didn't think of myself physically as someone who could compete in a pageant.

It's a really unique camaraderie because for that year you are the only girls who will know what it's like to be under the pressure of preparing to be Miss America. You spend all day together rehearsing. You are with each other for 20 days before you go on television to compete. You're dead tired together, you're cranky together, you cry together and you're happy together. It's like a football team, but with lipstick and high heels.

Your first obligation is to prepare to represent your state at the Miss America pageant. Once I finished that, I came home and started a school tour throughout that year. One fifth grader asked, "Are you a model for Victoria's Secret?" I was like, "No, next."

I work with kids in foster care to find adoptive homes. If I don't believe that the child deserves a home and that there's a

family out there for them, if I don't believe that, there is no reason why anyone else should believe that child deserves a home.

Any social worker, but especially social workers in the child welfare field, have wings on their back, as far as I'm concerned. The stuff they deal with every day can be so ugly and so hard, and yet they show up every day and work for that child.

Adoption works. I've seen how adoption and foster care can change children's lives. We need families to step up to the plate and open their homes for these kids. You're never more than a phone call away from being a family for a child.

My husband, Jeff Thompson (chief meteorologist for KRNK-TV in Reno and a graduate student in atmospheric sciences at the University), interviewed me when he was a reporter and a weekend weather guy for Channel 4. They said, "Hey we got this press release about the new Miss Nevada. Go out and interview her." I saw him and I thought he was so cute.

Our chihuahua is Pablo, and Petunia or "Tooney," was our family dog for 14 years (she died). I just love chihuahuas. They are good little personalities. Big dogs are just too furry for me.

My mom was a waitress here in Nevada and it can be really hard to support three girls economically on the tips that you're making as a waitress.

My sister had a baby on my 16th birthday. I think the way that has impacted me is I know if I could tell every young girl, especially Latinas, if you really want a child, you have to love that child enough to wait until it's the right time in your life to have a baby because I cannot tell you how many young girls I see having babies so young in their lives. They are doing a disservice to that child. Wait until you're able to care for them and provide them everything you can in the world.

I was suspended a couple of times in elementary school for fighting with boys. In the sixth grade, the boys were playing softball and I wanted to play. They said, "No, you can't play because you're a girl." This boy and I got into a shoving match and subsequently ended up with our little fists throwing punches at each other. I got in trouble for that.

I think being a woman policymaker in the state, you just have to be tough as nails. The women that we have serving right now, they didn't get where they were without a really hard fight.

LOOK ONLINE

More photographs and the complete story at <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue/>

From a conversation with Pat McDonnell and Ed Cohen Oct. 18, 2006. Benitez-Thompson, 28, is the 2002 Miss Nevada and third runner-up at that year's Miss America competition. A 2001 Nevada political science alumna, Benitez is an adoption recruitment specialist for Washoe County.

Photo by Jean Dixon



Chihuahua lover
Adoption advocate
Television show host
Debate champion
Food Network fanatic
Sixth-grade brawler
Miss America runner-up
Social worker
Meteorologist's wife
Newlywed
Eldest daughter
Democrat

Hush, little baby, don't say a word ...

Mixing baby cereal in with formula does not help babies sleep longer, contrary to popular myth, and may lead to upset stomach and food allergies, says Me-

Melanie Robbins is an associate editor of *Nevada Silver & Blue*.

lissa Burnham, University assistant professor of early childhood education and child development, and

co-author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Sleep Training your Child* (Alpha Books, 2006).

Other persistent myths include the belief that later bed time equals later rise time, and a lack of a nap during the day

results in sleeping longer during the night. Babies, like adults, tend to rise at the same time every day. Keeping a baby awake in the hope that you will get to *sleep in* the next morning doesn't work. And a well-rested baby — one who has a nap during the day — will sleep more soundly all night.

For everyone in the household to get



a good night's rest, Burnham recommends sticking with a sleep-training technique for at least one week, as well as evaluating the child's sleep environment and removing electronics and excess comforters and sheets

from the child's crib or bed.

— University media relations specialist Jill Boudreaux contributed to this story.

Afternoon slump ≠ hypoglycemia

The mid-afternoon doldrums are usually not caused by low blood sugar. When Dr. Samuel Parks, University of Nevada School of Medicine professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, was director of a large laboratory, employees frequently came to him saying their symptoms were caused by hypoglycemia. Parks ran blood-sugar tests on some of them and, in a sampling of about 20 healthy men and women over a two-year period, all had a normal blood-sugar level. Research from throughout the country supports this finding, he says. Hypoglycemia in this situation is very uncommon.

Eating a high-sugar snack, such as a candy bar, won't help. In fact, it probably is not a good idea. Giving your body a jolt of sugar will cause a blood-sugar rise with a subsequent insulin outpouring from your pancreas, which isn't healthy. Parks' recommendation: Do like the English, and drink a cup of hot tea in the afternoon.

Vaccine urged for girls and women aged 9-26

All girls and women between 9 and 26 should get the new vaccine, Gardasil, which helps prevent some forms of cervical cancer as well as genital warts, says Dr. Keith Brown, associate professor of internal medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine and an OB-Gyn in practice in Sparks.

Cervical cancer has been definitively linked to the human papillomavirus, or HPV. This virus is spread easily by any type of sexual activity involving genital contact. Intercourse is not necessary to become infected.

Cervical cancer is cancer of the cervix (the lower part of the uterus that connects to the vagina). Genital warts are usually flesh-colored growths in or around the genital area. They are not life-threatening, but they can be physically disfiguring and may cause anxiety and embarrassment. Genital warts may



be treated with creams. Doctors can also remove them by burning or freezing the growths, as well as with laser treatments or surgery. However, they often return again and again to plague men and women throughout their lives.

Gardasil is not a treatment for cancer or genital warts and must be taken prior to coming into contact with an infected person. Thus the push to get girls vaccinated before sexual activity begins. Older women may also choose to get vaccinated as a precaution, Brown says.

Antioxidants may need a boost

Antioxidant vitamins and mineral supplements in the United States have created a multi-billion dollar industry as well as some controversy. Many health professionals believe that simply eating a proper diet provides adequate levels of all these nutrients. Comparing the estimated average requirement (the estimated intake of a vitamin or mineral that meets the needs of 50 percent of the healthy population) for some of the antioxidants to actual dietary intakes yields surprising results, according to Chris Pritsos, professor and chair of the University's Department of Nutrition.

Only about 20 percent of Americans get enough vitamin C to meet or exceed the requirement. This means that 80 percent of Americans take in less than the amount sufficient to protect half of the population. Vitamin E intake levels for men are low as well. Taking a daily low-dose antioxidant supplement containing 60 to 100 milligrams Vitamin C and 12 to 15 milligrams Vitamin E could provide the additional antioxidant intake necessary for better health. At these low levels, there is no potential harm from too much of the antioxidant compounds. Taking low-dose antioxidant supplements is not an alternative to eating a healthy diet; however, it can provide some added protection, Pritsos says.

Ten Things You Didn't Know About...

Mars

By Wendy Calvin

- 1** Three orbiting spacecraft and two rovers on the surface are returning data from the red planet daily. The latest from all the missions is available at <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov>
- 2** The first U.S. spacecraft to Mars was Mariner 4, launched Nov 28, 1964. It flew by the planet July 14, 1965. Images from the mission captured a pockmarked, cratered surface similar to the moon's.
- 3** The Viking mission, two orbiters and two landers, operated from 1976 to 1980 and revealed the planet's geologic diversity and ancient scoured channels suggesting that water once flowed across the surface.
- 4** Mars is home to the tallest volcano and deepest canyon in the solar system. The summit of Olympus Mons is about 75,000 feet above the surrounding plains. The deepest portions of the Valles Marineris are six times deeper than the Grand Canyon in Arizona.
- 5** Of the many thousands of meteorites found on Earth, 34 of them have been identified as coming from Mars. Collectively they are called SNC's for "Shergotty, Chassigny and Nakhla," the first three recognized as being different from other meteorites and in a class of their own.
- 6** The average surface temperature of Mars is minus 80 degrees Fahrenheit. For Earth, it is 50 F.
- 7** A Mars day, called a Sol, is 24 hours, 37 minutes and 23 seconds long. A Mars year is nearly two Earth years, or 687 Earth days.
- 8** Mars has a very thin atmosphere, composed primarily of carbon dioxide, and the surface pressure is about the same as Earth's atmosphere at 100,000 feet above sea level. The pressure and temperature are both so low that liquid water is not stable on the surface today.
- 9** We have no conclusive evidence that there was life on Mars, but scientists keep looking. We hope that with improved instruments on future rovers and landers we'll determine whether life existed on our sister planet.
- 10** You can find global image and topography maps using data from Mars Global Surveyor and Mars Odyssey orbiters at Google Mars: <http://www.google.com/mars/>

Wendy Calvin was an original member of the Mars Rover Mission science team that studied the planet via the rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, which landed in January 2003. Calvin is currently a Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter color imager/context camera science team member, as well as a geological sciences professor at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Ancient bond, *common conflict in Holy Land*

It is hard to think of another national conflict that arouses so many emotions and causes so much hostility on a worldwide basis than the one between Israel and the Palestinians. At first glance, it is not immediately obvious why this should be true. The size of the territory in dispute is relatively small. Israel plus the Palestinian Territories, i.e. the West Bank and Gaza Strip, (8,017 square miles) are not much larger than Washoe County (6,551 square miles). The distance between Jerusalem and the shores of the Dead Sea is about the same as the distance between the University campus and Minden/Gardnerville, about 50 miles. In the Old City of Jerusalem it takes

about the same time to walk from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to the Temple Mount as it does to stroll from campus' Clark Administration Building to downtown Reno, roughly 15-20 minutes.

Nor, are the sizes of the respective populations exceptionally large. Israel's population currently is a little below 6.5 million. The population

of the West Bank and Gaza Strip taken together approaches 4 million.

High population density is not a contributing factor to tensions. Belgium and the Netherlands have higher population densities without being remotely comparable in terms of violent conflict.

Two general causes for the protracted conflict between Israelis and Palestinians stand out: religion and history.

RELIGION

The territory involved in the conflict contains sites that are regarded as holy by the followers of the world's three major monotheistic religions. For Muslims the area is often defined as part of the House of Islam and, within that

territory, the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem the place where the Prophet ascended to heaven. For Jews (the term itself refers to people from Judea and Jerusalem), the territory is the Promised Land, a place granted by the Holy One to the people with whom God formed an eternal covenant. For Christians, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem are all places inextricably linked, through the New Testament, to the life of the Savior.

The fact that the territory itself has been assigned such meaning by Jews, Christians and Muslims leads to certain consequences. Instead of some millions of Israelis and Palestinians immediately caught up in the conflict, we are dealing with the worldwide followers of religions who collectively represent a substantial share of mankind. In other words, not millions but billions of people have an interest in the outcome of the struggle.

In addition, the religious meaning of the territory makes compromise difficult. Compromise, give-and-take, is a normal part of political life, at least in democracies. But when religious beliefs become part of the equation, people find it difficult to compromise because ultimate values and absolute ends are often involved.

HISTORY

The historical record does not make the problem any easier to resolve. In fact, Israelis and Palestinians have different and competing views of this record.

Despite a succession of conquerors, Jews lived in the land in dispute since Biblical times. (In fact, the Bible is a record of their presence.) Judea and its surroundings were conquered by the Romans during the first century B.C. Jews rebelled against Roman rule from 66 to 70 A.D. and again from 132 to 135. The effects of these uprisings were devastating from the Jewish point of view. The Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans (a remnant of which, known as the "Wailing Wall," still stands). Following the second rebellion, the Romans virtually destroyed the city and killed

thousands of Jews. Survivors of these rebellions were forced into exile, known in Jewish history as the Diaspora or dispersion. Although small communities survived in a few places, Jewish history was one of exile until the last decades of the 19th century. Because of persecutions European Jews suffered in Czarist Russia and in France, a Zionist movement emerged seeking a homeland. The obvious place for such a homeland was the place from which Jews had come in the first place.

For more than three centuries before the outbreak of World War I in 1914, what was then a thinly-populated land had been ruled as part of the Ottoman Empire. It was governed neither as Israel nor Palestine, but as Turkish provinces of Beirut and Syria. The Turks had no interest in the establishment of a Jewish state in this area, but did permit some immigration during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. World War I produced a radical change of direction. Britain was at war with the Ottomans and did what it could to weaken Turkish rule in the Middle East. The British encouraged an Arab uprising, holding out hope for independent state for Arabs. In addition, in 1917 the British government under King George V issued the Balfour Declaration, which promised the establishment of a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine.

In fact, in the two decades between the end of World War I and the outbreak of World War II, the British (and the French) ruled in much of the Middle East. The British ruled Palestine under a mandate from the League of Nations. During the interwar period Jewish immigration from Europe increased substantially, especially with the onset of the Great Depression and the rise of the Nazis and other European anti-Semitic movements. As more and more Jews sought refuge in Palestine, opposition to their presence by an emerging Palestinian leadership mounted with the growing fear that Palestinians would be displaced in their own homeland. The result was an armed uprising against British rule and the Jewish presence lasting from 1936 to 1939.

Leonard Weinberg is a political science professor at the University. A senior fellow at the National Security Studies Center at the University of Haifa in Israel, he had his 2005 book, *Global Terrorism: A Beginner's Guide* (Oneworld Publications), listed as a top study of terrorism and counterterrorism by *ForeWord* magazine.

The British reacted to this increasingly volatile situation in 1937 by proposing a partition of Palestine into Jewish and Palestinian states. Leaders of the Jewish community accepted this proposal but their Palestinian counterparts did not. In 1939, with World War II looming, the British unilaterally issued a White Paper that severely restricted Jewish immigration to Palestine and promised the country national independence within 10 years.

In the immediate postwar period, the British continued to enforce their rules during a time when thousands of Holocaust survivors (housed in European refugee camps) wanted to resettle in Palestine. A violent revolt broke out, this time against the British presence by extremist Jewish groups. In 1947, the British threw up their hands and turned the problem over to the United Nations, which passed a resolution calling for the division of Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states with the city of Jerusalem to be administered under international auspices.

Once again the Palestinian leaders rejected this proposal – on the grounds that the Arab population in Palestine was nearly twice that of the Jews. Beyond this, the newly formed Arab League (composed of independent Arab states) threatened an armed invasion if a separate Jewish state attempted to come into existence. The Jewish community, on the other hand, not only accepted but rejoiced in the U.N. resolution.

In the six months following passage of the resolution, bitter fighting occurred in much of Palestine between Arabs and Jews. Then in May 1948, following the departure of the British, Jewish leaders proclaimed the formation of an independent state of Israel. As promised, this gesture was followed almost immediately by an invasion from the Arab countries surrounding the new state. The war, known as the War of Independence by Israelis, lasted on and off for more than a year.

It ended in July 1949 with an armistice agreement, brokered by the United Nations. Israel sustained its claim to national independence, and had captured much of Palestine, with the exceptions of the West Bank, East

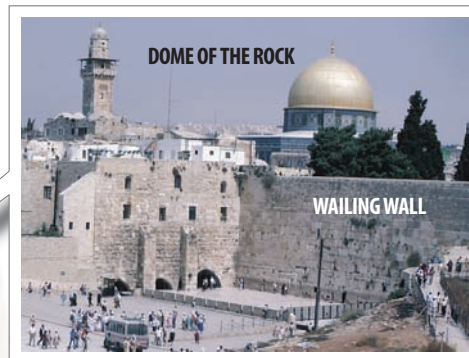


Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. From 1949 to 1967 these areas were administered by Jordan and Egypt, respectively.

The fact that the small Jewish state was able to defend itself effectively against Arab armies shocked many in the Arab world and left them with a deep and long-lasting sense of humiliation. Within a few years of the armistice, governments in Egypt and Syria were overthrown and replaced by radical regimes committed to erasing the results of the war. King Abdullah of Jordan was assassinated by Palestinian nationalists because of his interest in reaching a peace agreement with the Israelis.

The other major outcome of the Arab-Israeli War was the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem. The United Nations estimated that 726,000 Palestinians were displaced during the fighting. Many settled in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Others wound up in similar United Nations-administered camps in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

Spokespersons for the Palestinian cause claim that most refugees were forced to flee as a matter of deliberate Israeli government policy. For their part, Israeli leaders have



claimed that the refugee problem was set off by a wave of panic caused by Arab radio appeals and rumors spread to the effect that the Israeli military was committing atrocities against Palestinian civilians.

The existence of a large number of Palestinian refugees and their descendants is one of the root causes of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, still unresolved almost 60 years later.

In June 1967 the Arabs and Israelis fought the appropriately named Six-Day War. Once again the Arabs suffered another humiliating defeat. The Israelis captured additional territory including all of the West Bank (Gaza), East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

The Israelis withdrew unilaterally from the Gaza Strip in 2005. Despite sporadic negotiations during the 1990s over the West Bank and Jerusalem, little headway has been made to date. The West Bank now has numerous Jewish settlements that Israeli governments have been reluctant to dismantle. The issue of Jerusalem, in particular, seems especially difficult to resolve. Neither side seems likely to accept a solution that would jeopardize its control over their respective holy sites.

Another factor weighing against a long-term Israeli/Palestinian settlement: the role of outside powers. Governments in Syria and Iran are especially interested in keeping the conflict unresolved and, sadly, support extremist Palestinian groups committed to sabotaging peace initiatives. The same logic applies to elements in the Israeli population who believe that any concession to the Palestinian authorities is really the first step toward the destruction of the Jewish state. **N**

Bombing practice at Pyramid . . . and a World War II-era family suffers

Raised in Sparks, Nev., Art Smith, Jr., studied at the University of Nevada just prior to the United States' entry into World War II. When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Smith was a teller in the Sparks branch of the First National Bank, hoping to earn money for aeronautical engineering tuition at the Boeing School of Aviation in Oakland, Calif.

He enlisted in the Navy and trained as an aviation cadet in five states before getting orders to begin torpedo bomber training. As a torpedo bomber pilot, Smith was assigned to an air unit that was regrouping in Fallon, Nev., 60 miles east of his Sparks hometown. Although the aviators were still passionate about taking on the Japanese and the Germans, it would wind up being the final year of the war. In this interview, taken by the University of Nevada Oral History Program in 1993 and 1994, Smith, who died at age 76 in 1999, recalls how his military orders had him simulating wartime action in one of the most idyllic locations in Nevada.

