

NEVADA

Silver&Blue

America's fastest-growing state and the university that's all over it. • Winter 2007

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Don Olen



What if the best way to prepare Nevada students for the 21st century were to study as far away from Nevada as you can get?



Eighty percent of parents say that the availability of study abroad programs would positively influence their choice of university. Fortunately, 25 years ago, the University of Nevada, Reno began the University Studies Abroad Consortium, now offering programs in 25 countries.

USAC prepares students for work and

life in the 21st century by giving them the opportunity to examine issues up close and firsthand—with courses like computer science in India, marine biology in Australia, common markets in Spain and ecology in Costa Rica.

One of the nation's top study abroad organizations, USAC is Nevada students' "gateway to the world."



The latest thinking in science and math education will be tried out here And soon

Have a look at the new Davidson Mathematics and Science Center. That's all you can do right now look (at these artist's renderings) because it hasn't been built yet.

But it's going to be built thanks in largest part to a lead gift from software publishers turned philanthropists Bob and Jan Davidson. And when it opens in _____ it will be a busy place. Here's why:

Although the facility will be home to Nevada's College of Science every undergraduate student in engineering nursing agriculture biotechnology natural resources business and pre-med must complete basic science and/or math courses. And those courses will be taught by the College of Science

in this state of the art — and long overdue — building. Believe it or not the University hasn't had a new facility for teaching the physical sciences since _____ when Nevada's enrollment was _____. Today it's nearly _____.

The Davidson Center will provide an advanced environment for learning and research and help attract the best math and science students anywhere. The best researchers and scholars too.

You can still be part of creating this landmark facility — and to a greater extent than you may realize. Every dollar in private donations contributed to the project will be matched by three from the State of Nevada.



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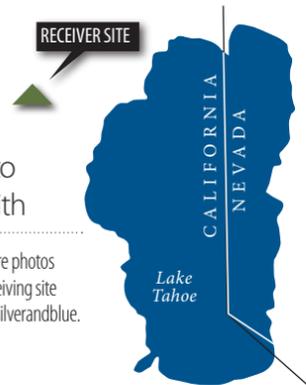
For more information about helping advance Nevada as a top-tier university in mathematics and science, contact John K. Carothers at 775-784-1352 or email jcarothers@unr.edu



High-wireless act

Geophysicists Hans-Peter Plag, left, and William Hammond attach a solar panel to a hard rock outcrop in the high Sierra above Lake Tahoe. The panel powers a Global Positioning System antenna and microwave receiver that combine to detect movements of the Earth as small as 1 millimeter. Plag and Hammond work with University of Nevada, Reno research geophysicist Geoff Blewitt, who is pioneering ways to use GPS to measure tiny Earth movements that can build up, eventually leading to large seismic events such as earthquakes and tsunamis. • Photo by Jean Dixon

LOOK ONLINE for more photos from setting up this receiving site www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue.





Cool cover painting, huh? You can order a poster-size print (minus the headlines). See page 3.



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NEVADA

Silver&Blue

America's fastest-growing state and
the university that's all over it

www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

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Message from President Glick

Dynamic. Invigorating. At times, challenging. In 2007 we anticipate a year of significant growth and opportunity, and incredible challenges posed by both.



We begin the year with a heightened focus on student success and diversity, our role in stimulating and shaping the state's cultural and economic development, and expansion of our research program.

Our agenda includes new scholarships to attract outstanding students and financially disadvantaged students. In the community, we will engage more than 25,000 schoolchildren this year in concerts, workshops and exhibits specifically geared to them. And our students, faculty and staff will spend approximately 100,000 hours volunteering their time across the state for a variety of causes ranging from health and human services to directing and acting in local theatre groups.

As members of one of America's research universities, our faculty will expand their inquiry into some of the most vexing challenges facing the environment, human health and the state's economic development, diversification and growth.

We continue to be very proud of our Athletics program, which raises our University's national profile. Last year was the most competitive in our history, as the Pack sent 11 of our 17 programs to post-season play. Athlete graduation rates improved 12 percent from the previous year, and athletes and staff logged in over 1,000 community service hours. This past fall the women's soccer program won its first-ever WAC championship and went on to NCAA competition. Our football team competed in the MPC Bowl, and men's basketball continues to be ranked in the top 25.