When we got to Fallon we really went huckley-buckley; we got with it; we knew we were going overseas from there, and it wouldn't be long.

I was giving my all, and it paid off. When you regroup, each squadron leader flies with all his young pilots to decide who's going to be his wing man,

and the skipper of my squadron, a guy named Ben Williams, picked me. I felt honored. It was quite a deal.

Much of our time at Fallon was spent practicing bombing and torpedo runs. For torpedo practice we were using Pyramid Lake, which is on a Paiute Indian reservation and is fished by them. Their presence didn't matter. Hell, we were at war! There wasn't any of the commo-



Art Smith, Jr., of Sparks went from a teller at First National Bank to torpedo bomber pilot during World War II. More than 60 years later, his memories of sending torpedoes into the waters of Pyramid Lake still resonate.

tion you'd have today.... I mean, if we wanted to use their lake, go get it. Right? But our torpedo runs were done from the center of the lake north, to stay well clear of the town of Nixon down on the southern shore.

Our practice runs served a dual purpose: When you dropped a torpedo in combat in World War II, it wasn't on its maiden voyage; it had had 10 drops before it ever got there. This was because early in the war the Navy had a lot of trouble with torpedoes. After they were launched they'd go straight to the bottom,

or they'd surface and run erratically; one submarine even sunk itself. To get the bugs out of the things before they were sent to the fleet, the Navy began having each torpedo dropped nine times, with factory overhauls after the third, sixth, and ninth drops. If a torpedo was still running hot, straight, and normal, it was then sent to ordnance, filled full of torpex, and taken out to the fleet.

For practice drops, our torpedoes ran with only half a charge of alcohol fuel in their engines, and in place of the explosive torpex warhead, they carried water with dye marker in their noses. A little pump forced the dye out as the torpedo was running. We would zoom down over the mountains ringing Pyramid Lake, put our Avenger torpedo bombers right on the water, and thunder in toward the target — a 300-foot line between a boat and the buoy it was towing. (Three

hundred feet was equivalent to the length of a destroyer.) We'd make our drops and climb out of there, while observers watched to see where our torpedoes ran — whether they were hits or misses. And we had to practice coming in at different angles.

When a torpedo ran out of alcohol, it would surface, blowing out the remaining water and dye marker. That made it buoyant enough so that its nose, which was painted yellow, bobbed up out of the water. The boat would

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.

retrieve the spent torpedoes and return them to shore to be sent back to our base for refueling and rearming.

One day after we'd dropped our stuff on the lake, we flew back to Fallon and encountered a snowstorm right over the base. The air officer radioed us, "Go out 10 or 12 miles. There's a big dry lake out there. Land on it. And," he said, "I'm going to repeat this three times: Land with your wheels down; wheels down; wheels down!" We flew out and put down on the playa, and sat in the desert silence for a couple of hours. There was no storm or anything out there, only 10 miles from the base. One guy monitored the radio, and finally he said, "It's cleared; we can go home." We fired up our engines, those big props spinning, and you should have seen the dust stream off that dry lake bed! Then we flew down to Fallon and landed.

We trained out of Fallon for 13 weeks. Soon after that we went aboard the Altamaha, a Jeep carrier, and sailed to Hawaii.

Smith's Air Group 13 unit, based in Hawaii, never saw action. Shortly after the end of the war in August 1945, he was discharged and resumed his banking career, first in Las Vegas, and then in Reno. Smith advanced from teller to become the chairman and chief executive officer of First Interstate Bank of Nevada.

FIGHTING FOR THE SAME SIDE

Roy Nishiguchi, a Fort Ord, Calif.-based U.S. Army medic, saw his Japanese-American family become outcasts during the war. His father, Masaichi Nishiguchi, had been a section foreman for the Western Pacific Railroad in Gerlach, Nev., 70 miles north of Reno, since 1933. But after Pearl Harbor the railroad forced him to leave his job and his property in 1942. Roy Nishiguchi, who attended the University for two years just after war's end, picks up the story in his own oral history, dictated in 1992. He is a soldier in conflict, devoted to both family and country. His excerpt about wartime in this country tells the other side of the Art Smith story, although both Smith and Nishiguchi, ironically, were fighting for the same side.

Many years before the war my dad was carving a toy boat for me, whittling away and talking about war. He said, "Roy, if Japan and



Roy Nishiguchi

America fight who you going to fight for?"

I said, "Japan."

He said, "Baka (fool)! You were born in this country; you are an American. You fight for your country."

I was about 12 or

13. "You told me how

Japanese would fight to the death for their country," I said. "I'm Japanese, so I'll fight for them."

He said, "You are American. This is your country — you fight for this country."

Dad wanted to be an American so bad that he even adopted *Sam* for his first name; but because of his race, he was out — immigration law prevented those born in Japan from being naturalized. Even though he was bitter about this, he studied American history and read American literature. "I'm going to keep on reading," he told me. "Everything I read is for me. Whether anybody else wants it or not doesn't matter."

My dad loved his job and thought that being a section foreman for the railroad was all a man could want. He had tried to persuade me to follow in his footsteps: "You have your house furnished; you have your coal, and your kerosene for lighting," he had said. "What more could you ask? You can't get that anywhere else." The railroad was his life.

In January following Pearl Harbor, the Western Pacific kicked my father out — took his job away, claiming he was a security risk.... He and Mom were ordered to leave their house and get off railroad property, and since the railroad practically owned Gerlach, they didn't know what to do. Their other son, Art, had been inducted into the Army the week before, but one of my friends who hadn't yet been drafted helped them. He got a bunch of fellows together and rented a little trailer for Mom and Dad. It was just big enough to hold a double bed, and they moved it to a site that

was off railroad property, which meant it was out in the desert, out in the sagebrush. Stuck out there in the boondocks that's what my mother and dad lived in through the winter. No toilet facilities, no nothing.

My sister Mary and her husband, Chad Chadwell, journeyed from Tennessee to care for my preteen sisters, who had been separated from Mom and Dad. When Mary wrote to me and told me about the situation, I borrowed money from Army buddies and made my way back to Gerlach. I walked out to the trailer and knocked on the door. At first there was no response: Mom and Dad were scared! They were afraid that someone had come out there to blast them. I called out, "It's Roy," and my dad finally opened the door.

Well, there wasn't a thing I could do for them. I only had a seven-day furlough, and no money. What could I do? I didn't know anything. My friend Paul Wayne told me, "Go back to Fort Ord. We'll look out for your mom and dad." So I went back to Fort Ord, and eventually Mary was able to rent a house in Reno and move our family into it.

The Army pulled all the Nisei off the West Coast and transferred us to inland units. Although we didn't know where we were going, I, for one, thought that I would soon be in combat. Boy, was I wrong! We Nisei were Americans, soldiers in the United States Army; but for a year following Pearl Harbor, my group was given only the kinds of jobs that had been performed by work details from the stockade. I ended up assigned to the 1851st Service Unit at Camp Wolters, Texas, a trained medic serving the Army by emptying garbage cans.

After the war, Nishiguchi enrolled as a 30-year-old at Nevada on the GI Bill, but did not finish his schooling. He became material facilities officer at Stead Air Force Base, located just north of Reno, and then was warehouse supervisor for K-Mart in Reno. He retired from K-Mart in 1986 and died in 2002. ■

In 1995, the program published excerpts from Art Smith's and Roy Nishiguchi's oral histories in War Stories: Veterans Remember WW II.

Education of and for Democracy

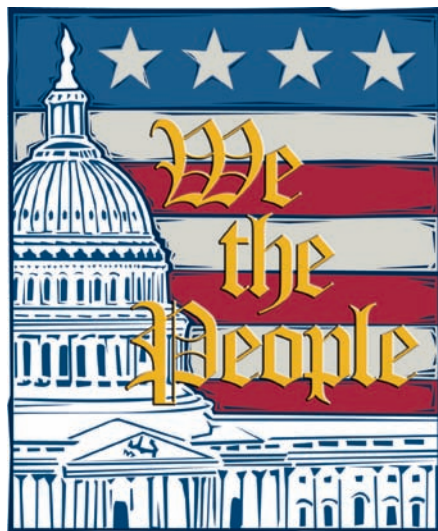
Education is and has always been a focus of debate and controversy. And this is as it should be because, successful or not, the educational system shapes, for better or worse, citizens of the republic. What schools teach and how they go about teaching has much to do with the future of this democracy and, for this reason, good citizens of a democracy have good reason to care about the operation of the schools.

We need to determine what the essential goals of schools must be. We cannot work to determine what is good and best for schools until we have a fairly good sense of what it is we are working toward. A curriculum based upon drill and memorization, for example, may serve certain ends and, in serving these ends well, it can be deemed successful. But

what if the latest results reported by the National Assessment for Educational Progress for reading reflect the effects of such methodology? The New York Times on Feb. 22, 2007, reported that the even though high school students are taking “more challenging courses and getting higher grade point averages than in the

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past,” only 40 percent of seniors performed at the “proficient” level at which one can make inferences from reading material, draw conclusions from it and make connections to their own experiences.” If 60 percent of students are deficient in such abilities but grades and scores on standards-based proficiency tests are up because of a focus on drill and memorization activities, those who understand higher-level reading abilities to be essential would have to argue that the drill



and memorization activities are not effective in helping students achieve critical educational goals.

Determining what the goals of schools should be is critical to the way we go about assessing such things as whether No Child Left Behind is good policy, whether the state should institute all-day kindergarten programs, or whether phonics-based or direct instruction-based curriculum should be implemented. We need to establish a framework within which we can contain our disagreements, to set the boundaries within which we can conduct our debates. I argue that the primary goal of education in a democratic society must be student acquisition of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes that are essential to full and effective participation in the democratic process. All other goals are of lesser importance because it is this goal that allows for the very development of school programs that are fit for a democratic society.

Every decision about education must be assessed on the basis of how it improves students' decision making. Those who disagree should intelligently argue as forcefully as they can against the notion that such a proposition will develop effective schools.

Instruction focusing on participation in the

democratic processes of society is the truly democratic agenda and all who are involved in the debates concerning education in the United States need to understand this if the debates are to lead to improvement of American schools. The good we must seek through the goodness of our schools is the ongoing improvement of American society and the basic element of our goodness as a society is the democratic principle.

Democracy, as I interpret the framers of the American democracy to have meant it, is the process by which individual citizens, either directly or through representatives, offer their ideas concerning what is good for the good of the whole and these ideas compete for implementation in the forum of public discourse. When the citizenry no longer trusts that it has the capacity to participate in the decision-making process, something democratic is lost. On the other hand, many of the issues with which the society must wrestle are understood well only by those with a good amount of expertise in a particular field. But this opens the door for charlatans, too, those who will twist the discourse to fit ends that are not truthfully in the best interests of the public.

We spend a good amount of time pointing out charlatans in our midst and this has generated a great amount of distrust that in terrible ways infects our discourse and destroys democratic process. One can see the charlatan-outing process operating in the forums where educational policy is debated, as well as in the forums where such things as national security, health insurance, the environment, and automobile safety are discussed.

The educational policy debate is the most important of all these debates because it is through education that the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential to overcoming the debilitating effects of the true charlatan on public discourse and the effect of the charlatan-outing focus in contemporary politics can be taught. Schools must sponsor the growth of good

reasoning and good reasoning does, at times, lead to a healthy degree of doubt and distrust. But skepticism must be tempered. Figuring out whom and what to trust is a major element of informed decision making and in making choices regarding who we will allow to represent us in our nation's decision-making bodies.

The notion of proper educational goals may seem terribly impractical, even naïve, when the focus of policy makers (and the public) is on job training to ensure the nation's productivity and competitiveness in the global economy. Arguments can be made, plausible arguments, that the good of the whole is directly linked to national security, productivity, and competitiveness. Even so, if democracy is a viable form of government, if democracy is to stand as the central principle of civic organization, then national security, productivity, and competitiveness must be

understood to be but topics for democratic discourse and not the end goal of democratic process or the school system that prepares students for life as U.S. citizens. The end goal must be the perpetuation of the discourse in which an informed and reasonable citizenry participates, with good will, in determining the best direction for the society, for the good of the whole, be the topic a school program, the economy or a war.

The College of Education will soon announce the resumption of the Dana Davis Forums in Education, community gatherings

that invite educational experts and the public to discuss issues pertinent to the operation of America's schools. The first in the new series will focus on Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons' call for implementation of a form of school governance called "empowerment." The college will ask a panel of educators to share their knowledge of empowerment projects and their ramifications with the public, and members of the audience will be invited to interact with panelists. Hopefully, at the end of the forum, all will be better informed on what to expect if empowerment programs are implemented in Nevada schools.

I hope we will make an effort to attain the best information available, that we will trust one another and one another's judgments and pronouncements to be trustworthy and for the good of the whole, at least until such time as good evidence arrives to confirm the contrary. ■

Talk Back

Agree with this argument? Disagree? Voice your opinion in a letter to the editor. Email silverblue@unr.edu, or use regular mail, *Nevada Silver & Blue*, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557-0108. You must include a daytime phone number for us to call for verification.



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STRAIGHT ANSWERS

How Fallon families joined with University researchers to search for the cause of a deadly cancer cluster

By Melanie Robbins '06M.A.

Jeff Braccini stared at the Centers for Disease Control report that showed his 3-year-old son had concentrations of heavy metals and pesticide in his body far above safe levels. At first, he choked. Then he started raising community awareness.

Braccini's son, Jeremy, was the 15th Fallon, Nev., child to be stricken with leukemia since 1997, in a cancer cluster that hit so hard and so fast it caught townspeople by surprise. Knocked the wind out of them, so to speak. The small town known for its international rodeo, Hearts O' Gold cantaloupes and Navy Top Gun pilot training school had never experienced anything so deadly and so swift. The number of cases of childhood leukemia that occurred in the city within the next few years was so unusual that it could have happened by chance only

once in 22,000 years. Between 1997 and 2002, 16 children who either currently

Melanie Robbins is an associate editor of *Nevada Silver & Blue*.

lived in Fallon or had previously lived there came down with acute lymphocytic leukemia and one additional child got sick with another form of cancer, acute myelogenous leukemia. Three of them have died of their disease. In 2004 a 17th child developed leukemia. No child living in Churchill County since 2004 has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Braccini, a 24-year retired Navy veteran now

working for Boeing Aerospace as a Top Gun contractor, remembers every detail of the day his oldest son was diagnosed in December 2001.

"It was on a Friday, the start of the Christmas holiday, and he had had a couple of bruises that wouldn't go away. He also had a cold that kept hanging on, so I took him to his pediatrician. She ordered some blood tests. I took Jeremy to Dairy Queen and left him with his mother. When I got back home, it was three o'clock in the afternoon. The hospital called and said they thought he had cancer."

The nurse advised Braccini to get Jeremy to the airport immediately and mediflight him to University of California, Davis Oncology.

"What do you mean?" I said. "Take him where!?" "I basically started crying," Braccini remembers.

Braccini grabbed his son and within 45 minutes had him at the Fallon Municipal Airport and on their way to Sacramento. From there, they took an ambulance to a pediatric oncology ward where Jeremy underwent blood transfusions that night. The little blond-haired, green-eyed boy's temperature spiked to 108 degrees F.

"The Code Blue went off," Braccini says. "I was standing back and freaking out."

A COMPLICATED OASIS

Fallon, the county seat and only urban area in Churchill County, lies about an hour's drive east of Reno on U.S. 50, the Loneliest Road in

America. The next town eastward is Austin, 110 miles away. In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that Fallon had a population of 7,536, which the Nevada State Demographer's office estimates rose to 8,339 by 2005.

Many residents of Fallon have roots that go back to the turn of the 20th century when the newly formed U.S. Reclamation Service provided the town with irrigation waters diverted from the Truckee River, causing a settlement boom and the incorporation of Fallon in 1908. The newcomers made the town an agricultural oasis amidst the high desert, planting alfalfa for their dairy cows, corn and cantaloupes, and raising horses. Located in the Lahontan Valley, groundwater is the only source of drinking water and many residents have wells tapping into an aquifer.

However, the area's water was known to have exceeded federal standards for arsenic for years, according to an expert panel consisting of the state health officer, the director of the state health laboratory, the state epidemiologist, and other epidemiological, pediatric and cancer experts from across the country. The group was empaneled to look into the Fallon cluster in conjunction with the CDC. In fact, the town's municipal water had the highest levels of arsenic in the nation at 100 parts per billion, and some domestic wells had levels as high as 683 parts per billion, according to samples taken

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On the day that Jeff Braccini of Fallon received the news that his son, Jeremy, was the close-knit rural Nevada community's 16th child to be diagnosed with leukemia, he felt as if the wind had been knocked out of him. Today, Braccini's emotions are much more positive; Jeremy's health is good and more than \$700,000 in research funding has been made available through the work of U.S. Sen. Harry Reid to find the reasons behind the cluster.

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

University partners with community to win \$700,000 grant



William Murphy, a cancer researcher in the University of Nevada School of Medicine, is the principal investigator for the \$700,000 Environmental Protection Agency grant. His colleague Glenn Miller, an environmental toxicology expert in the Department of Natural Resources and

Environmental Science, serves as an additional University liaison to Fallon FIST* members.

NEVADA

WHO: **Chris Pritsos**, biochemist and chair of the Department of Nutrition; **Lisbeth Welniak**, research assistant professor of animal biotechnology and a hematology expert; **Ralph Seiler** '99Ph.D, U. S. Geological Survey hydrologist

WHERE: University of Nevada, Reno

RESEARCH: Examining the biological impact of ingesting elements such as arsenic, tungsten and polonium 210 found in the Fallon drinking water.

ARIZONA

WHO: **Mark Witten**, a research professor in the Department of Pediatrics

WHERE: University of Arizona

RESEARCH: Examining the role of tungsten, molybdenum and cobalt in the leukemic process, as well as looking into the role genetic variations play in developing cancer.

CALIFORNIA

WHO: **Joseph Wiemels**, a clinical researcher in the Division of Cancer Epidemiology

WHERE: University of California, San Francisco

RESEARCH: Studying leukemia cells to see if they harbor a common viral or chemical signature; comparing Fallon environmental data to data from similar towns.

Glossary

Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL)

is a type of cancer of the blood and bone marrow — the spongy tissue inside bones where blood cells are made. It's called acute leukemia because it progresses rapidly and affects immature blood cells, rather than mature ones. The disease is identified as lymphocytic leukemia because it affects a group of white blood cells called lymphocytes, which normally

fight infection. It worsens quickly if not treated, but it usually responds well to treatment. Acute lymphocytic leukemia is also known as acute lymphoblastic leukemia and acute childhood leukemia. About 4,000 new cases of ALL are diagnosed each year in the United States. It is the most common type of cancer in children; it also occurs in adults.

Source: MayoClinic.com and Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Arsenic

is a naturally occurring element widely distributed in the earth's crust. It occurs naturally in soil and minerals and may therefore enter the air, water, and land from wind-blown dust and get into water from runoff and leaching. Arsenic cannot be destroyed in the environment. It can only change its form.

Rain and snow remove arsenic dust particles from the air. Many common arsenic compounds can dissolve in water. Most of the arsenic in water will ultimately end up in soil or sediment.

Exposure to higher than average levels of arsenic occurs mostly in the workplace, near hazardous waste sites, or in areas with high natural levels.

At high levels, inorganic arsenic can cause death. Exposure to lower levels for a long time can cause a discoloration of the skin and the appearance of small corns or warts.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Tungsten

is a naturally occurring element. Tungsten is used in products such as x-ray tubes, light bulbs, high-speed tools, welding electrodes, turbine blades, golf clubs and bullets.

Occupational exposure to higher than background levels of tungsten may occur if you use tungsten metal or are engaged in the machining of these metals. Occupational exposure to tungsten carbide occurs during the machining of tungsten carbide tools in the manufacturing process. Tungsten has not been classified for carcinogenic effects by the government agencies.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

Polonium 210 is a radioactive material that occurs naturally at very low concentrations.

By mass, polonium is around 5 million times more toxic than hydrogen cyanide. Even in microgram amounts, handling polonium 210 is extremely dangerous, requiring specialized equipment and strict handling procedures.

The Russian spy Alexandro Litvinenko was murdered in 2006 by a lethal dose of polonium 210.

Polonium 210 is widely used in industry and readily available with little regulation or restriction.

Source: Health Protection Agency, United Kingdom, and Wikipedia.

***F.I.S.T. - Families in Search of Truth** is a Fallon cancer cluster support and nonprofit, advocacy group.

by investigators. The Environmental Protection Agency's maximum contaminant level for arsenic is now just 10 parts per billion, which is down from 50 parts per billion prior to 2006. In Fallon's defense, the type of arsenic in the city's water was believed for many years to be a non-toxic form of the chemical. However, it is known now that all arsenic is toxic.

After the CDC tested the Braccini family along with other families with sick children and found levels of arsenic in Jeremy's urine of 130.9 parts per billion, almost three times the limit then set by the government, Jeff Braccini got fighting mad.

"That's what set me off," he says, noting that his son's levels of other toxic metals and pesticides also exceeded safe limits. Cobalt, uranium, molybdenum and tungsten, a substance

the CDC warned Fallon residents to avoid, but for which there is no established safe or unsafe levels, as well as the pesticides diazinon and parathion, were all in Jeremy's 3-year-old body at levels that astounded his father.

"Jeremy had levels of tungsten in his body that were 40 times higher than the 95th percentile across the United States," Braccini says, explaining that of all adults in the country, only five percent had even 0.48 parts per million tungsten showing up in their urine while Jeremy had 19.48 ppm. And Jeremy's levels of uranium were almost 30 times higher than the 95th percentile.

"How does a 3-year-old child get this much toxicity in his system?" he wonders aloud, noting that the comparison levels are based on what is expected in an adult, with many years

of exposure. Children's levels ought to be much lower. Another consideration: Jeremy stayed every other week with his father ever since his parents separated when he was 10 months old. At his father's house Jeremy had been drinking only water treated by reverse osmosis, which removes about 80 percent of toxins. On alternate weeks, his mother was giving him bottled water to drink, but she continued to cook with tap water.

As the CDC results came in, speculation about what caused the cancer cluster ran rampant through the town. "There were theories and there were conspiracy theories," Braccini notes. Among the top contenders: A jet-fuel pipeline that runs through the center of

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town; naturally occurring uranium found in well water along with polonium 210, another radioactive metal; viruses brought in by the thousands of outsiders attending the Naval Air Station's carrier air group training — the so-called "population mixing" factor; an unlined, pesticide container dumpsite north of town; heavy metals and toxins in the air and water; a tungsten refinery in town; and errant genes.

Many likely suspects, but no known culprits. Not even arsenic, a known carcinogen, can be named responsible for the cluster because both sick and well children, as well as the rest of Fallon residents, had been drinking water with too much arsenic for years, and the cluster itself didn't start until 1997.

At first, Braccini didn't care what caused the cancer. "All I cared about was the cure."

Seeking support, he joined Families in Search of Truth, also known as FIST, a Fallon cancer cluster support group, and there met Patty Wadsworth, whose niece had been diagnosed with cancer. The group had formed in 2000, and by 2001 it was very strong but only as support. When Braccini's son became the 16th victim, Wadsworth, Brenda Gross, also a FIST member, and Braccini worked with Trust For Americas Health, a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit organization dedicated to making disease prevention a national priority, to expand the scope of FIST with the goal of seeking sound, scientific research into the Fallon cancer cluster. On March 4, 2003, FIST itself gained nonprofit, 501(c)(3) status.

About this time, the CDC issued an advisory to Fallon urging residents not to drink or cook with Fallon water because of the high levels of arsenic and tungsten. Wadsworth and Braccini became concerned that the Fallon children would continue to drink untreated tap water at schools. A state-of-the-art arsenic water-treatment plant was in the works, thanks to \$12 million in federal funding secured by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., but didn't come online until 2004, some two years later.

So Braccini and Wadsworth set out to find allies. They, along with several local supporters, stood in front of the Fallon Safeway and Wal-Mart stores, petitions in hand, and got

close to 4,000 residents to sign in favor of clean water in schools. They traveled twice to Carson City where Braccini testified before the state legislature. They spent close to \$1,000 on paper, copying madly and sending packets of information to everyone they could think of with any political pull. Finally, with the help of former Assemblywoman Marcia deBraga, they got through to Reid, who met with the group at the local hospital.

"He basically said, 'Let's do it,'" Braccini remembers. Reid helped secure a \$133,000 grant to provide bottled water to Fallon schools, but FIST ended up having to find money to pay for the storage, a forklift and an employee to service the schools with water.

It wasn't about the cancer cluster at that point. "We wanted to clean up this town," Braccini says. "Arsenic is a known carcinogen and it weakens the immune system. We didn't want our children drinking it." The questions about what caused the cancer cluster remained and FIST, now educated in community activism, wanted straight answers.

TURNING TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR HELP

"We wanted solid science and independent research," Wadsworth says. And then Reid's office suggested they get in touch with William Murphy, professor of microbiology and immunology and a cancer researcher in the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Murphy currently serves on several National Institutes of Health boards that review grants. In addition, prior to coming to Nevada in 2002, he served for 12 years as the director of basic research at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Md. And thus began a unique collaboration between the small band of community activists, the University and a senator that led to a \$700,000 research grant to fund serious science on the Fallon cancer cluster.

Reid had been able to secure research funding, but the non-scientists of FIST were not qualified to distribute the money. Even though they were well aware of the issues surrounding the cluster, they needed to ensure that the research passed scientific muster.

"We didn't want to lose all the money and the research it would provide," Wadsworth says, and that's when Murphy and colleague Glenn Miller, a professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science and an environmental toxicology expert, stepped in and took the reins of the project — but only as liaisons in an advisory capacity to FIST.

The two University professors were able to negotiate, according to Murphy, the extensive red tape of the Environmental Protection Agency and get that department to oversee the grant. With the EPA officially in charge, Murphy, who was named principal investigator for the grant even though the research funding would go to other investigators, put together a peer review panel of nationally recognized experts and advertised for proposals in an internationally respected journal *Cancer Research* supported by the American Association for Cancer Research. Six came in. All good. Three were chosen.

The unusual arrangement amounts to "one plus one plus one equaling 10," Murphy says. "FIST couldn't have done it without Senator Reid; Senator Reid couldn't have done it without the University. But nothing would have ever occurred if not for FIST starting the process and working with Senator Reid. The research that is being done will be rigorous and will spur on more research."

Murphy is in charge of progress oversight on the grant and must report to the EPA for the next three years. Annual symposiums will keep the public informed about research progress and allow other cancer researchers to collaborate.

SOLID RESEARCH

The research awardees are nothing short of stoked to get funding. Several have already been researching the Fallon cluster on their own dime. Mark Witten, a research professor in the department of pediatrics at the University of Arizona, has spent five years and close to \$30,000 investigating the connections between the Fallon cluster and similar clusters in Sierra Vista, Ariz.; Elk Grove, Calif.; and Hoisington, Kan. With the grant money, he will continue to examine the role of tungsten, molybdenum

— a metal very similar molecularly to tungsten — and cobalt in the leukemic process, as well as look into the role genetic variations play in developing cancer.

The Centers for Disease Control found by DNA testing that 11 of the Fallon children with cancer had variations in the SUOX gene, which is responsible for telling the body how to make the enzyme sulfite oxidase. This enzyme's job is changing unsafe chemicals in the body to safer ones. It is not known what effect the variation has, if any, on sulfite oxidase, according to a CDC report. Some 40 percent of Fallon children without cancer also had this variation, so the variation alone can't account for the cancer, but might be a contributing factor, researchers suspect. Witten is also collaborating with others, including Paul Sheppard, a University of Arizona tree-ring expert. Sheppard and Witten have already published close to a dozen papers on the Fallon cancer cluster, receiving some funding from the Gerber Foundation and the Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation before winning the EPA grant. Among other issues related to the cluster, their research investigates the high levels of airborne tungsten and cobalt particulates, as evidenced by evaluating multiple environmental indicators including dust, lichens, and tree rings.

Joseph Wiemels, a clinical researcher in

LOOK ONLINE

- Special archive of *Reno Gazette-Journal* stories about the Fallon cancer cluster: <http://www.rgj.com/extra/cancer.php>
- The Trust for America's Health: <http://healthyamericans.org/>
- CDC Cancer Clusters page: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/clusters/>
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry testimony before the U.S. Senate, April 12, 2001: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/testimony/testimony-2001-04-12.html>

the Division of Cancer Epidemiology at the University of California, San Francisco, who has been studying the epidemiology of childhood leukemia for a decade, will look at leukemia cells to see if they harbor a common viral or chemical signature. Wiemels will also study the mortality and morbidity statistics of the Fallon cluster in relation to Nevada disease registries, and will compare Fallon environmental data on jet-fuel spills, tungsten and cobalt, electromagnetic fields, changes in the area's water table, arsenic and well levels to data from towns similar to Fallon.


Chris Pritsos, a biochemist and chair of the Department of Nutrition at the University of Nevada, Reno, in conjunction with Lisbeth Welniak, a research assistant professor of animal biotechnology and hematology expert, and Ralph Seiler '99Ph.D, a U. S. Geological Survey hydrologist, will examine the biological impact of ingestion of elements such as arsenic, tungsten and polonium 210 found

in the Fallon drinking water. Providing mice with Fallon water, for their drinking water, they will look at oxidative stress as well as overall immune function in these mice as precursors to developing leukemia.

ON THE ROAD TO DISCOVERY

Back in Fallon, 8-year-old Jeremy is doing well. He's the only child in his third-grade class in the gifted and talented program and, at five years out from his diagnosis of leukemia with no relapse, is considered cured. But like other children who fought leukemia and survived, he lacks athletic ability, Braccini observes. "He tries at sports, but he just doesn't have the physical stamina that a normal child has. He lost three years of his childhood from the age of 3 to 6."

But Witten and other researchers are hopeful that the Fallon cancer cluster could lead to research discoveries about the cause of leukemia and other cancers, such as brain and breast cancer, which are also found in clusters and may have genetic as well as chemical causes.

"I think we are onto something very important," Witten says. If scientists can tease out the knotty mass of genes, chemicals and viruses and come to conclusive findings regarding the cause of childhood leukemia, pollutants could be remediated, measures could be taken, and future cancers might be avoided. 



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Fazekas & Sessions

TWO TEAMMATES, ONE FRIENDSHIP

Story by John Trent • Photos by John Byrne

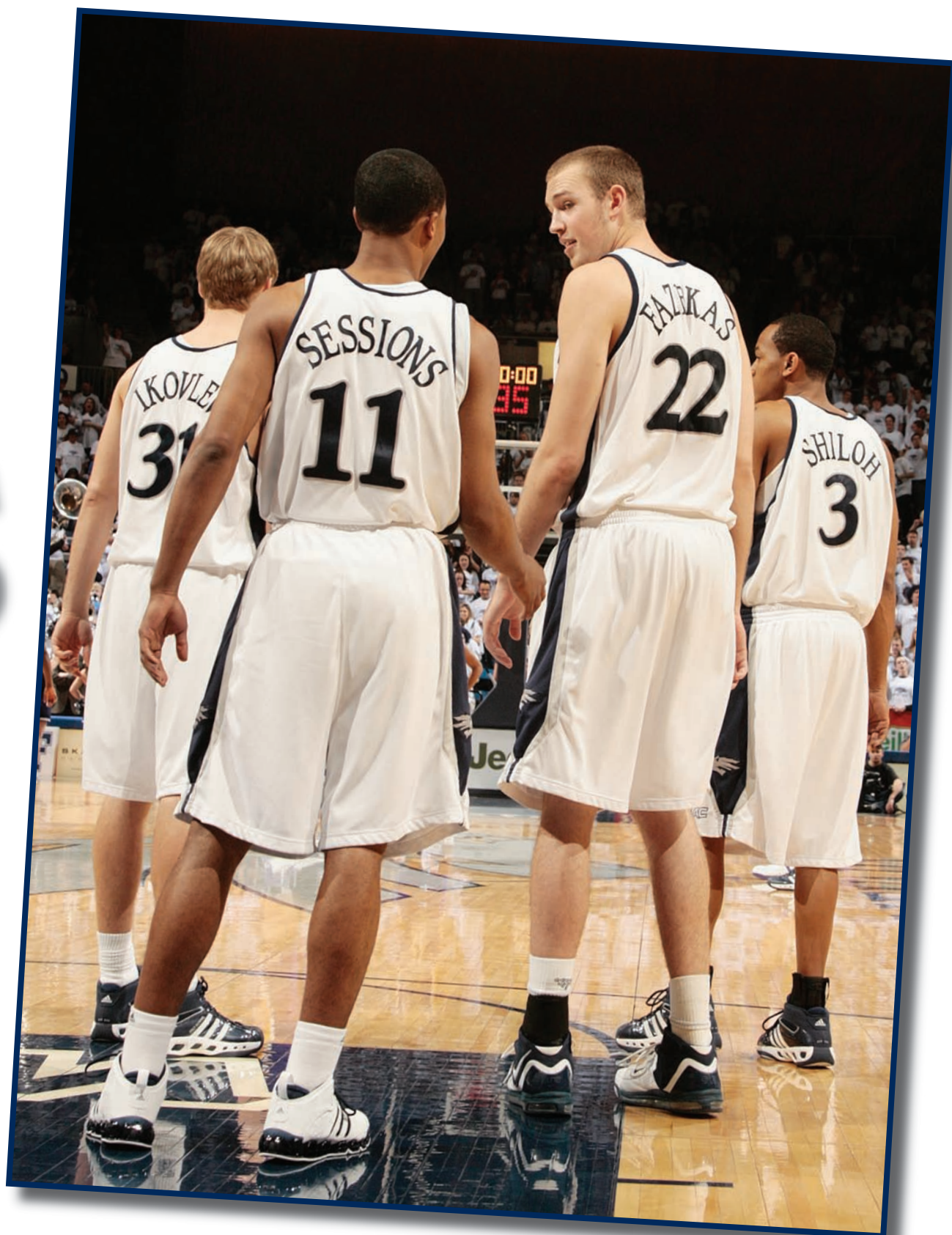
All of our lives have important intersections, moments that cement relationships or irrevocably break them.

For Nick Fazekas and Ramon Sessions, fall 2005 was one of those times. The two standout University of Nevada men's basketball players had become teammates the season before.

Fazekas was a coltish, yet strangely and singularly talented 6-foot-11 forward who had led the Wolf Pack in scoring and rebounding. Sessions was the quick, experienced-beyond-his-years freshman point guard who had stepped into a starting role immediately for the Wolf Pack.

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Together, the two players had shown that Fazekas' freshman season, when Nevada shocked the college basketball world with a Cinderella trip into the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament in 2004, was not a fluke. In March 2005, the Pack again produced a notable NCAA Tournament victory over Texas, followed by a loss with honor in the Round of 32 to No. 1-ranked Illinois.

Heading into their second season as teammates, expectations for the Wolf Pack were even higher.

Yet by early October 2005, as the team began preparations for the season, Fazekas knew his teammate was hurting. In late September, Sessions received news that his former high school coach, Buddy Rogers, had died of a heart attack.

Fazekas, whose laid-back demeanor can sometimes belie an industrious and insightful nature, could see the pain in Sessions' eyes, which are normally alert as a small owl's.

"Definitely, I could see that Ramon wasn't the same Ramon," Fazekas says, recalling the days when his teammate would come home and shy away from the well-worn couch the two players often shared in the living room of the home they rent in northwest Reno.

It was on the couch where the two had played video games — Madden NFL was one of their all-time favorites — or watched *SportsCenter* together. It was the place where the quiet Sessions would come alive during longtime ESPN broadcaster Chris Berman's "Two-Minute Drill" segment during the NFL season. Fazekas, normally the outgoing one, would shake his head in wonder as his smaller, yet more stylish teammate would suddenly drop all the artifice of cool and imitate Berman's bellowing, over-the-top call during a long touchdown run that "HE ... COULD ... GO ... ALL ... THE ... WAY."