In 2007 we begin bringing on line what will eventually total over 600,000 square feet of

new space in Reno — equivalent to nearly 3.5 Getchell Libraries! We will open the doors of the Crowley Student Union this fall and new women's softball fields at the former Manogue site. The Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center will near completion by year-end, as we begin construction of the new Center for Molecular Medicine, Varsity Village academic center, future home of the Davidson Academy of Nevada at the Jot Travis Building, and lay the groundwork for a new Davidson Math and Science Center. Also we continue to work with the City of Reno and business leaders to create a more vibrant environment around the perimeter of our Reno campus.

In the coming months, Nevada's elected officials begin their biennial legislative session. Among other things, we will seek to achieve full funding of our enrollment formulas and to revise tuition policy to allow the University to retain a greater share of the revenue. This would enable us to operate more entrepreneurially and reduce the University's reliance on state support.

Given all that's ahead of us, and the successes upon which we're building, we are pioneering an expanded format of this magazine. We're also broadening this magazine's reach to students, parents and others around the world who visit our website, www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue. We are archiving past issues on this site, back to 2003 so far. We welcome your feedback.

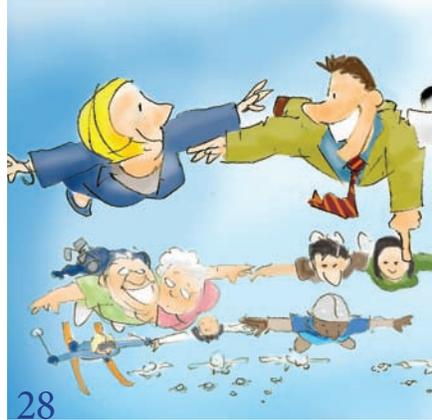
Peggy and I wish everyone a healthy, successful 2007, and thank all of you for your warm welcome and best wishes. Together, we will continue to build a University recognized for outstanding academics and student success, and for its unique partnership with the citizens of the Silver State in creating a place to live and work that is culturally vibrant, economically prosperous and environmentally friendly.

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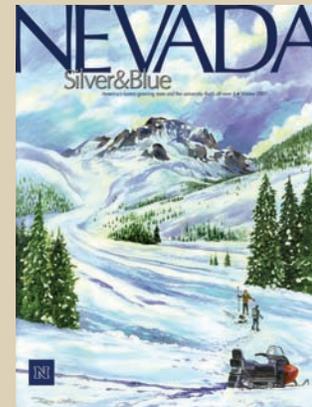
Nevada, which means "snow-capped" in Spanish, is the nation's most mountainous state and also the state that receives the least rainfall. Fifty to 80 percent of the state's water supply comes from the snow melting off of those snow-capped mountains, so it's vital to know how much water is in the snow.

A hundred years ago a University of Nevada, Reno classics professor, James E. Church, invented the science of forecasting seasonal water supplies by examining snow accumulations. Church's method, which involves shoving a tube down into deep, mountainside snow and then weighing the extracted core, is still used today, although measurements also are taken automatically by instruments housed in huts called Snotels (short for snow telemetry).

Snow sampling by hand is done at 28 snow courses in Nevada and at 30 sites on California peaks that feed Nevada's water supply, says Dan Greenlee '84M.S. (hydrology/hydrogeology). For 15 winters he has been Nevada's snow man as a hydrologist and water supply specialist for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ORDER A POSTER-SIZE PRINT

Snow Sampling in the Rubies is an original painting done for the new Nevada Silver & Blue by Nevada artist Ron Oden (www.ronoden.com). Poster-size reproductions (22 x 28) — exactly as it looks above — are available for \$50, plus \$6.23 for postage and the mailing tube. Order by credit card by calling (775) 784-4941, or use the magazine's website, www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue.



LOOK ONLINE:

www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

You hold in your hands the new Nevada Silver & Blue. We also have a new website, www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue. 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.