For Fazekas, the joke was always that someone who could move so fluidly on the basketball floor — and indeed, Sessions with a basketball can be something magical, full of feints and fakes and opponents vainly grasp-

ing for air — could suddenly turn so uncool, and not worry about it in the least. Then again, they were friends. "And friends do goofy stuff like that all the time," Fazekas says.

"Losing his high school coach was a big shock for him, and definitely you could tell that almost from the day Ramon found out," Fazekas adds. "I was really hurting for him."

Sessions had developed a close relationship with Rogers, a 64-year-old who had spent more than half of his life as a coach and teacher at his alma mater, Myrtle Beach (S.C.) High School. Rogers was a special person to all who met him. He wasn't just a basketball coach. He had a rare ability to relate to all types of young people, black or white, male or female.

In Sessions, the coach had found a kindred spirit.

"Is Ramon sensitive in that way?" asks Nevada men's basketball coach Mark Fox, who met Rogers while recruiting Sessions in 2003. "Well, the great thing about Ramon has always been that he has always known how to love. That's one of his greatest strengths."

So what did Fazekas do? Instead of letting Sessions shut himself off from the rest of the world, trying to work through the pain on his own, the big forward took it upon himself to remind Sessions that life was still good — and that loss, as painful as it can be, is part of life.

"I tried to keep the stress as low as I could for Ramon," says Fazekas, who is quick to point out that Sessions' own inner strength, as well as the support of Sessions' mother, Ann, were also keys in the player surviving the ups and downs of his sophomore season. "I just always tried to keep things loose with Ramon,

be the guy who if he needed someone to talk to, I could be there for him. I tried to keep things as low-key and not as stressed-out as I could around the house ... a joke here, trying to get him play video games there ... anything to help loosen his mind, and keep the stress out of there a little bit, that was important for me to try to do."

As with almost anything Nick Fazekas has done in his life — from leading the program to an unprecedented four straight NCAA Tournament appearances, chalking up 100-plus victories in four years (a team record he shares with fellow senior Kyle Shiloh), becoming the school's all-time leader in scoring — he was successful in helping Sessions.

"It was a tough year, but without having Nick around, it would've been a lot tougher year," said Sessions, who rebounded this season with a vengeance. In 2006-2007, Sessions, scoring in double figures and leading the team in assists, was a finalist for the Bob Cousy Award — given to the nation's top collegiate point guard. "I mean, Nick is more than a friend to me. Whether it's making my passes look a lot better than they really are with those great hands of his, or with his friendship away from things ... I don't know ... what can you say about somebody who's always got your back, who's already a true friend?"

THE TEMPTATION, OF COURSE, would be to turn the Fazekas-Sessions friendship into a pseudo-scientific exercise of comparison and contrast. Fazekas is 6-foot-11 and Sessions is almost a foot shorter at 6-3.

"I mean, Nick is more than a friend to me. Whether it's making my passes look a lot better than they really are with those great hands of his, or with his friendship away from things ... I don't know ... what can you say about somebody who's always got your back, who's already a true friend?"

John Trent, '85/'87, '00M.A., is a University public relations director



Fazekas is from the West, in the cold shadow of the Rocky Mountains, in Arvada, Colo., a suburb of Denver. Sessions grew up in the South, in Myrtle Beach, S.C., what is called the “Grand Strand” of the eastern portion of South Carolina where the beaches are wide, sandy and warmed by the influence of the Gulf Stream.

Fazekas is laid-back, a jokester and prankster. “I’ll always remember,” Fox says, “having practice on Christmas Day, and I said, ‘We’re going to do this drill.’ And Nick said, ‘I’ve got a drill for us.’ And I said, ‘What drill is that?’ And Nick said, ‘How about we just go home?’ ... Nick’s demeanor is always that way ... nothing is ever too serious that he can’t enjoy the experience, whatever it might be.”

Sessions has a quiet intensity — “the quiet storm,” Fox says. Sessions’ ability to be singularly possessive of important moments was apparent from the beginning. During his freshman season, Fox was so struck by this quality that he began calling his freshman point guard “Little Cassius,” after boxing great Muhammad Ali.

And yet, for all the differences, it is the similarities that clearly have defined the

friendship. Fazekas’ father, Joe, was a college basketball player himself for two seasons each at Wyoming and Idaho State. From a young age, it was obvious that his son would do the same.

“Joe’s a great father, and he’s really wanted his son to accomplish important things in his life,” Fox says. “I remember the first game Nick played for us, and Joe came to the game and watched. Nick didn’t start. I remember seeing Joe the next day, and Joe said, ‘You know, Nick shouldn’t start. He’s not better than those kids.’ Most basketball fathers are not that way.”

Sessions, too, took to the game as a youngster. He can remember playing as early as 4 years old. Just as Joe Fazekas had a strong influence on his son’s playing, Ann Sessions, a former standout high school basketball player herself, had the same influence on her son.

“She helped me set up a little basket in our yard when I was barely tall enough to shoot the ball,” Sessions says, remembering hundreds upon hundreds of games against a multitude of neighborhood kids and nearby cousins.

And, interestingly, basketball and sports

And then there is the matter of the roommates’ give-and-take. **Fazekas is the cook.** Sessions will rarely, if ever, cook. “I try to entice him into the kitchen,” Fazekas says, his grin widening, “promise him pancakes and stuff like that, but Ramon usually wants no part of it.”

in general come naturally to both of them, though in different ways. At first glance, one would never think that about Fazekas.

Though Fazekas often runs with a distinct hitch in his stride, moving with a rocking, almost teetering gait, he is extremely dexterous. His hands, for example, are exceptional.

“Once we were teaching another kid on the team how to juggle, to improve his handwork,” Fox remembers. “And Nick said, ‘Gimme those balls,’ and he just started to juggle and it looked like something right out of Circus Circus, where you see the guys juggling balls and plates and all sorts of things all at the same time. It’s a terrific gift.”

More than once, in the open court with a basketball in his hand, Sessions’ ability to summon a sweet press of acceleration is often so seamless opponents have little time to react. His game is one of deep, plaintive attack. “A huge heart and a great, competitive spirit,” Fox says, sounding as if he is describing a champion racehorse. “He has a unique ability to know when the game turns and comes back to you, and when you need to seize that moment for good.”

And then there is the matter of the roommates’ give-and-take. Fazekas is the cook. Sessions will rarely, if ever, cook. “I try to entice

Continues on page 34

him into the kitchen,” Fazekas says, his grin widening, “promise him pancakes and stuff like that, but Ramon usually wants no part of it.” On the other hand, Sessions is constantly straightening their home, joking that it would probably take a bomb to go off before the much more laissez-faire Fazekas would actually pick up his practice jersey or sweats from the floor. “And even with a bomb going off, I don’t know if I would or not,” Fazekas adds, smiling.

“They are such a good balance to one another,” Fox adds.

When the coach speaks of Fazekas, he speaks of a happy warrior, a young man who is comfortable in his own skin, a player who is rarely rattled, even as his senior season has progressed and he’s had to face the prospect of double- and triple-teaming ... either with or without the ball.

With Sessions, Fox sees the fire, the determination, as well as the inquisitive ability to look at tasks and ask nuts-and-bolts questions like a fine watchmaker puzzling over the inner workings of a clock. On team charters, for

LOOK ONLINE

Read Nevada grad Ty Cobb’s story on Nick Fazekas’ grandfather, Albert Fazekas, and his challenging journey from Hungary to the United States, online at <http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue>.

example, most of the team regularly falls into iPod-induced sleep at the back of the plane. Not Sessions, who often sits in the jump seat in the cockpit — with the crew’s permission — and eagerly observes the mechanics of flying a major piece of metal and machinery.

A prebusiness major, Sessions says he hopes to one day own and operate his own firm. Fazekas, whose major is general studies, has a pronounced creative side. He says Fox isn’t too far removed from projecting Fazekas’ post-NBA life when the coach says he could see his forward involved with digital media some day. “I definitely love video games, and at some point, to be able to be work with other people in creating something like that, that would be a pretty cool thing,” Fazekas says, tugging at his knees and smiling at the irony that he very well could become the world’s tallest video-game programmer.

“They’re both intelligent, sensitive and creative young men,” Fox says. The 38-year-old coach’s eyes are often like ping pong balls, so intense that they seem to jump back and forth, serving as exclamation points, emphasizing one important basketball point or another. He is also a keen observer of human nature. And perhaps this is why his eyes grow still. They slowly fill with tears as words escape him. It is a moment of deep contemplation. A moment where a young man like Nick Fazekas, who clearly knows how to savor the moment, would tell his coach that it is perfectly all right to consider what has been, to consider what the two players have meant to their program and their university.

“When you think about what those kids have accomplished ... when you think about the pride they’ve had about their program ... their hard work ... how they’re such great friends ... It’s just hard to put in words.”

The young coach has to adjust his glasses.

“It really has been a special time,” he says. “More than anything else ... these kids inspire me.” **N**

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Record-setting team

The Wolf Pack broke a 61-year-old school record for overall wins in a season March 16 in its opening-round NCAA tournament victory against Creighton. The Pack's 29th win topped the 28-5 record of the 1945-46 Nevada team. The Wolf Pack compiled a perfect record in February games for the third straight season in 2007, and the team won 20 contests before the second month of the year had even begun. Two of its nonconference wins in 2006-07 were in the home states of teams judged in midseason power ratings to be among the top fifth of all 336 Division I men's college basketball programs (beating California in San Jose and Gonzaga in Seattle).

Even the most skeptical college basketball fan would have to rate the Wolf Pack's success in road and neutral-court games as amazing. From the beginning of the 2004-05 season through the 2007 NCAA tournament, Nevada tallied a 36-12 record away from Lawlor Events Center. This past season the Wolf Pack was 10-2 on the road and 14-4 in games not played at Lawlor.

The latter statistic includes the Dec. 3 Cal and Dec. 30 Gonzaga games, neutral-site contests in name only. The 77-71 win over the Bears was played before a clear majority of fans wearing blue and gold among the 7,833 people in attendance. The Pack's nationally televised 82-74 triumph against the Bulldogs entertained, and then appeared to physically drain many of the 13,000 Gonzaga and approximately 2,000 Nevada fans who packed Key Arena. It was the largest crowd to attend a regular-season college basketball game in Washington state history.

The Wolf Pack also ended Akron's 21-game homecourt winning streak Dec. 22, at the time the fourth-longest such streak in the nation.

What was the greatest team or sports moment in the history of Wolf Pack athletics? Email your answer to silverblue@unr.edu or send it via regular mail to Nevada Silver & Blue, University of Nevada, Reno, Reno NV 89557-0108. Include a phone number where you can be reached.

The Last Laugh

Without the creative wizardry of Nevada alum Charlie Douglass, inventor of TV's 'Laff Box,' the world would be a much more dreary place (insert laughter here).

By Ed Cohen

Bob," TV producer Mary Fukuto says. No reaction. She's trying to get the attention of the lean man seated at one end of the giant mixing board one tier below her, sound engineer Robert Douglass.

The problem is, the volume is too loud on the TV show being projected across the entire wall at the front of the room.

His eyes remain fixed on the screen, his ears tuned to the soundtrack playing through high-fidelity speakers, his fingers on a computer keyboard.

"Bob," the producer tries again, and this time she gets through.

Looking back over his shoulder, Douglass acknowledges the summons without a hint of annoyance but without any words either, only raised eyebrows.

This routine has been going on for years between these two, who've collaborated in the past on *Cheers*, *Frasier* and other sitcoms and who both own Emmys for their behind-the-scenes TV work. This week they're at Larson Studios, a postproduction sound company on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, putting the finishing touches on an episode of a show that airs on the CW Television Network.

In the scene up on the wall, a trio of young

women, the show's stars, are seated at a table in a crowded club. A rock band is playing loudly. One of the characters tells the others she is dating a minister, who has just come by to introduce himself. The others express surprise, knowing their friend's history of sexual exploits.

"So, he's a minister, and he can't smell the sin on you?" one says.

The line gets a laugh from the studio audience, but Fukuto doesn't like the way the laughter sounds, competing, as it is, with the noise from the band. She thinks it would sound better to viewers at home if they could hear more individuals laughing instead of one solid outburst.

Douglass nods and rewinds (an outdated verb in the digital era) the footage (an outdated noun). As the scene replays, he begins pressing keys on his computer.

"So he's a minister, and he can't smell the sin on you?"

"Hah-hah-hah-hah-hah."



Robert Douglass

Continues on page 38

The late Charlie Douglass '33 (electrical engineering) loved nothing more than creating sound, particularly laughter. The television sound mixer would bring home tapes of radio and, later, television shows to his home, experimenting with applause and laughter. His creation, the Laff Box, revolutionized television. Note how the Laff Box even looks like it's smiling.

Photo Courtesy of the Douglass family



To a visitor witnessing this process for the first time the difference is far from obvious, but Fukuto nods her approval.

And on this postproduction audio-mixing process goes: Fukuto watching and listening and making the occasional request, Douglass watching and listening and simultaneously pressing combinations of buttons on his computer keyboard.

Only this is no ordinary computer.

The machine, which he's brought with him to the studio, is the digital descendant of one of the most revolutionary and, in Douglass' view, misunderstood technical innovations in television history: the so-called Laff Box. Developed in the early 1950s, it made the laugh track or "canned laughter" a familiar part of television comedy.

Douglass, who is 56, didn't invent canned laughter. But his father, the late Charlie Douglass '33 (electrical engineering), did.

Laughter as a second job

"I didn't think it would work," says Dorothy Douglass, 88, seated next to Robert in the living room of her oceanfront home in Laguna Beach, south of Los Angeles. She's thinking back to the early '50s, when her husband began bringing home tapes of radio and later television shows recorded before live audiences. Charlie Douglass would work for hours trying to make tapes of laughs isolated from the dialogue that triggered them. He also experimented with applause, recording the sound of one, two, three people clapping.

"I would go to bed at night and through the vents I'd hear him editing laughs, the sound effects, applause," Robert Douglass remembers.

"It became kind of irritating to me," says Mrs. Douglass.

Her husband was working at the time for the infant CBS television network. Charlie Douglass had grown up in Tonopah in south-central Nevada, where his father worked as a mine engineer. After earning his engineering degree from Nevada, Charlie moved to Southern California, where he found work as a sound mixer

on live radio broadcasts in Los Angeles. He met his future wife after the broadcast of a musical show. She was working for an ad agency that represented the show's sponsor.

During World War II the young sound engineer joined the Navy. Instead of making him a radio operator, the military sent him to MIT and Bowdoin College for specialized training, and he eventually became part of the team that developed shipboard radar.

Returning to Los Angeles after the war, he went to work as a technical director for CBS, first in radio and then television.

Douglass noticed almost immediately that the producers of the early TV shows faced a significant problem: Whenever they did a second or third take of a scene — because of a technical glitch or if someone forgot a line — the audience wouldn't laugh as hard because they'd already heard the joke. That muted reaction would seem odd when the show went out over the air, he knew.

Robert Douglass says his dad also knew intuitively that people enjoyed comedy more when they were in a crowd of people laughing. Laughter is contagious. So he set about trying to replicate the experience of being in an audience for people who would be watching the shows at home.

Many critics over the years have assumed that canned laughter was developed as a way of salvaging material that wasn't funny enough to get real laughs, but Robert Douglass says that was never his dad's intention.

"He always contended that it was for making the show technically better. It was because they couldn't use laughter from the studio audience because of sound problems or because the laughter covered up dialogue."

The solution was to dispense with the audience and insert recorded audience reaction instead, but there were technical problems to overcome. Physically splicing bursts of laughter into footage — the only way possible back then — took too much time for weekly television. Also, using the same outbursts over and over sounded fake.

Working at home, Douglass began editing down recordings to isolate laughs of varying

duration and intensities. Slowly his mirth collection grew. But he still needed a way to add the snippets to the show's soundtrack faster than cutting and splicing, which had the additional drawback of creating audible noises at the point of the edits.

It took the engineer more than two years to build his first Laff Box, which featured audio tape glued to motorized drums and a playback head that moved back and forth between drums. Robert Douglass says his father machined all of the internal parts himself at home. For control buttons, he used keys from a typewriter, eight of them.

The finished machine, which the inventor would modify countless times in future years, was so heavy that he had to invent a special climbing dolly to get it up the stairs at the studios, Robert Douglass says.

What made the Laff Box practical, if cumbersome, was that it could be played like a musical instrument. Instead of cutting and splicing tape, Charlie Douglass — and later his employees and son — could simply press buttons on the Laff Box while watching an episode playing and simultaneously record a custom laugh track.

The Laff Box delighted TV producers almost immediately. Not only did it solve the heard-it-once already problem in regard to jokes and retakes, but they no longer had to shanghai an audience into sitting through every taping.

Canned heat

By 1954 Douglass had so many clients he'd quit his job at CBS and was working full time as Hollywood's first "laugh man."

Despite holding a monopoly on the process, he didn't try to gouge his customers, Robert Douglass says. Rather, he elected to price the service in line with what a professional sound mixer would be paid for a similar amount of time. The early shows took four to five hours, and the Douglass family retains a receipt for an episode of one of the first TV series the senior Douglass worked on, *Pride of the Family*. The fee: \$100.

Though the Laff Box was popular inside the production companies, it quickly attracted critics in other quarters. In a 1954 article in *Variety*, CBS announced that all of its shows were going to be required to use genuine audience reaction from then on. The article mentioned that the only two shows using canned laughter at the time, *Life with Father* and *That's My Boy*, had been canceled because the shows's sponsors didn't want to be associated with fake laughter.

The article didn't mention that CBS had tried, and failed, to pry the Laff Box away from Charlie Douglass. The company said the device belonged to the network because Douglass invented it while working for CBS. Douglass successfully argued that he had created it on his own time.

Fortunately, the laugh-track backlash also proved short-lived.

"All it took was for a couple of shows to be big successes. Then, of course, all the sponsors were totally behind it," Robert Douglass says. "At one time my dad had a list of the top-40 rated shows, and he was doing 20 of them."

The demand for canned laughter soon became too great for one person to meet, and Douglass hired two assistants. Still the business grew. At the height of the sitcom boom in the late 1960s, the company Douglass formed, Northridge Electronics (named for the L.A. suburb in which the family lived), was providing laughs for 38 programs a week.

Canned laughter helped free producers and directors to film shows more like movies, on studio back lots and with multiple cameras. Separate takes could be done for individual

characters with the footage edited together later, so the viewer would see one character speaking and then cut to another's reactions. No audience would sit through the tedium of the various character takes. Another advantage was that, without an audience, shows could now include scenes shot outdoors.

When he went out on jobs, Charlie Douglass always kept a close watch on the Laff Box, his son says. The machine was padlocked shut, and when he or his employees had to change drums, they would excuse themselves to another room.

The device developed a mysterious, magical aura.

"People thought mice were in there or hamsters on wheels turning all these things," Robert Douglass says.

Continues on page 40



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One time when his father was working on Bob Hope's TV special, Robert Douglass says, the comedian came by and took his father's hands in his own and begin rubbing them like he was trying to limber up the machine operator's fingers.

"He said, 'OK, now, give me some good laughs.'"

Although Charlie Douglass was known for his dry wit and friendly nature, he never appeared on TV himself, his son says. However, his name would sometimes crop up in scripts as an in-joke. In the movie *Annie Hall*, for instance, Woody Allen's friend, played by Tony Roberts, is shown in a studio doing post-production work on a TV comedy. Roberts issues instructions on how he wants a particular laugh sequence to sound to an engineer he calls "Charlie." Douglass was friends with Woody Allen from having worked on some of the comic's TV specials, Robert Douglass says.

He was also friends with the producer of the family comedy *My Three Sons*. Fans of that series, which ran from 1960-72, may remember that the three senior characters during the last seven years of the show's run were widowed father Steve Douglas; "Uncle" Charley (actually the brother of Steve's father-in-law); and Steve's eldest son, Robbie. The real-life Charlie Douglass (spelled with two S's) had two sons: Robert, who is carrying on the family business, and Steven, who became a physician.

"Rumor has it that the characters were named for us, and I think it's true," says Robert Douglass.

Another of the company's clients in the '60s was the show *Laugh-In*. The show was not filmed before a studio audience. Northridge provided both laughs and applause. Robert Douglass says the producers intended the program to end with extended applause over music, as other variety shows of the era ended. At the very end of the closing ovation, however, a button stuck on the Laff Box and what the producers heard over the final credits was the sound of a single person clapping. It was Charlie Douglass himself clapping under a microphone in his garage from a recording he'd made.

The Northridge operator apologized for the blunder, but the producers thought the sarcastic, single-person clapping was a scream and kept it in for the entire series run.

Laughter. the next generation

Robert Douglass would sometimes accompany his father out on jobs in the '60s, and he joined the family business full time in 1973 after graduating from the University of Arizona with a degree in mechanical engineering.

He says he inherited his father's love of inventing and, as the era of the personal computer dawned in the '80s, he set about creating a digital successor to his dad's pulleys-and-levers Laff Box. The early microprocessors, however, proved too slow to access and play sound clips quickly enough to create a laugh track. So the first computerized Laff Box wasn't completed until 1990. The mammoth device included 11 hard drives and cost \$500,000 to develop, says Robert Douglass.

The younger inventor says he collaborated on the machine with a sound mixer and computer programmer, Peter Roos, but relied on his father's advice almost daily. Charlie Douglass' University of Nevada experience also played a role, he says.

One of the final problems to be worked out with the machine was that when multiple keys were pressed, the volume would get too loud because the sounds were additive. The engineers realized a formula was needed to program the computer to automatically dampen the volume.

"We were sitting there doing software and I said, 'How can we find this formula?' And I said, 'You know what, I have an idea.' So I went to the bookcase. My father's engineering books from the University of Nevada were there, the same books from 1925, '28. I grabbed an engineering book, looked up the formula, and plugged it in. It worked perfectly."



Photo Courtesy of the Douglass family

Robert Douglass, left, pictured in 1992 with his Emmy Award-winning father, Charlie, has continued his father's legacy of "sweetening" the sound of television. The younger Douglass, in assessing software applications of today, says he still consults his father's engineering textbooks that Charlie used in studying at the University of Nevada in the late 1920s. "It worked perfectly," the younger Douglass says.

Nowadays, Robert Douglass totes a modified laptop computer to the studio when he's called in to work on a show. The keyboard is programmed to play hundreds of different giggles and guffaws, hoots and hollers, ooh and ahhs, and various qualities of applause – and can be reprogrammed with hundreds more in seconds. He says it usually takes him one to two hours to add his material to a half-hour show.

Northridge Electronics now consists solely of Robert Douglass, and the company is no longer the only audience-reaction supplier in Hollywood. There are a handful of specialists who have a friendly relationship and routinely refer clients to one another when they're too busy to take a job, Robert Douglass says. That doesn't happen as often as it used to, though. Reality TV has cut into the number of sitcoms.

Much else has changed since the advent of canned laughter, a term Charlie Douglass is said to have disliked. He preferred "audience augmentation" or "supplemental audio." The current Hollywood lingo is "sweetening," as in

"We hired Bob Douglass to sweeten the show."

One of the most noticeable changes in the sweetening business is that the process has become far more subtle, as the example from post-production on the CW series illustrates. Another is that hardly any comedies today rely entirely on artificial audience reaction. They're filmed before live studio audiences, and the scenes that can't be taped in front of an audience, like those shot outdoors, are played back afterward in front of the audience to record the reaction.

After more than 50 years, the idea of adding artificial reaction sounds to a show hasn't completely shed its stigma, which is why Robert Douglass asked that the CW show he was working on not be mentioned by name in this article. But the TV industry has come around to recognizing the contributions of the laugh men.

**'People thought mice
were in there or
hamsters on wheels
turning all these things.'**

Robert Douglass won his first Emmy in 1976 for his work on *Cheers*. He has since won 11 more, and not all of them for sitcoms. Four of the Emmys recognize supplemental audio he contributed, live, to Academy Awards shows.

Another live gig he's done involves providing audience reaction for the halftime shows at outdoor Super Bowls. The distance between the performers at midfield and the people in

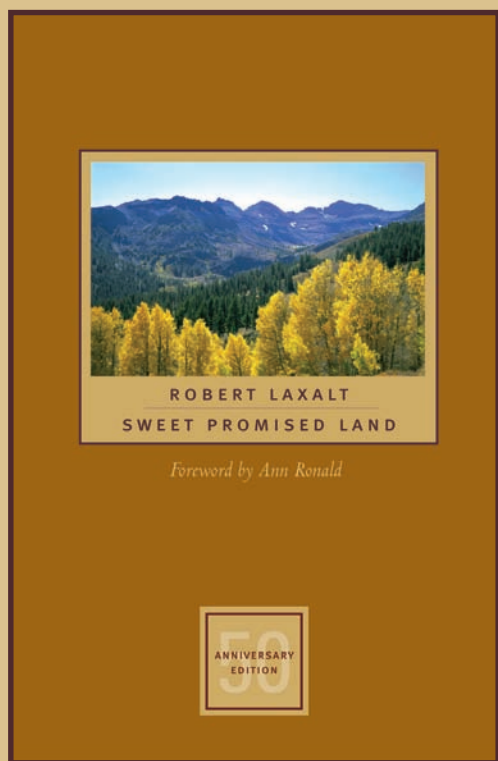
the stands makes conventional sound mixing impossible, he explains.

For most of Charlie Douglass' career, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences didn't have a category to recognize the contributions of sound remixers like him. But in 1992 he was awarded a lifetime achievement Emmy for his invention of the laugh machine. The TV pioneer passed away in 2003 at age 93.

In 2006 he received a posthumous honor when the University of Nevada, Reno College of Engineering included him among the first nine winners of the college's Scrugham Medal for outstanding alumni.

In a tribute on CNN, anchor Anderson Cooper eulogized Charlie Douglass as "the man who may have made more people laugh than any other human in history."

Not bad for an engineer who was only trying to solve technical difficulties. **N**



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by Robert Laxalt | Foreword by Ann Ronald

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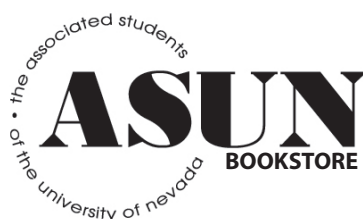
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Enlarging journalism — and life

In Memoriam: Cole Campbell, Reynolds School of Journalism dean

By Deidre Pike '98, '02M.A.

That Friday morning, the couple had discussed hiring a private chef to cook a meal with wild salmon — a favorite entree — to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary.

Cole Campbell, dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno, had just learned this would cost \$250.

His wife, Catherine Werner, balked at the expense. Campbell's response? Likely the characteristic grin — and a mischievous glint in his eyes.

"I think we should splurge," he told his wife.

Werner wasn't surprised.

"Cole often encouraged us to do things that were slightly beyond our means or ability," Werner says. "He believed in living life each day as a celebration."

Campbell, former editor of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *The Virginian-Pilot*

Deidre Pike is a freelance writer and writing lecturer in the University of Nevada, Reno's Reynolds School of Journalism. She has contributed to several publications, including *The New York Times*, and her column "View From the Fray" has run for more than five years in the weekly *Reno News & Review*.

in Norfolk, Va., approached the world with gusto, from personal relationships to the lofty mission of repairing journalism. Hired as journalism dean in 2004, Campbell felt the profession — and the ideals that drove it — had suffered.

In November 2006, he moderated a Charles Kettering Foundation roundtable that addressed a report detailing the alienation people feel from politics, community affairs and the media. Campbell, once a senior associate at the foundation, hoped he could encourage new ways of thinking about



Photo by Jean Dixon

Reynolds School of Journalism Dean Cole Campbell, though he was a man of ideas and of high concepts for his school, never completely lost the practicing journalist's compulsion to cover the story. In summer 2006, under the shade of his trusty straw hat, Campbell joined graduate students from the Reynolds School in covering the Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit.

the media, ones that gave citizens a voice.

"Journalism matters," Campbell often said. "We must enlarge our conception of journalism beyond merely printing news to helping people make sense of their lives and their times."

That Friday morning, after calling the journalism school to say he'd be 10 minutes late for a meeting, Campbell left home.

He never arrived at school.

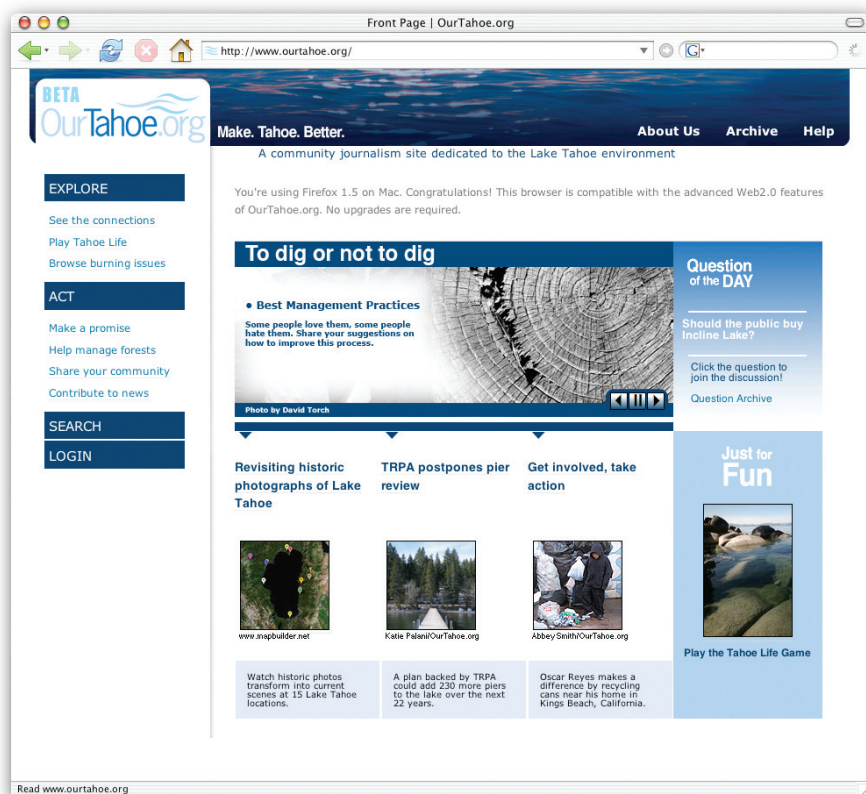
The 53-year-old died Jan. 5, 2007, when his vehicle flipped over on icy McCarran Boulevard.

University faculty, staff and students as well as Campbell's family and friends gathered in Nightingale Hall Jan. 24, the

first week of the spring semester. Before Campbell's memorial service began, a video showed scenes of him playing with his son Clarke, who turned 2 in February. In one scene, Clarke is dressed for Halloween. His dad helps him try out a slide.

Bagpipes played as Campbell's family filed into the concert hall.

At the stage's center, a table piled with books spilled over onto the floor. The dean, an avid reader and thinker, was never without a book or three. A fervent consumer of books on social, political and media issues, Campbell was known for overflowing bookshelves. His office was known as a maze of printed material piled on floor, table and



chairs. Campbell called this “intellectual mulch.”

Songs were sung, including “This Little Light” and “If I Had A Hammer.” Cole’s sister, Catherine Campbell, one of several speakers, humorously noted her brother’s “great passion” for books.

“We recognize that Borders and Barnes & Nobles everywhere are also mourning our loss,” she said.

Catherine Campbell spoke of her brother’s sense of humor. For their father’s 80th birthday, Cole had created a preacher costume out of a black turtleneck with white cardboard collar and a black tuxedo jacket. “He proceeded to recite a special version of the Lord’s Prayer, starting, ‘Our father, who art in Homestead Hills,’ which of course was where our Dad was living at the time.”

Campbell had ended the prayer: “Can I get an amen, somebody?”

Their father, an Episcopalian minister, died in November 2006. He’d written a letter to his children, with advice that his son had already taken to heart: “Worrying is a waste of time and energy. Apply yourself to finding possible solutions for your problems.”

LOOK ONLINE

Visit Cole Campbell’s online tribute: <http://journalism.unr.edu>

See what’s new at the Reynolds School of Journalism: <http://www.unr.edu/journalism>

When she finally ventured into Campbell’s home office after his death, Werner found her husband’s computer on—and a beta version of the Reynolds School graduate students’ OurTahoe.org website on the screen.

“Other than emails and phone calls, it is clear that the OurTahoe was the last thing Cole was working on,” Werner says. “He had gotten up early—as he often did—to get in quality work time before Clarke started demanding Daddy’s attention.”

The loss of the leader might have slowed progress on the innovative project—melding Web 2.0 technologies with the ideals of community-based journalism.

Instead, students in the year-long interactive environmental journalism grad program are further resolved to bring the project to fruition.

“Cole was so excited about this,” says Donica Mensing, the program director. “It



Photo by Jean Dixon

“He believed in living life each day as a celebration,” said Campbell’s wife, Catherine Werner. And nowhere was this more evident than in Campbell’s interactions with journalism students, whether in formal settings or in the comfortable confines of the Reynolds School.

was finally a way for him to demonstrate his ideas. He’s been telling people that journalism should be seen as a social practice rather than a professional practice, that journalism should be about helping people govern themselves.”

One of the questions that Campbell wanted to test: What changes when news organizations shift from treating audiences as consumers and spectators to treating them as participants and citizens?

“Cole believed that if you speak to people differently, people will respond differently,” Mensing says. “If journalism is about public purpose, it can call a public into being. If there’s a problem, there will be people in the community energized by that problem.”

Mensing described the project as taking the energy of Internet innovations like YouTube and MySpace—and adding a place-based component.

“We see real opportunities for people all around the lake to discuss issues that impact their lives,” she says.

One afternoon this February, grad students were feeling deadline pressure as they worked to complete several aspects of the site — from a social networking map linking civic groups to PromiseTahoe, a website unit-

Continues next page

ing potential volunteers and activists. Boxes of donuts were open on a table, remnants of the 50th birthday celebration for Larry Dailey, the school's media technology chair.

"Failure is not possible," Dailey says of the project. "If we envision our goal as to build a learning community — then even if something goes wrong and we have to work to fix it, it's not a failure."

OurTahoe.org launched March 1 of this year during the school's inaugural Journalism Week celebration. National media professionals from the Associated Press, MS-NBC.com, Gannett, ESPN, MediaStorm.org, the Maynard Institute and the Center for Public Integrity convened at the Reynolds School during the week for a think tank on the future of journalism.

Another of the program's graduate students, Sevil Omer, an assistant city editor at the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, recalled one of her last conversations with Campbell.

"He said that it's not that we do stories with these different tools," Omer says, "it's that we do the story differently — using these new tools."

The loss of the leader provoked reflection.

"It's making us ever so mindful of why we must do these stories differently," Omer says. "And in the spirit of Cole, to enjoy the whole process of learning."

Taped over the dean's desk was a quote that Campbell had copied, with nouns in all caps: "LUST * PASSION * GREED * GRAVITY * RIVERS * EARTHQUAKES * TSUNAMIS * IDEAS * IDEOLOGY * IMAGINATION * WAR * FAMINE * PESTILENCE * DISEASE."

The caption read: "Many forces have shaped the world. We specialize in two." Highlighted were "IDEAS" and "IMAGINATION."

Sitting at the dean's desk was Rosemary McCarthy, Reynolds' academic chair, recruited after Campbell's death to handle the day-to-day leadership of the 24-year-old journalism school.

"Cole infected everyone with his enthusiasm," McCarthy says. "That won't go away."

Campbell's books were no longer piled on floors and chairs. Many had been boxed and put in storage — to be donated to a eventual journalism library bearing Campbell's name.

The Reynolds School, McCarthy says, will continue on its newly charted course, becoming a school known for its "vigorous blend of theory, practice and critical thinking."

One challenge will be to maintain the level of energy and excitement that Campbell left in his wake.

"We have lots of momentum," McCarthy says. "And we have the people to put that to good use. Everyone here cares about the school, about journalism, about the students. How can we go wrong? I know that sounds Pollyanna-ish but I believe it."

The day after Campbell's memorial service, McCarthy spoke at the President's Associates reception, honoring donors to the school, in the Linn Reading Room. She lauded new faculty and staff who keep the Reynolds School "ahead of the game." She noted a rise in undergraduate enrollment. In Spring Semester 2004, the Reynolds School had 500 undergrads. This year, there are 619. Students have signed up for an array of new offerings, from interactive game design for journalists to entrepreneurship.