University's new logo to debut with merchandise line

An expanded merchandising program using the University's new "block N" logo will make its debut at the University's bookstore this spring. The merchandise, ranging from apparel for adults and children to entertainment products and gifts, also will include a growing line of seasonal items.

"We are going to provide new merchandise for boosters and University friends to sport their pride in the University — at home, in their cars, at their desks and on the go," says Marie Stewart, manager of the bookstore. "We think the new, clean University logo will be popular, and sales of these items will help support student success because all bookstore profits go for student programs, scholarships, facilities and a variety of services."

Last year the familiar logo of the state outline with a dot in Reno was retired and replaced with the more contemporary look that emphasizes the historic "N" for Nevada, and aligns with the popular athletic "N" with the wolf. The "N" has been part of the University's visual identity since the late 1800s, when it adorned the uniforms of the University's athletic teams. It also has been painted onto the hill above the Reno campus since 1913.

The introduction of the new logo followed a larger analysis of the University's distinctive strengths following significant growth and scholastic advances made in recent years. This work was a collaborative effort that involved several faculty recognized as experts in integrated marketing; alumni professionals in advertising, marketing and graphic design; and representatives of the University's administration, students and alumni.



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NUMBERS

Rare bird: the native Nevadan

In Nevada, immigrants to the state outnumber the native born by three to one. In New York, it's almost the opposite.

Native Population Born in their State of Residence: 2005

Top five states	Percent	Bottom five states	Percent
1. New York	82.3%	47. Wyoming	43.1%
2. Louisiana	82.0%	48. Alaska	42.7%
3. Michigan	80.5%	49. Arizona	41.1%
4. Pennsylvania	80.1%	50. Florida	40.9%
5. Ohio	77.9%	51.* Nevada	26.4%

SOURCE: 2005 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
*Rankings included the District of Columbia

Outnumbered birds: Nevada chicks

Nevada has the distinction of having more single, eligible men per eligible woman than any other state. For every five unmarried women between the ages of 15 and 44, there are six unwed guys in the same age group. The District of Columbia and two states have the opposite problem: more eligible women than men.

Ratio of Unmarried Men, 15 to 44 years, per Unmarried Women, 15 to 44 years: 2005

Top five states	Ratio	Bottom five states	Ratio
1. Nevada	1.202-1	47. Delaware	1.03-1
2. North Dakota	1.201-1	48. Maryland	1-1
3. Alaska	1.189-1	49. Mississippi	.985-1
4. Hawaii	1.179-1	50. Louisiana	.983-1
5. Nebraska	1.171-1	51. District of Columbia	.934-1

SOURCE: 2005 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau



TONIGHT'S HOMEWORK

Give us a history-making title

Writing about Nevada's history has been the specialty of many of the University's faculty and grads. Maybe you've read *History of Nevada* (1975) by the late Nevada history professor Russell R. Elliott '34 or *The Silver State: Nevada's Heritage Reinterpreted* (1991) by emeritus history professor James W. Hulse '52. The late political science professor Elmer R. Rusco published *Good Time Coming? Black Nevadans in the Nineteenth Century* (1975). More recently, 2006, adjunct political science professor Sally Zanjani wrote *Devils Will Reign: How Nevada Began*.

Today's Nevadans are seeing history made just by being here. The state hasn't experienced a growth spurt like this since the days of the Comstock Lode.

Here's your chance to play history author. All we

need from you right now is a title for the book. We'll even give you a start:

Nevada, 1987-2007: _____
Complete the title.

This is a contest. The three most clever entries, as judged by the magazine's editors, will win University of Nevada sweatshirts, courtesy of the ASUN Bookstore.

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).

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.

SIGN, HERE

Frustrated by cars speeding on dirt roads, residents in Palomino Valley (many of them horse owners) erected this sign on Bacon Rind Road, roughly 18 miles north of Reno. Speeders are best advised to heed the sign because many of the residents frequent the nearby Washoe County Shooting Facility.



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,

MY REAL JOB WASN'T when I was out practicing or playing football. My real job was when I went home, when I had to be dad and husband and leader of the household.

No matter if you're gifted or not, you still have to put in the work.

I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing without the God-given ability to run fast, jump high and smack people in the mouth.

I never settled for what was. If I ran a 4.5 (in the 40-yard dash), if I ran a 4.4, if I ran a 4.3, I always felt I could run faster just because I was not settling for that being the fastest I could ever run.

If you settle for just being OK, you're never going to get any smarter or anything. You'll just be in a holding pattern.

I'm not really too much afraid of anything but to know that one day we're all going to get judged. I don't want to go to hell.

In the NFL you come in and there is no scholarship. They ain't there to watch your back. They are paying you money to get the job done, and if you can't, they'll replace you. Even if you can, they're still going to try to replace you.

I can't watch football now because I'm always analyzing it. I can pretty much tell you if it is going to be a run or a pass by what that guard is doing, or what that tackle is doing, or what that receiver is doing out there — he's got his left leg up instead of his right leg. That comes

from studying a lot of film. It comes from seeing what's going on.

Technique is pretty much everything — your position on the receiver, how do you have your hips, are you high on the backpedal, are you low on your backpedal, can you turn your hips and run?

You might not be the fastest, you might not be the biggest, but if you can out-technique the guy — I don't care how fast, and I don't care how big he is — you will beat him every time.

I wasn't one of those guys that had to try to belittle you on the field or something like that to get into your head. I just wanted to knock your head off. That's how I got into your head.

Look a man in his eyes, shake his hand, and stand on your word. That's all I do.

Man is going to be man.
Man is going to let you
down every time, and
if you grasp that and
grasp that no one is
perfect other than Jesus Christ then you can
get by with someone disappointing you and
just chalk it up to "that's life."

LOOK ONLINE

More photographs of Brock Marion at unr.edu/silverandblue.

When the bullets are flying, there ain't no coaches out there.

There are always going to be problems, that is just how the world is. Now, if you can take that problem and learn to think and solve that problem, you've got the world pretty much licked.

From a conversation with Pat McDonnell and Ed Cohen Homecoming weekend. Marion, 36, who starred for Nevada from 1989-92, was inducted into the Nevada athletics Hall of Fame last fall.

Brock Marion

Jean Dixon



Safety

Cornerback

Kick returner

Wolf

Dolphin

Cowboy

Lion

All-Pro

Super Bowl champion

Interior designer

Blueberry farmer

Husband

Father of six

Philanthropist

High times for gold, geologists

To hear Steve Enders talk about it, the gold-mining industry is in a Dickensian period right now.

"It's the best of times and the worst of times," the vice president of worldwide exploration for Denver-based Newmont Mining Corporation says, paraphrasing Dickens' opening lines of *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Newmont operates several gold mines in Nevada, which, even though it's only a state, ranks as the world's fourth-largest producer of gold after South Africa, Australia and China.

What makes this the best of times for gold mining is obvious enough: the price of gold. By Nov. 1, it had climbed above \$600 an ounce, more than double the price of five years ago.

On the down side, oil and gas prices have also skyrocketed in recent years, and energy costs make up 25 percent of Newmont's costs. That erodes profits.

So does higher salaries. Labor accounts for 40 percent of expenses, Enders says, and labor costs in the mining industry have been rising along with commodities prices.

Here's why: When the price of a commodity like gold rises high enough, it becomes economical to go after more-difficult-to-extract deposits. But more exploration and production requires more labor. And when job openings exceed qualified workers, as is the case right now, companies bid up salaries to attract or keep employees.

That makes this one of the best times to be a geologist.

And one of the worst times to be running a graduate program in geology.

"I'm having a hard time keeping my grad students," says Tommy Thompson, director of the Roberts Center for Research in Economic Geology, part of the Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering in the University of Nevada, Reno's Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering. Economic geolo-



gists prospect for valuable minerals and then determine if there's enough of the material to make it economically feasible to mine.

Thompson said last fall he'd heard that entry-level economic geologists, those with graduate education, were being offered salaries of \$65,000 to \$70,000 a year with \$10,000 signing bonuses and relocation costs.

That kind of money proved too appealing to pass up for one of his master's students and one doctoral student. Their departures last winter left the program with four master's and four doctoral students, he said.