"In this generation, students are choosing to take major courses in more than one arena," she says. "They get it."

Memorial fund

A fund in memory of Cole Campbell, dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism, has been established with the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. Campbell's sister, Cathy Campbell, will match gifts up to \$10,000. To make a gift online, visit <http://giving.unr.edu/giveonline.aspx>, click on "Give online," fill out your personal information and then designate the Cole Campbell Memorial Fund as the beneficiary.

For details, call Kristin Burgarello, the school's director of development, at (775) 784-4471 or email her at kburgarello@unr.edu.

Campbell transformed the school by driving a culture of innovation and improvement, University Provost John Frederick said.

"He didn't allow you not to be excited about changing," Frederick says.

Campbell's influence extended to the rest of the Nevada campus through his involvement on the Council of Deans.

"Cole contributed in so many helpful and unique ways," Frederick says. "We could sometimes get caught staring at trees and not looking at the forest. Cole helped us see the forest."

Werner remembers her husband's frequently used term: "Journalism enlarged."

Campbell wanted to know how conventional journalism's practices and lessons could be expanded and adapted to work better, she said.

"But I think that concept of enlargement really applied to all aspects of his life," Werner says. "He was always pushing the envelope, striving to improve things and make our relationship, our home, the journalism school, the University, journalism...the world a better place."

"These efforts weren't always appreciated or understood, but that never daunted him. Even in the face of criticism he persevered and soldiered on to do what he thought was right."

At the memorial service, Werner asked a few friends and family members to talk about Campbell's devotion to the Hebrew idea of Tikkun Olam, the human responsibility to heal and help the world.

"Cole believed in this concept very deeply and demonstrated his commitment to it in every thought and action he took," Werner says. "He helped heal people's self-confidence by letting them know he valued and believed in them. Cole helped repair an ineffective model of journalism by being a relentless champion of new thinking, new methods and new means of citizen engagement."

"Journalism enlarged. Life enlarged. Cole Campbell." ■

Catching the 'butterfly blues' in the Sierra

It's common for plants to pass genetic characteristics to other plants, but exceedingly rare to find evidence of such species hybridization in animals. Some scientists have even debated if such crossover is possible. That's why a study conducted high in the Sierra that included a University of Nevada, Reno researcher is considered so important.

Matthew Forster, a College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources researcher, was part of a group of scientists who discovered an unusual type of speciation in the summer of 2006: a hybrid species of butterfly with a lineage almost a half million years old.

In a finding published in *Science* magazine and covered in national publications such as *The New York Times*, Forster and his fellow researchers found a critical link between two types of butterflies living in the Sierra. The *Lycaeides melissa* butterfly lives on the eastern slope of the Sierra and the *Lycaeides idas* lives to the west. Forster's team found that a third species of *Lycaeides* has evolved in the upper alpine reaches of the Sierra above 7,500 feet. The team used molecular genetics to show that the "new" species carries genes

from both parental species. The scientists estimate that some 440,000 years ago the *L. melissa* and *L. idas* came into contact in the Sierra. Their offspring, perhaps due to climate change, was cut off from the rest of their



Photo by James Fordyce

Researcher Matthew Forster's study of Sierra butterflies has attracted national attention.

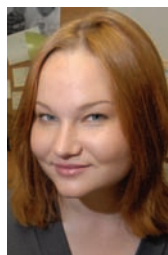
clan, and eventually evolved into a unique and genetically distinct species. The "new" species of butterfly — the males are a bluish color while the females are brown — represents one of the most convincing cases of hybridization in animals.

"The alpine butterflies actually have wings that look like the butterflies from the eastern Sierra," Forster said. "But their mitochondrial DNA more clearly resembles those from the western Sierra. Ultimately, what we've studied highlights the importance of natural selection, and the more general idea that we are still learning many of the ways in which species are formed."

Faces on the Quad

ANNIE FLANZRAICH

Las Vegas, Journalism



Flanzraich, 21, recently landed a prestigious summer internship with the Associated Press. 2006-2007 marked the second year she served as editor of the campus' award-winning student newspaper, *The Nevada Sagebrush*. Under Flanzraich's leadership, the *Brush* won several national awards and was a Pacemaker finalist. Like any true journalist, Flanzraich says the reward isn't in the awards, but in the work: "Our real focus isn't on awards, it's on putting out a good paper every week," she says.

IRENA YAMBOLIEV

Reno, English and Biology



Yamboliev, 21, received the Herz Gold Medal during Winter Commencement ceremonies in December. The Herz Gold Medal is the University's oldest and most prestigious student award, and is given to the graduating senior with the highest grade-point average. Yamboliev plans to pursue the "interrelatedness" of her "two apparently diverging paths" of science and literature in graduate school. A 4.0 student, Yamboliev was a member of the Honors Program and spent a semester studying in France as a member of the International Club.

BEN TAYLOR

Sparks, Chemical Engineering



Taylor, a 24-year-old senior on track to graduate in May 2007, is the founder of the new TradRack.com website, an online store and forum for rock-climbing enthusiasts. Taylor says the site, which has shipped products to climbers as far away as Australia, Korea and the far desert country of Qatar, focuses on traditional or *trad* climbers who enjoy big-wall ascents such as at Yosemite. A mountaineer who lived in a tent for two years during his first college experience at Utah State in Logan, Taylor has applied to the University of Nevada School of Medicine. He wants to start a bioengineering company.

Understanding disability

Edina Jambor brings feeling to her teaching

Edina Jambor knows what it's like to not be deaf. Because she lost her hearing at age 15 in an automobile accident, she remembers being in touch with a world full of sound.

The social psychology doctoral candidate is the only deaf student pursuing her doctoral degree at the University of Nevada, Reno and is one of few deaf university instructors nationwide. For more than five years, Jambor's American Sign Language classes have helped students learn how to communicate with people who need interpreters for the deaf. In Spring 2007, her first non-elective, upper-level course, Disability

Issues, challenges more than 40 students to think about what life is like with a disability.

Along with co-teacher and interpreter Mary Anne Christensen, Jambor has students describe how their goals would change if they became disabled and assess the assistive devices and services they would need to be successful. Students also evaluate laws protecting the disabled and hear from guest speakers who talk about living with their disabilities.

"It's a huge honor for me to teach this class," said Jambor, a College of Health and Human Sciences instructor. "It is a challenge, but I know the rewards will be great."



Photo by Jean Dixon

Deaf instructor Edina Jambor's Disabilities Issues course brings the important topic front and center.



Photo by Jean Dixon

Final brushstrokes on a new home

University painter Lee Green puts a coat of Nevada blue on a dugout at the new Christina Hixson Softball Complex. The Wolf Pack softball team was slated to play its first game on the new field, on the east side of Evans Avenue across from the Peccole Park baseball stadium, in March 2007. Idlewild Park, three miles west of downtown Reno, has been the home of Wolf Pack softball since the program was reinstated in 2003 after a 14-year hiatus. The program's move to an on-campus setting comes just a year after Nevada won its inaugural Western Athletic Conference Tournament title and earned its first berth in the NCAA regional playoffs. The softball complex is on the site of the old Bishop Manogue High School baseball field.

WOLF PACK HALL OF FAME CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Wolf Pack Hall of Fame carries with it special memories that inductees and Wolf Pack sports fans never forget. Memories that include 2006 inductee, the late John Ramatici, left, who was honored along with fellow Nevada athletics greats Chris Singleton, Brock Marion and Ali McKnight last fall. Nominations for 2007's Wolf Pack Hall of Fame induction class are being accepted. Nevada athletes who are 10 years removed from their graduation date are eligible for nomination. Coaches or individuals who have helped further the athletic department's success are also eligible for consideration. Nomination letters should include the nominee's name, address, telephone number, years of participation at Nevada, a list of athletic honors while at Nevada, professional, Olympic or other post-collegiate athletic experience if applicable, community honors and activities, and a contact number for the individual who has submitted the nomination.



Photo by Jean Dixon

Ramatici, Singleton, Marion and McKnight

► A nomination form is available by writing: Dick Trachok, athletic director emeritus, University of Nevada, Department of Athletics, Legacy Hall/264, Reno, NV 89557-0041 or by calling Trachok at (775) 682-6932.

Nominations are due by May 31

Professor shares her energy from the governor's office

When Hatice Gecol was a little girl in Turkey, she dreamed that one day she would do big things. Now Gecol is not only internationally known for her research in biodiesel fuels, she is director of the Nevada State Office of Energy and Gov. Jim Gibbons' energy and science adviser.

Gibbons appointed the University chemical and metallurgical engineering professor to the post Jan. 24, 2007, because of her work with alternative energy programs. Gecol

developed a way to produce clean-burning diesel fuel from waste cooking oil and biomass produced ethanol. University shuttle buses and other vehicles have been fueled by the renewable biodiesel in research projects funded in part by both the Environmental Protection Agency and Washoe County.

Gecol will serve on the governor's executive staff and will advise on all aspects of energy policy and development. She will also work closely with the Nevada Department of

Energy to promote greater energy independence throughout the state.

While she serves as the state energy adviser, Gecol will be on leave from her position as an associate professor in chemical and metallurgical engineering. An assistant professor in that department from 2000 to 2006, she will continue her involvement in research projects. Gecol also hopes to teach a course at the University during the fall semester.

A NEVADA FIRST — swimmers, divers win WAC



Photo by John Byrne

The Wolf Pack women's swimming and diving team capitalized on four months of momentum this season to win its first Western Athletic Conference championship Feb. 19 in San Antonio, Texas. The team's inaugural WAC title followed a perfect record in 18 regular-season dual meets. Nevada outpointed Hawai'i, the 2006 conference champion, 810.5 to 730, at the Palo Alto Natatorium. Nevada swimmers and divers had finished in second place in WAC tournament competition three times since the program joined the conference for the 2000-2001 season. The Wolf Pack also collected several postseason honors following the meet. Head Coach Mike Shrader earned his second WAC Coach of the Year honors, duplicating an accomplishment he garnered in 2002. Freshman swimmer Margaret Doolittle, pictured above, who won the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events, was selected as the conference's top first-year athlete in the championships. Teammate Kim Kabesh won the award last year as a freshman.

School gives students close look at justice system

Sociology and criminal justice majors at the University of Nevada, Reno now have the chance to collaborate with two of the nation's most respected judicial education organizations.

Students in the new School of Social Research and Justice Studies will share their experiences in the classroom and community with judicial education faculty and administrators in the National Judicial College and National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, both independent organizations based on the Reno campus. Within the school, students in the sociology and criminal justice departments also can contribute to the body of knowledge generated by the 15-year-old Grant Sawyer Center for Justice Studies, which encourages collaboration between the National Judicial College, the National Council and the University's judicial studies program, one of only two degree-granting programs for judges in the nation.

"The new school also offers students more opportunities for involvement with research relevant to the justice system," says interim director Jim Richardson, who also heads the unit's Center for Justice Studies.

"We plan to develop more upper-division and graduate offerings to complement the current offerings from the criminal justice and sociology departments."

LOOK ONLINE

- National Judicial College at <http://www.judges.org>
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges <http://www.ncjfcj.org/>

The school, opened Jan. 1, 2007, is part of the College of Liberal Arts. The National Judicial College, formed in 1963, is the nation's top judicial training institution and has awarded more than 70,000 professional judicial education certificates. The National Council, headquartered on the Reno campus since 1969, provides technical assistance and research to the nation's courts, judges and staff.



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Leonard and Sally Detrick love to read thank-you letters from their scholarship recipients in their home in south Reno.

Scholarship donors devote major legacy gift to juniors, seniors

In 1997, Leonard and Sally Detrick created a merit scholarship that helps Nevada community college students transfer to the University for their junior and senior years. Now the couple has established a Charitable Remainder Unitrust to enhance their scholarship endowment.

The Detricks graduated from the University of the Pacific and have been longtime residents of the Reno-Tahoe area. They have a long and distinguished history of supporting higher education in both California and Nevada.

Legacy or "planned" gifts have always played a vital role in shaping the University. The charitable remainder trust is a trust that allows an individual to make a charitable gift, receive a charitable tax deduction, receive income payments throughout a lifetime and enjoy potential tax benefits. It can be among the greatest tax and estate planning tools available. Many people find that they can experience the joy of stewardship during their lifetime by placing assets in a life income plan such as the charitable remainder trust.

The University's Planned Giving office is here to help you find the best method of giving.

To learn more about techniques for gift planning and how to establish a legacy at the University, contact Bob Eggleston or Lisa Riley at (775) 682-6016 or email beggleston@unr.edu.

Hoeper Professorship helps engineering faculty dig in for learning

Rose Hoeper has created the College of Engineering's first professorship. The Ralph E. Hoeper Professorship, an endowed fund, will help the University recruit and support the work of outstanding faculty and students. Support for faculty is key to strengthening student success at the University.

Rose is the wife of the late Ralph Hoeper '51 (electrical engineering), a pioneer of the independent Foresthill Telephone Company in rural northern California.

Hoeper and his wife purchased the

company in 1940 when it was just a handful of telephone lines. Together they led it and the local community into the digital age. As his classmates did during his days at Nevada, Hoeper's phone industry peers enjoyed his no-nonsense demeanor and the way he would often get in the trenches to install new equipment. Ralph Hoeper died in 2001.

For information on endowing a professorship and supporting faculty who have demonstrated excellence in both teaching and scholarship, contact Bruce Mack at (775) 784-1352 or email bmack@unr.edu.



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Rose Hoeper next to her and her husband's names, which were engraved into the Sierra Granite pillars of the Honor Court last June.

Scholarship fund honoring Pack basketball star to help Nevadans

The family and friends of 1940s Nevada athletics Hall of Famer Jim Melarkey '47 (civil engineering) have contributed more than \$100,000 to create the James E. Melarkey Scholarship Endowment Fund to support Nevada students in their academic endeavors.

Wolf Pack basketball fans will

remember Melarkey for his clutch jump shots and reverse layups and, as a leader in 1946, in one of the greatest victories in Nevada basketball history, a 55-49 upset over St. John's in front of 18,000 fans at New York's Madison Square Garden. Melarkey, who died in November 2006 at the age of 84, also competed in track and field and was inducted into the Nevada Athletic Hall of Fame in 1976.

Melarkey accomplished far more in life than just athletic triumphs. He went on to a successful career as a fuel distribution firm owner in Reno, employing many University of Nevada students at his Flying A service station at Liberty and South Virginia streets. Now future generations of students at the University will benefit from Melarkey's contributions and the generosity of his friends and family.

For information on making a gift to the Melarkey Scholarship Endowment or creating your own legacy, contact Bruce Mack at (775) 784-1352 or email bmack@unr.edu.



Jim Melarkey



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, John Carothers, and Jane Beckett stand by as Mallory Foundation officers Riley Beckett, Ellen Shock and Thomas Cook pose for a portrait in the University's Honor Court.

Mallory Foundation gifts spur growth of high-tech research

Long before the rest of the country realized the benefits of doing business in Nevada, the Mallory family moved its automotive company to the state in 1969. Although founder Marion Mallory Sr. had only a fourth-grade education, he had a natural talent for mechanical processes and held more than 200 automotive patents in the United States and Europe.

Jean Mallory, Marion's daughter, established the Mallory Foundation in Carson City in 1991. Since that time the foundation has generously supported the University. Both Marion and Jean Mallory have passed away, but the foundation's officers continue the family's legacy by supporting several campus projects that advance technology in the Silver State. The foundation supports many initiatives, including:

- **The Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center:** When it's completed in summer 2008, this will be one of the most technologically advanced libraries in the country. Students will be able to tap into the latest computing and information technologies in a lab for multimedia project development. They will also have access to state-of-the-art

smart classrooms with connectivity to classmates, professors and other scholars around the world.

- **The Davidson Mathematics & Science Center:** Opening in 2009, the center will provide an advanced research and learning environment in mathematics and science. The future home of Nevada's College of Science, it also will help attract the best math and science students, faculty and researchers.

- **Mobile Engineering Education Laboratory (ME²L):** This program supports volunteers who take engineering and science experiments into northern Nevada classrooms to enhance elementary, middle and high school curricula. Through the mobile laboratory, students get a "hands-on" look at how science and engineering concepts work.

"The timing of the Mallory Foundation's gifts could not be better," said Ted Batchman, College of Engineering dean. "Our K-12 outreach is ready to move to the next level and the Mallory funds will allow us to hire a part-time director. The Mallory Foundation trustees understand the need for K-12 and higher education partnerships like this one."

For information on making a gift for any of the above projects, or to find out about other campus endeavors, contact Bruce Mack at (775) 784-1352 or email bmack@unr.edu.

Dear Nevada Alumni,

The Nevada Alumni Association enjoyed a very exciting slate of events during fall and early winter. Our organization welcomed more than 720 new alumni into our family during the Dec. 9, 2006 Commencement.

The association continues to build a strong relationship with the student government, and our dues-paying membership program is at an all-time high with more than



1,550 members. Likewise, the association's volunteer database has doubled. In addition, we had two of the most successful pregame events prior to men's basketball games.

When the Wolf Pack competed in the Pete Newell

Challenge in San Jose, Calif., the Alumni Association reserved a local restaurant and welcomed more than 200 fans to the party. At the Battle in Seattle, more than 400 guests filled the skyline level of the Space Needle for a private Wolf Pack gathering, and then followed the team to Key Arena for an exciting win against Gonzaga.

In January the Alumni Council held its first 2007 meeting, hosting President Milt Glick as he presented his legislative agenda. The board heard the results of a Morrill Hall Restoration Study and addressed member development activities.

As Alumni Council president, I identified my 2007 priorities, including: researching and identifying ways to connect current and future alumni to the University and the Nevada Alumni Association, increasing association membership, and partnering with the University's Marketing and Communications Department. The Alumni Council includes some of the best and brightest marketing professionals in Nevada and has much to offer.

Finally, the Nevada Alumni Association continues to make an effort to communicate via email. If you do not currently receive event updates, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at (888) NV ALUMS and update your email address.