This situation is nothing new for the mining industry, which is notorious for its cyclical boom-and-bust periods. During booms, the graduate programs starve for students. During busts, when companies are looking to cut payrolls, many geologists and other scientists enroll (or re-enroll) in graduate school, hoping an advanced degree will translate into a better job when prices recover and the companies are hiring again.

Marcus Johnston '03Ph.D. (geology) found himself in a bust period as he was nearing the end of his doctoral studies in economic geology in 2000. Gold prices lingered below \$300 an ounce, and job prospects were few. When Newmont offered him a position, he figured he couldn't ask the company to wait until he'd finished writing his dissertation. So he took the job and ended up with the unenviable task of writing a dissertation while working full time and also starting a family.

Three years later, with gold having risen above \$400 an ounce, he left Newmont to become project manager for a small or "junior" Canadian mining exploration company, Victoria Resources US Inc., that was working in Nevada. The firm contracts with larger production companies like Newmont.

"We find it, they mine it" is how he describes the business model of his outfit, which has about 10 employees based in Reno.

Johnston marvels at how the job market has changed since he left school.

"Six years ago when I went to work for Newmont, I had five years of graduate school and I was almost done with a Ph.D. and I made \$43,000 a year. Right now we're paying people with zero experience and a bachelor's degree \$50,000-plus."

Unlike larger mining companies, juniors like Victoria Resources often offer stock options to employees. That way, when the company makes a big find, employees can share more directly in the bonanza. Johnston says a student who was finishing up his master's at the University when he was completing his doctoral studies took a job in Mexico after graduation and, two successful years later, his options were worth more than \$1.5 million.

Even with all those perks, however, many geoscientist jobs are going unfilled in the mining industry, says Jon Price, state geologist and director of the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

"There just are not enough people available who can do the jobs."

Traditionally, the best source of available geologists was recent college graduates. But undergraduate enrollment in the geosciences has yet to recover from a steep decline that began in the mid-1980s. According to Elizabeth Ball '97M.A., the Mackay School's coordinator of student services, the number of undergraduates in geological sciences has started to climb only in the last two years. Leigh Freeman, general manager of Downing Teal Inc., one of

Ed Cohen is editor of *Nevada Silver & Blue*.

the largest personnel recruiters for the mining industry, has said that the 13 remaining mining programs in the United States are graduating a total of about 100 students a year. But the mining industry will need three times that many over the next several years, he says.

That dearth of new talent leaves companies few alternatives when it comes to recruitment.

“Turnover is high right now,” says Newmont’s Enders. “There’s a pretty sinister trend going on in industry, which is poaching each other’s employees, which, in my opinion, is an unsustainable practice.”

Enders says a more practical solution is to attract new people into the mining professions

and train them. In line with that philosophy, Newmont has pledged \$2.5 million to Mackay over the past five years to support scholarships, professorships and programs.

The shortage of geologists doesn’t figure to last forever because commodity prices inevitably fall when production expands in response to high prices. Enders says price cycles typically last five to seven years in the gold-mining business, and the industry is four years into the current cycle. Optimists believe this boom could be longer because it’s being driven, in large part, by demand for all kinds of minerals to feed explosive manufacturing growth in places like China and India.

A longer expansion, however, could only compound the industry’s labor woes. Ed Cope, vice president exploration-USA for Barrick Gold Corporation, the world’s largest gold mining company, says Barrick’s exploration division, based in Elko, has been aggressively recruiting lately but still has some openings.

He’s more concerned with the future of the organization. That’s because almost all of the 54 geoscientists employed by Barrick in Elko are in the 40-55 age range with only a few geologists as young as 30.

Says Cope, “The question of where we’re going to be in five years is more critical than where we are today.”

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A tale of two cities

The economies of northern and southern Nevada have traditionally depended on gaming, but in recent years they've veered off in different directions.

In a nutshell, Las Vegas is booming — with gaming the souped-up engine driving the region's economy. Reno is also booming, but gaming in the north looks more like a Model T than a Ferrari.

"For Las Vegas, it helps to be No. 1," says Bill Eadington, professor of economics and director of the University of Nevada Reno's Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming. He's referring to Vegas' spot as the biggest revenue-producing gaming destination in the United States. "Reno is probably down to about No. 10."

By John Wheeler '86, '87M.A. is an associate editor of *Nevada Silver & Blue*.

Although northern Nevada's gaming revenues picked up a little bit in 2006, they declined about 15 percent between 2000 and 2004 and have dropped 30 percent from their peak in the early 1990s.

"Reno has experienced increased competition not only from Las Vegas but from California Indian gaming, the expansion of tribal gaming in the Pacific Northwest, and the expansion of casino gaming throughout western Canada," Eadington says. "All of these have made it difficult for Reno's gaming-based tourist trade to compete."

Fortunately, northern Nevada has succeeded in developing a lucrative calendar of special events like a rib cook-off and classic car and motorcycle rallies during the summer and early fall. The area also is doing well in diversifying its economy, Eadington says.

At the same time as big names such as Microsoft and Amazon have set up business in northern Nevada, Reno hotel-casinos such



as the Comstock, Sundowner and Flamingo Hilton, later renamed the Golden Phoenix and now undergoing conversion to condos, have gone under.

"The gaming industry has become increasingly unimportant," Eadington says.

DUST IN THE WIND

Although northern Nevada has done better than many expected in coping with gaming's decline, the dust has yet to settle from the growth of California's Indian gaming. One such project at Shingle Springs, is expected to be built close to Placerville on U.S. 50, a road leading eastbound to South Lake Tahoe.

"It very clearly is going to intercept a lot of potential visitors who otherwise would have driven up to Tahoe or Reno," Eadington says.

The casino has been stalled by lawsuits for more than 10 years, but a major hurdle was recently cleared by the Miwok Tribe's \$191 million settlement with California's El Dorado

County, which will now drop legislation attempting to block the casino.

Eadington says that, in addition to several other tribal casinos currently in the pipeline, existing northern California casinos such as Cache Creek, 47 miles northwest of Sacramento, and Thunder Valley, 30 miles east of Sacramento, have the right to expand, based on recently amended compacts with the state of California.

"So they may grow considerably larger," Eadington says. "All of this has implications for the tourist-based gaming industry in northern Nevada. Gaming-based tourism is not going to disappear, but it is still going to be rocked by increasing competition."

STILL GOING

Down south, it's a different story entirely. As the big gaming companies have consolidated, development along the Las Vegas Strip continues with mega-projects such as the Wynn Las Vegas hotel-casino being, by no means, the end of the story. And money seems not to be a limiting factor.

"The standard (selling price) for land along the Las Vegas Strip the last couple of years is about \$20 million an acre," Eadington says. "An attempt to buy the Tropicana even suggested it was closer to \$30 million an acre."

And that's just for the land. Eadington says properties such as the soon-to-be razed Stardust and the Tropicana are "arguably teardowns," buildings purchased only to be demolished so a new structure can be put on the land. As Las Vegas continues to revitalize itself, more of the older casinos are likely to fall under the wrecker's ball.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the Imperial Palace and the Flamingo Hilton will be teardowns, and perhaps even Bally's, which was the old MGM," he says.

Never one to be outdone, Steve Wynn is currently developing Encore next to Wynn Las Vegas.

"That's another \$1.5 billion, very high-end, casino-hotel project," Eadington says.

Make all public places smoke-free now

Last November, Nevadans voted to protect their health by passing Question 5 on the list of statewide initiatives and rejecting Question 4.

For the proponents of Question 5 (the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and the American Lung Association, among many others), the result was a major victory in a long battle to protect Nevadans from secondhand smoke.

For more than 10 years, these groups had unsuccessfully tried to work with state lawmakers to enact meaningful legislation limiting secondhand-smoke exposure in such places as child-care centers and grocery stores. Advisory questions on the ballot in Clark and Washoe counties in 2002 showed that Nevadans overwhelmingly wanted protection from secondhand-smoke exposure, but the legislature failed to act. Faced once

again with legislative inaction, these organizations and other public health groups throughout Nevada banded together to put Question 5 on the ballot and take it to the public.