Sincerely,

Randy J. Brown C.P.A. '89
President, Nevada Alumni Council

Nevada Alumni Council

Randy Brown '89
President, Nevada Alumni Council

Julie Ardito '89
Past President

Cindy Buchanan '95
Treasurer/President-Elect

Mike Dillon '94
Vice President for Community Outreach

Michael Pennington '95
Vice President for Student Involvement

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

Roberta Bibee '83
Vice President for Marketing & Membership

Seema Bhardwaj '02

Chad Blanchard '93, '03

Kelly Bland '91

Todd Cabral '91

Jeff Champagne (ASUN President)

Stephanie Clemons 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

Stephanie Pesek '97

Lauren Sankovich '98

Chris Vargas '95

Charlie Walsh '86

'60s

Jim Megquier '61 (chemistry) and his wife, **Lynn (Walsh) Megquier '61** (education), are staying very active attending University of Nevada, Reno activities, traveling, fishing and enjoying their six grandkids. Jim and Lynn retired five years ago.

Larry Struve '64 (political science) is the interim director of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Nevada. He is also representing Religious Alliance in Nevada in the 2007 Nevada Legislature. His wife, **Colleen (Quinn) Struve '69** (English), '76M.A. (English), retired from the Washoe County School District in August 2006.

'70s

Dr. Michael Fischer '71 has been appointed director of the state Department of Cultural Affairs by Gov. **Jim Gibbons '67** (geology), '73M.S. A graduate of Reno High School who was born and raised in Reno, Michael is a member of a number of local organizations. On being appointed director, he said, "It's something that I've looked forward to doing my entire life and a job that will become a labor of love for me."

Don Wood '72 (accounting) recently completed a rigorous five-course program to attain the designation of Certified Risk Manager. As director of risk management for Sunsweet Growers Inc., Don oversees grower accounting, property and casualty insurance, claims administration, and natural condition fruit inventories. Don is a member of the Nevada Alumni Association and the University's Alumni Football Association. He lives in the Yuba City, Calif., area with his wife, Debbie, and their family.

Diane (Langlinais) Miller '73 (special education) and her husband, Lee, are living in Silver Springs, N.M. After 32 years of teaching special education in Montana and Nevada, Diane retired in 2005. Lee retired as a high school industrial arts teacher and coach. Daughters Crista, who works at the Mirage Resort in Las Vegas, Nev., and Morgan, a sophomore at the University of Montana, Missoula, are doing very well.

Mary (Germain) Burnham '75 (art) is proud to announce that her son is currently attending the University of Nevada, Reno.



Don Wood '72
(accounting)



Lori Friel '86 (computer
information systems)

After 30 years of service, **Bill Crawford, Jr. '76** (civil engineering) has retired from the Nevada Department of Transportation. While at the agency, Bill served as the chief bridge engineer. He is now working for the CH2M Hill consulting firm in Reno.

Bret Stephenson '79 (journalism) recently wrote *From Boys to Men: Spiritual Rites of Passage in an Indulgent Age*. In his book, Bret shows readers how older cultures used rituals and rites of passage to sculpt teen boys into healthy young men. He also offers insight into how we can reintroduce these practices to create a society with happy and healthy adolescent boys. Bret is the executive director of the Labyrinth Center in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

'80s

Dr. Geof rey Chiara '82 (predental) has been appointed to the Nevada State Board of Optometry by former Gov. Kenny Guinn. Geoffrey is the chief of optometry at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Las Vegas, Nev., and an assistant professor at the Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton.

David Stipech '85 (journalism) has been named the new station manager for KUNR-FM 88.7 Public Radio. During his diverse career in the radio industry, David has done on-air broadcasting, local market sales and management. With expertise in human relations, he is also a speaker and consultant on employee training, leadership development and team-building.

Lori Friel '86 (computer information systems) has been named director of academics for the Nevada Athletics Department. Lori comes to Nevada after five years as the director of academics at Ohio University in Athens. Prior to working at Ohio, she was an academic adviser at UNLV for 11 years.

John Boyd '88 (accounting), who works as an Edward Jones financial adviser based in

Continues on page 54



A SILVER AND BLUE EVENT. A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.

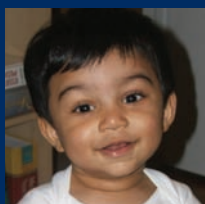
Mark your calendar, and get ready for a celebration fifty years in the making.

ONCE NEVADA. ALWAYS NEVADA.

For more information, visit www.unr.edu/alumni or call (888) NV ALUMS.



Wolf Cub



Aniruddho Ray Chaudhuri '99Ph.D. (cell and molecular biology) and Rupali Chaudhuri '98 (nutrition) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Arvin Rohit Chaudhuri, who was born Sept. 20, 2005, in Silver Spring, Md.

Reno, has accepted an invitation to increase his limited partnership holdings in the Jones Financial Co., the holding company for the St Louis-based financial services firm. John is honored to have the opportunity to increase his ownership in the firm. "Knowing that I share ownership of the company I work for is tremendously rewarding," he says.

After editing or contributing to five books on the joys of recreational vehicles, **Adrienne Kristine '87** (sociology), '91M.A. (English) has just completed her first electronic book: *Frugal RVing or Pinching Pennies without Getting Bruised and Other Advice from the Road*. She says everyone who reads this book, whether a potential or experienced RVer, will discover ways to save space, weight, time, money and the environment. The e-book is available for download at www.rvhometown.com.

'90s

Dirk Beekman '90M.S. (animal science) recently accepted the position of vice president of product development for Pierre Foods. In his new position, Dirk will be guiding the development group to grow the business to \$1 billion in sales within 18 months.

Patrick Ronan '94 (health education) serves as chief of staff of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Prior to this position, Patrick served as the agency's associate commissioner for legislation. He received his MBA from Johns Hopkins University in May 2006. He asks former classmates to contact him at Patrick_Ronan@hotmail.com.

Shannon Stubblefield '98 (human development and family studies), '01M.Ed. (special education) is pleased to announce

Continues on page 56

Alumni Association & Chapter Meetings

April 4

12 p.m. • Fallon Chapter Meeting

6 p.m. • YAC Meeting

April 8

6 p.m. • Dinner with a Pack of Wolves

April 10

8 a.m. • COBAAA Meeting

12 p.m. • Sacramento Chapter Lunch Meeting

April 11

4 p.m. • Past Alumni Council President Meeting

April 12

5:30 p.m. • Annual Friends and Alumni of CABNR Meeting and Dinner

April 14

12 p.m. • Native American Chapter Powwow

April 15

12 p.m. • Native American Chapter Powwow

April 18

TBA • University Club Dinner Program

April 19

TBA • International Chapter Reunion

April 20

11:30 a.m. • University Club Board Meeting

TBA • International Chapter Reunion

6 p.m. • 25th Anniversary of Night of All Nations

April 21

9 a.m. • Nevada Alumni Council Meeting

TBA • International Chapter Reunion

April 27

6:30 p.m. • Young Alumni Chapter Beer Fest

May 1

5:30 p.m. • Friends & Alumni of CABNR

May 2

12 p.m. • Fallon Chapter Meeting

6 p.m. • YAC Meeting

May 3

11 p.m. • Graduation Celebration

12 p.m. • COBAAA Golf Tournament

6 p.m. • Native American Graduation Reception

May 8

8 a.m. • COBAAA Meeting

12 p.m. • Sacramento Chapter Lunch

May 9

5:30 p.m. • Friends and Alumni of CABNR Meeting

May 10

11:45 a.m. • Alumni Council Executive Committee Meeting

May 17

6 p.m. • Senior Scholar Awards Reception

May 18

12:30 p.m. • Golden Reunion Registration

2 p.m. • Golden Reunion Campus Tour

4 p.m. • Commencement (Graduate students)

6 p.m. • Golden Reunion Dinner

May 19

8:30 a.m. • Golden Reunion Breakfast

10 a.m. • Commencement (Undergraduates)

June 6

12 p.m. • Fallon Chapter Meeting

5:30 p.m. • Friends and Alumni of CABNR Meeting

6 p.m. • YAC Meeting

June 12

8 a.m. • COBAAA Meeting

12 p.m. • Sacramento Chapter Lunch Meeting

June 14

11:45 a.m. • Alumni Council Executive Committee Mtg.

July 3

5:30 p.m. • Friends & Alumni of CABNR

July 4

12 p.m. • Fallon Chapter Meeting

6 p.m. • YAC Meeting

July 10

8 a.m. • COBAAA Meeting

12 p.m. • Sacramento Chapter Lunch Meeting

July 10-12

Alumni College XVIII

July 11

6 p.m. • University Club Annual Picnic

Wolf Mates



Mandi (Harding) Lindsay '99 (journalism) and Art Lindsay were married Aug. 13, 2006, at the Hotel on Mt. Charleston after winning a \$40,000 Dream Wedding Giveaway. Mandi works for Associated General Contractors, Las Vegas chapter, and was recently promoted to government affairs specialist. She earned her master of public administration degree with an emphasis in nonprofit management from UNLV in May 2005.



Randy Brown '89 (accounting) and Natalie (Mitchell) Brown '99 (English) are proud to announce their marriage. Natalie is the vice president of communications for Wells Fargo Bank in Nevada. Randy is the area manager of external affairs for AT&T and president of the Nevada Alumni Association. They reside in Reno.

2007, Nevada Alumni Association Award Nominations

Nominee's Name _____

Nominee's Phone _____ Graduation Year _____

Suggested Award: (check one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Achievement Award | <input type="checkbox"/> University Service Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni Association Service Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Alumnus of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Young Alumnus Award | |

Nominee's Address _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Please include supporting material of no more than four pages with this form.

Awards Nomination Form

You can also nominate online at www.unr.edu/alumni/

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:

An alumnus/alumna of the university with an outstanding record of career accomplishments.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AWARD: A friend or graduate who has demonstrated dedication, commitment and service to the university.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SERVICE AWARD:

A friend or graduate who has rendered special and outstanding service to the Alumni Association.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS

AWARD: A graduate who is not more than 15 years past graduation and has an outstanding record of career accomplishments, and/or whose dedication, commitment and service to the Alumni Association has significantly enhanced alumni programming.

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR: A graduate who has rendered special and outstanding service to the university and by personal achievement has brought distinction to the university.

Please fill out the nomination form, along with no more than four pages of supporting material, by May 15, 2007. Please mail to:

**Alumni Association Awards
Morrill Hall Alumni Center/164
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, NV 89557-0164**

her engagement to Jeff Thomas. The couple will be married April 28, 2007. Shannon is the disabilities specialist for Southern Alameda County Head Start.

'00s

Bill Stobb '00Ph.D. (English) has been working as an assistant professor of English at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisc. Recently, Bill's poetry collection, *Nervous Systems*, was selected in the National Poetry Series. The book, which is due out in June 2007, reflects Bill's studies at the University of Nevada, Reno, and includes many poems written in and around Reno, including such exotic locations as Keystone Cue and Cushion and the Black Rock Desert. According to Bill, "The book reflects a work ethic toward poetry that I acquired from professionals like Steve and Susan Tchudi and Scott Slovic, English professors who really show their graduate students how to work successfully as publishing professors."

Rajan Zed '01MBA has been appointed to a three-year term on the Regional Transportation Commission's Citizens Advisory Committee. The committee provides input on policy issues relative to public transportation, the regional street and highway system, and transportation planning. Rajan also serves on the governing board of directors for the Northern Nevada International Center, the board of directors of the Nevada World Trade Council, the advisory board for Reno's police chief and is a fellow of the Institute of Professional Managers and Administrators of Britain. He lives in Reno with wife, Shipa, a community volunteer; son, Navgeet, a youth activist; and daughter, Palkin, an accomplished author of two published books.

Machalagh Proffit-Higgins '02 (criminal justice) graduated cum laude from Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. She recently finished a federal appellate clerkship at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Machalagh is currently

working as a litigation associate at the Washington, D.C. office of Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, L.L.P.

Dano Kraig P. Fernandez '03 (criminal justice) plans to graduate in June 2007 with a master of criminal justice administration degree from Norwich University in Northfield, Vt. Dano is currently a military police/security specialist for the Office of the Military, Nevada Air National Guard 152nd Security Forces Squadron at Reno-Tahoe International Airport. He also works as an on-call youth counselor for the Carson City Department of Juvenile Probation.

Joshua Wenner '04 (finance) was recently named one of the top sales representatives for Iron Mountain Incorporated, the world's largest information management company. A resident of Manhattan Beach, Calif., he has also founded Wenner Ventures and the World Smile Project. Joshua enjoys spending time on the beach, enjoying the sun and starting companies.

ALUMNI COLLEGE XVIII

The Art & History of the Sierra's Eastern Slope July 10-12, 2007

Join the Alumni College Chapter as we visit Lake Tahoe, tour museums in northern Nevada and California and enjoy an evening at the ballet.



For a complete schedule of events, please visit www.unr.edu/alumni or call (888) NV ALUMS

Alan Hopper

Don King Productions, public relations director

Alan Hopper '85 (journalism) has always been a bit of a perpetual motion machine, whether it was as a disc jockey/vice president for student activities during his time as a student at the University of Nevada, Reno, or today with Don King Productions. Hopper, 45, is a third-generation Nevadan who has risen from the mail room at the William Morris Agency in California to where he has been for the past seven years — leading public relations for King's world-renowned boxing events as well as for King himself. Hopper is a nominee for one of boxing's most prestigious awards, the Marvin Kohn Good Guy Award, presented in April in Atlantic City, N.J., by the Boxing Writers Association of America.

1. What's it like to work with Don King?

A: Don is like the Energizer Bunny. He just keeps going and going. At 75, he works harder than any of his employees. My job is to write all the press releases for our boxing matches and coordinate most of Don's interviews and appearances. It's like working in a three-ring circus, but I wouldn't trade it for the world. He's a very unique American, and if everybody knew what a good-natured guy he is, they'd like him more.

2. You were involved in a number of different campus activities, including some student government responsibilities as well as working in the local radio market (who can forget "Senator Hopper" — a bow to his student senate service — on the airwaves of Reno). What do you remember of that time?

It was one of the great creative periods in my life. I was attending the University, where I was elected by the students to run all activities for the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, had my own office in the student union, business cards and a university car at my disposal. Simultaneously, I was a part-time broadcaster at rock station KOZZ-FM when it had the highest ratings (audience share) ever in Reno.

Professionally, I was learning things about budgets and the nature of

John Trent, '85/'87, '00M.A., is a University public relations director

"real world" business that most kids are introduced to after college. It shaped everything for me that came after that time, and I've never forgotten where I come from.



Photo by David Martin-Warr

Alan Hopper and his new bride, Dr. Louise Ball. They were married in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

3. You've always seemed like a person who genuinely loves what he's doing, whether it was at Reno High School, at Nevada or as your professional career evolved. Where does that enthusiasm come from?

People have always accused me of drinking too much coffee, but my zest for life was inherited from my mother, Beverly Hopper, later known as Beverly Rule, a second-generation native Nevadan. Former University President Joseph Crowley told me he always marveled at my mother's energy and enthusiasm. They were great friends. She was involved in the Parent Teacher Association, ran for state senate in 1972 — when some thought that wasn't lady-like — and helped form one of the first drug-abuse programs for teenagers in northern Nevada.

4. Will boxing rebound to the position it held in American sports consciousness during the 1920s with Jack Dempsey, the '50s with Sugar Ray Robinson, Rocky Graziano and Rocky Marciano, and in the '60s and '70s with Ali and Frazier?

Boxing has been huge in our country going all the way back to July 4, 1910, when one of the biggest prizefights ever was staged in Reno as Jack Johnson faced James Jeffries. Many factors have contributed to the reduction of boxing's overall reach. Television has contributed to more people watching the sport, but this has reduced the number of matches. Americans love the heavyweight division, and many big young men with athletic talent today often opt for football or basketball. The lower-weight divisions are still tremendous, but many people are still waiting for the next dominant heavyweight to emerge. I also have a personal theory that the recent rise in popularity of mixed martial arts "cage fighting" can be attributed in part to the fact this sport more resembles many of the video games kids grow up with today than traditional boxing.

5. If you had stayed in Reno following graduation, what do you think you'd be doing today?

I'd probably have been the town drunk — or at least it seemed like a popular pursuit for many of the people I ran with around the time I left town when I was 23. Seriously, I was very interested in entertainment as a career. The company in Reno that did entertainment best was Harrah's Club, and I was always attracted to that company. Unfortunately, Bill Harrah died when I was in high school. Harrah's and Reno were never the same after the properties and car collection he owned were sold. He was the best thing that ever happened to Reno. He thought big and achieved great things.

Chapter Updates

Alumni Band

Kiara Wolf '92, '97
unrbandalum@hotmail.com

Does polyester hold special memories for you? Do you know the meaning of band prep? Did you march up the hill and then run down to get to the D.C. before it closed? Do you ever wonder what happened to those people who shared those special experiences with you? Now you can find out. Send us an email, and sign up to receive the monthly Alumni Band Newsletter. Better yet, send an update about yourself so your friends know what happened to... you! To make sure your address is updated with the University and you are coded as an Alumni Band Member, contact the Nevada Alumni Association at (888) NV ALUMS. That way, you'll receive information regarding this year's 10th Alumni Band gathering at Homecoming.

Bay Area Chapter

Sara (Smith) McGinness '02, '05
bayarea.nvalumni@gmail.com

The Bay Area Alumni Chapter is back and re-energized. Following our pregame party at the San Jose Bar & Grill in San Jose, Calif., on Jan. 11, 2007, our group headed to The Event Center to watch Nevada beat San Jose State, 72-63. For more information about the chapter's upcoming events, or if you'd like to get involved, keep an eye on the "Alumni in the Bay Area" group page on www.nevadachatta.com or email Sara McGinness.

COBAAA Chapter

Caesar Ibarra '00
cibarra@macpas.us

The College of Business Administration Alumni Association (COBAAA) exceeded its goal of raising \$50,000 during the year-long celebration of the college's 50th anniversary in 2006. Thank you to our alumni and friends for their generous support. Some of those funds are being used to support scholarships and the Office of Career Services, as well as the renovation of the Ansari Business Building's second floor lounge, scheduled to reopen in spring 2007. Also this spring, save Thursday, May 3 on your calendar for the annual COBAAA golf tournament at Lakeridge Golf Course. Finally, our membership drive is underway. Annual membership is only \$15, and is the perfect way to reconnect with your school. For membership details, contact Dan Oster at (775) 336-4665.