The passage of Question 5 bans smoking in all public places where children are allowed, effective Dec. 8, 2006. That includes all day-care centers, restaurants, grocery and retail

stores, shopping malls and movie theaters and in bar-restaurants that serve full meals (sports bars). It does not ban smoking in bars that do not sell food or on the gaming floors of casinos.

Question 4 — also advertised as limiting exposure to secondhand smoke — was supported by gaming, bar and tavern owners and

the tobacco industry. Had Question 4 won, it would have actually weakened Nevada's antismoking laws, allowing smoking in some day-care centers and anywhere a slot machine could be placed, including malls, retail stores, grocery and convenience stores. All restaurants would have been allowed to continue to have smoking sections. There also would have been no requirement to enclose these smoking areas from the non-smoking areas.

The passage of Question 4 would have allowed Nevada to remain the smoking capital of the nation and poster child of the tobacco industry. Fewer Nevadans (23.1 percent) smoke than previously, yet we remain well above the national average (20.9 percent). Nevada also currently has the smallest percentage of smoke-free worksites in the nation (48 percent). Nevada continues to rank as one of the unhealthiest states in which to reside, and that dubious ranking is partly attributable to the high exposure rates to secondhand smoke.

The Centers for Disease Control in 2004 issued a health advisory for secondhand smoke in which it stated that exposure to secondhand smoke results in a two-fold increase in the risk of heart attacks, and even a 30-minute exposure can cause substantial biological damage. The advisory recommended that people avoid all places that allow smoking. Even more recently, in 2006, the U.S. surgeon general issued a new report stating that there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.

For those who would argue that ventilation systems are the answer, the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers released a position paper on

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, Reno, NV 89557-0108. You must include a daytime phone number for us to call for verification.



environmental tobacco smoke in August 2005 stating: "At present, the only way to effectively eliminate the health risk associated with indoor secondhand-smoke exposure is to ban smoking activity... [A]dverse health effects for the occupants of the smoking room cannot be controlled by ventilation."

The passage of Question 5 will go a long way in improving the health of Nevadans. What still remains a significant secondhand-smoke health concern for Nevada is on the gaming floors of casinos.

University of Nevada, Reno studies have shown that these workers are the most highly exposed workforce in the country. A recent University study also has dispelled the myth that most gamblers smoke, putting the rate at just slightly above the national average of 20.9 percent. In fact, most poker rooms are smoke-free because of customer demand.

Thus, a change in casino smoking policies would not only protect these workers and patrons but would be responsive to the majority of patrons.

Chris Pritsos '82Ph.D. is a professor and the chair of the University of Nevada, Reno's Department of Nutrition. He has studied the health impacts of environmental tobacco smoke exposure for 10 years. The National Institutes of Health awarded him a \$2.3 million grant in 2001 for a four-year clinical trial, the first study to examine secondhand smoke in the workplace.

MEN BEWARE

Brittle bones can kill you, too

Men are just as likely to get osteoporosis as they are to get prostate cancer. About 13 percent suffer from either condition after age 50. But unlike the situation with the usually slow-progressing prostate cancer, one out of three men who suffer a hip fracture as a result of fragile bones will die within the year, warns Dr. Keith Brown, medical director of the Nevada School of Medicine's Center for Bone Health.

Although women are four times more likely to develop osteoporosis than men, symptoms of the disease are the same for both sexes: chronic pain, loss of height, humpback, loss of mobility. Death is usually the result of complications from fractures such as blood clots and infection.

The good news is that osteoporosis is preventable and treatable. Patients simply need to have their bone density checked to determine



if they have the disease.

Men often don't get their bones scanned when they should because most think osteoporosis is a woman's disease, says Brown, an associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at

the School of Medicine.

Brown recommends a baseline bone-density scan — a five-minute, noninvasive procedure — for all men over 70 and for all men over 50 who have suffered any kind of fracture. The Center for Bone Health has the world's most advanced bone densitometry machine and was the first in the state to acquire the device.

Men who have slight builds (Body Mass Index below 21) or who have been on certain

medications — such as steroids or cancer treatment drugs — have increased risk for low bone