Mackay Alumni Chapter

Jessica Muehlberg '02
mackayalumni@unr.edu

The Mackay Alumni Chapter is pleased to join the Nevada Alumni Association. We are slowly getting our feet wet, but have already had two successful events. We held the first event in December 2006 at the Mackay Mines Building in conjunction

Nevada alumni and friends show their silver and blue pride in a sea of red Sept. 1, 2006. The group traveled on the sold-out Wolf Pack Chat bus, sponsored by the Nevada Alumni Association, to catch the Nevada at Fresno State football game.



Members of the Bay Area Alumni Chapter watch the Nevada men's basketball team roll to victory at San Jose State on Jan. 11, 2007, following a pregame party at San Jose Bar & Grill. From L to R: Brett McGinness '00; Sara (Smith) McGinness '02, '05; Jesse Bargmann-Losche '02, '05; Andrei Losche '02; and Adam Kincaid '03.



Young Alumni Chapter members Lesley Davis '04, Seema Bhardwaj '02, Melissa Molyneaux '06, Jaimie Dianda '01, Julie Kealy '00 and Allison Chumrau '05 enjoy Baugna Calda and each others' company at the Coney Island Bar in Sparks.

with the Northwest Mining Conference. In February 2007, the chapter headed to the Great Basin Brewery for a social, which coincided with the Mackay Advisory Board meeting earlier in the day. Our first membership meeting, set for April 19, will be held in conjunction with the Mackay Annual Banquet. Feel free to contact us if you'd like to attend the meeting.

Native American Chapter

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

The Native American Alumni Chapter recently assisted in planning the third annual University of Nevada, Reno Powwow. The event, to be held April 14-15, 2007, is a collaborative effort between the chapter, the Center for Student Cultural Diversity and the Nevada Alumni Association. Each year, the powwow includes traditional food, dancing and American Indian vendors.

Violet John, Miss Indian World, traveled from Canada to participate. While visiting Reno, she addressed University faculty and staff, as well as several Washoe County School District students. Special thanks to everyone who helped make the powwow a success, especially our donors and volunteers. The chapter is planning a reception to celebrate American Indian students graduating from the University in May 2007. If you are interested in becoming involved or would like more information, contact Sherry Rupert or visit www.unr.edu/alumni/chapters.aspx.

Sacramento Chapter

Laura Jenkins '99
ljenkins@golyon.com

The Sacramento Chapter is alive and well. Members meet at noon on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Laura Jenkins to reserve your place at the table. January's annual



International Chapter

Susan Bender '03
bender@unr.edu

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Night of All Nations at the University. To celebrate this momentous occasion, we are organizing an International Alumni Reunion around the event. Night of All Nations is Friday, April 20, at Lawlor Events Center. The International Alumni Reunion activities will begin with a reception on Thursday, April 19, and run through Saturday, April 21. For more information about the International Chapter, update your contact information online at www.unr.edu/alumni/UpdateUs.aspx.

RIGHT: Mark Glodowski '04, current student Lacy Glodowski, Brad Platt '00, Kellie Hayes '05 and Dave Glodowski '06 enjoy a sunny day at Pike's Marketplace in Seattle Dec. 31, 2006, as they continue to revel in the previous evening's Wolf Pack victory over Gonzaga.



LEFT: Pete Scheffel '01, '06; Paul Klein '03; Ro Lazzarone '03; and Lawrence Tam '03 attend the Nevada Alumni Association's Battle in Seattle pregame party at the Space Needle Dec. 30, 2006.



University Studies Abroad Consortium Alumni Club members and friends had a great time at the Welcome Back Barbeque, held in August 2006 at Reno's Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

Mystery Dinner Bus Trip was a huge success, as 44 alumni and guests enjoyed the charms of the Sacramento River Delta. Our first stop for appetizers was CJ's in Franklin (Elk Grove, Calif.). We then took some very small and dark, delta levee roads to get to the Spindrift Restaurant on Brannan Island for prime rib and salmon. Thanks to the efforts of Kyle Ramos '76 and Eppie Johnson '51 in planning the bus trip. The chapter raised more than \$1,000 for the Eppie Johnson Scholarship Endowment that benefits University students. Remember to get your reservations in early for the 2008 trip.

University Studies Abroad Consortium

Marika Dimitriadis '02, '05
marika@unr.edu

The USAC Alumni Club had a fabulous time at Reno's Rink

on the River and the Chocolate Bar in December 2006. After breaking in our skates, we were on the rink for about two hours. We met new people and bonded over falling on the ice. It was a fun experience with no major injuries to report. For many of us, it was our first, but not our last, time at the Chocolate Bar. We enjoyed chocolate with everything, from desserts to drinks. The first USAC Leadership Conference took place Feb. 4, 2007, at Heavenly Ski Resort in Stateline, Nev. The event encouraged University students and staff, as well as the community to become aware of significant global issues. The conference also included a scavenger hunt and time spent watching the Super Bowl and, of course, hitting the slopes. For details about chapter events, contact Marika Dimitriadis.

Young Alumni Chapter

Seema Bhardwaj '02
Seema.Bhardwaj@IGT.com

The Young Alumni Chapter has had a strong start to 2007. Our sold-out events began in January with our annual Baugna Calda Dinner at the Coney Island Bar, followed by Wine, Tapas and Jazz Night at Enoteca Wine Cellar in February and Martini Madness in March. Supporting the Pack was also on the social calendars of young alumni, who attended pregame festivities at Scruples Bar and Grill for the Feb. 17 ESPN Bracket Buster event, featuring Northern Iowa at Nevada. Beer Fest is just around the corner, and the chapter is aiming to make it bigger and better than ever. We return to the Eldorado Hotel Casino April 27, 2007, for an evening of beer, music, fun and fund raising. The chapter is ready for another fantastic year, so don't miss out on a moment of the fun. Join or renew your membership today.

FEATURED FAMILIES

Silver and blue, through and through.

Few families show their Pack pride as well as the Boerlins and the Darneys.

It's easy to see that Nevada has been a big part of the Boerlin and Darney families for decades. With over 27 Nevada graduates and attendees in their family tree, they've proven to be a lasting part of our university's heritage.



Top picture: Lynn (Boerlin) Darney and Dale Darney on their wedding day in 1959

Left to right: Arvin Boerlin; Arvin Boerlin, Arlene (Boerlin) Franklin and Elwood Boerlin in front of Lincoln Hall on Elwood's graduation day; Wanda (Morrill) Boerlin and Arvin Boerlin on Arvin's graduation day

FAMILY TREE

Helen (Cazier) Franklin
B.A. Arts & Science 1906

Belle (Franklin) Leach
Attended Mid 1930s

John Franklin
B.S. Civil Engineering 1936

Arlene (Boerlin) Franklin
B.S. Home Economics 1936

Arvin Boerlin
B.S. Agriculture 1932

H. Elwood Boerlin
B.S. Agriculture 1931

Franklin and Boerlin Families
joined through marriage of
John and Arlene

married
James Greathouse
Attended Late 1950s

Jane Franklin
Attended Late 1950s

married
Wanda (Morrill) Boerlin
Attended Early 1930s

married
Helen (Mitten) Boerlin
Attended Late 1920s

married
Orsie Graves
B.A. History 1948,
M.A. Physical Education 1965

Lois (Darney) Graves
B.S. Economics 1974

Jerry Darney

Ron Darney
B.S. Business Administration 1951

Dale Darney
A.A. Architecture 1958

Darney and Boerlin Families
joined through marriage of
Dale and Lynn

Lynn (Boerlin) Darney
A.A. Business Adm. 1958

married
Carolyn (Conrad) Darney
Attended Early 1950s

married
Jean (Sweatt) Darney
Attended Late 1940s

Leslie (Graves) Moya
B.A. French/Prephysical Therapy 1985

Brad Graves
B.S. Chemistry 1978,
M.D. 1984

Tricia (Graves) Grinsell
B.S. Elementary Ed. 1988,
M.A. 1990

married
Allen Grinsell
Attended Late 1980s

Gail (Darney) O'Neil
Attended Late 1960s

Robert Darney
A.A. Engineering Design Technology 1983

Barbara (Darney) Linde
B.A. Psychology 1992

Steven Graves
Current Student

Matt Graves
Current Student

Melanie Bradley
Attended Mid 2000s



**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 Nevada Silver & Blue. For details, visit <http://www.unr.edu/alumni> or call (888) NV-ALUMS.

Remembering Friends

Ellen 'Pat' Vale Riley '47 (journalism) died Dec. 2, 2006, at the age of 79. A Yerington, Nev., native, Pat was a member of Theta Theta Chapter of Delta Delta Delta sorority and active in a number of student activities while attending the University. After receiving her master of arts degree in education/administration from San Francisco State University in 1974, Pat's career path took her in a variety of directions, including reporter, public relations executive, educational administrator and realtor/broker. Upon retirement, she moved to Prescott, Ariz., where she wrote many articles for the travel section of the Prescott newspaper as she ventured through the continents. Pat enjoyed sports, was a member of the Church of Spiritual Living, loved the outdoors and treasured the memories of hunting and fishing with her father. Her gift with words was truly remarkable, and her wonderful memory and sense of humor made her a great storyteller. Pat

loved her family and friends and will truly be missed by all who knew her.

Robert Tompson '49M.S. (mathematics) died peacefully Jan. 6, 2007, minutes away from his 87th birthday. Following World War II, Robert moved to Reno and obtained his master's degree in mathematics. In 1953, he earned a Ph.D. in mathematics from Brown University. He returned to Reno in 1956, joined the faculty at the University of Nevada, and taught for 35 years. During that time, Robert was instrumental in the formation of the Desert Research Institute, led the development of the University's first computer science curriculum, taught on exchange in India, and served 10 years as mathematics department chairman. Robert was a gentle and thoughtful man, a sports fan and a volunteer at University track meets. He enjoyed swimming in Lake Tahoe, where he spent his summer vacations for more than

30 years. Robert enjoyed hitting golf balls at the driving range and exploring dusty Nevada back roads. Following retirement from the University in 1991, Robert attended to his home, garden and family with extraordinary dedication. Robert is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Mary; son, Andrew; and granddaughter, Madeline. He was a fixture in his community and will be missed. Donations may be sent "In memory of Robert Tompson," in care of the Alzheimer's Association of Northern California and Northern Nevada, 2065 W. El Camino Real, Suite C, Mountain View, CA 94040.

Lee DeLauer '50 (business administration) died Jan. 25, 2007, at the age of 81. A longtime Nevada resident, Lee served as a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. Lee received the Purple Heart military decoration for his service during a battle in which his tank was shelled in

John Ramatici '83 (managerial sciences) died Feb. 4, 2007, at age 46 after battling Lou Gehrig's Disease for almost a year and a half. John was a 2006 inductee to the Nevada Wolf Pack Hall of Fame and a former Kodak All-



American linebacker with the Wolf Pack. He competed for Nevada in 1980-81, remaining the Wolf Pack career leader in tackles for a two-year period with 279. John was a vice president of Don Ramatici Insurance in Petaluma, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Michelle, and their son Natale. John also had three children

from a previous marriage, Kylie and Jake Ramatici and Brittany Freitas. He is also survived by parents Don and Jan Ramatici; sisters Donna Ramatici, Susan Powers and Joan Johnson; brother Paul Ramatici; and several aunts, uncles, nephews and nieces. Memorials in John's memory can be made to the Hospice of Petaluma or the ALS Association, Greater Bay Area Chapter.

LOOK ONLINE

John and Michelle created a website journal after his diagnosis in August 2005: <http://jandmramatici.com>

AN EXCERPT FROM JOHN RAMATICI'S JOURNAL

"I used to imagine that if I wasn't as busy as I was (work, flying, cycling, etc.) that time would slow down and not seem like it was slipping away. Well I was wrong. For the past year or so I really have had the opportunity to do very little. No more or less than I chose to do. And time is still passing by. However, it seems now that I have a little more accounting of where it's gone.

"I have talked to a lot of people lately about fear and faith. You would think that if one would have faith that there would be very little to be fearful of. Well unfortunately, it's not that easy. Faith is believing in something that is really unknown. Fear is being scared of something that is unknown. I've attempted to increase my faith by learning more. It's helped, but most of the stuff I read took place so long ago that you still have to have some faith. In the end I think that faith is a decision. If you decide to have faith, to be faithful. It's much easier to be less fearful, and to believe that what lies in our future is good."

Guam. While a student at the University of Nevada, Lee was house manager for the Sigma Nu fraternity and president of Coffin and Keys. He also started the training table program that fed the Wolf Pack football team at the Blue Silver restaurant. Lee, who served as University of Nevada Alumni Association president in 1956-'57, worked as an accountant in Reno before he became a casino executive for Harrah's from 1955 to 1974. He is survived by his son Mike, daughters Debbie and Diane, and his grandchildren Nicole and J.D. Drakulich. Donations may be made to the Veterans Hospital Transitional Care Unit, 1000 Locust St., Reno, NV 89502.

John James, a longtime University associate professor of geography and state climatologist, died Jan. 15, 2007, at the age of 73. John started his work in Nevada as a research associate for the Carson City-based Forest

Institute for Ocean and Mountain Studies in 1971. His career at Nevada spanned more than 30 years, and he led climatological studies for the state from 1981 until his retirement in 2004. In an on-campus interview in 1998, John said he loved living and working in northern Nevada: "There are a lot of states where the weather is important, but I can't think of a better place to study it than in Nevada. We're so dependent here on our weather, from the ski resorts to the casinos to the quality of life here in our valley and throughout our state. If we don't pay attention to our weather, our state suffers because of it." He is survived by his sons Mark and Lee, and daughter, Cathylee, as well as by five grandchildren. John's wife, Lois, died in 2003. Donations can be made to the Keep Memory Alive Foundation, 9101 W. Sahara Ave., PMB 105-117, Las Vegas, NV, 89117.

Cole Campbell, dean of the University's Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism, died Jan. 5, 2007, in an automobile accident.



A longtime proponent of journalistic change, Cole looked for ways to enhance the relationship between journalism and democracy. He questioned how journalism

as a profession, institution and business could help citizens make sense of their lives. Before joining the Reynolds School in July 2004, Campbell was a senior associate of the Charles P. Kettering Foundation, an organization that studies the democratic process. He was the former editor of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and *The Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, Va. For a closer look at Campbell's life, see the story on page 44.

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What I've Done With My Life

By Lou Cannon

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

My children. I have three sons and a daughter, all pursuing different paths and doing well, and the added blessings of six grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Kelly, my eldest son's older daughter, teaches 4-year-olds in Washington, D.C., and has worked in an orphanage in Romania and taught children in Ghana. Tiffany, my daughter's oldest and a mother, spent a year in the Army in Iraq. I'm prouder of their accomplishments than of anything I've done.

Professionally, I'm proud — and thankful — that I've been able to do interesting work at which I became reasonably good. As a boy growing up in Reno I dreamed of going around the world and writing about the people in it but never imagined that I would one day walk alongside President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Red Square at a summit that presaged the end of the Cold War. I also dreamed of becoming a published writer but struggled with my writing for many years. I was 36 when my first book was published. I've now written eight, including five about Ronald Reagan. *President Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime*, published in 1992 and updated eight years later, is often cited as an authoritative biography; it's still selling. My best non-Reagan book, which I completed with the help of my wife, Mary, is *Official Negligence: How Rodney King and the Riots Changed Los Angeles and the LAPD*, the story of the 1992 case that absorbed the nation. It was a commercial failure, but a book I needed to write.

I won many awards during my 26 years at *The Washington Post*, but I'm particularly proud of two: the Aldo Beckman award for excellence in presidential coverage, and the first Gerald R. Ford Prize (1988) for Distinguished Reporting on the Nixon, Ford,



Photo by Deidre Pike

Longtime Washington Post reporter and columnist Lou Cannon, widely regarded as the biographer of Ronald Reagan, was born in New York City but moved to Reno with his parents when he was 3. In 1950, near the start of the Korean War, he enrolled at the University of Nevada. Two years later he transferred to San Francisco State University and in so doing lost a half-unit of credits. This eventually cost him his exemption from the military draft. When he emerged from the military, he had started a family and never went back to school — at least not as a student. In 1995 he was Raznick Distinguished Lecturer in the University of California, Santa Barbara's history department, and in 1996 he was Freedom Forum journalist in residence at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California. He and his wife, Mary, now live in Summerland, near Santa Barbara. He is collaborating with his eldest son, Carl, a prize-winning White House correspondent for National Journal, on a book exploring the long-range impact of Reagan policies and the way they have been implemented in George W. Bush's presidency. The working title: Reagan's Disciple.

and Reagan presidencies. I'm also proud I walked away from daily journalism in 1998, when I was 65, and became a freelancer.

WHAT DO YOU REGRET?

Regrets are a waste of time unless you take from them some lesson that enhances your understanding of life and of your own imperfections. I have few regrets and most of those are personal. I regret that my children

and now some of my grandchildren are so widely scattered across the country that I don't see them as often as I'd like.

Professionally, my biggest regret is that I didn't sound a louder alarm during the trial of the Los Angeles police officers accused of the beating of Rodney King. I could see from the skeptical reactions of jurors to some of the evidence that the officers might be acquitted and wrote a cautious story beforehand that hinted at the possibility. I wish I'd been less cautious because the acquittals led to riots in which 54 people died and a large swath of South Los Angeles was destroyed. I say that even though I know a story in a faraway newspaper wouldn't have made much difference since the police and civilian leadership of Los Angeles were unprepared for these preventable riots.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW COLLEGE GRADUATE?

Find a purpose in life that's bigger than you are. Become involved in your community. Care about others. Work hard. Listen. Have a sense of history but don't look back in your own life. Realize that you're on earth to accomplish something. Follow your dreams. Shakespeare had it right: "To thine own self be true. . .[and] thou canst not then be false to any man."

If the graduate seeks to be a journalist, I'd add this advice: Don't be dazzled by the Internet or other technologies that open new possibilities for the media. Exciting as these technologies may be, they are no substitute for the traditional journalistic verities of curiosity, open-mindedness, skepticism and fairness.

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 108, Reno, NV 89557-0108. Include a phone number. Don't exceed 650 words. Submissions may be posted at www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue.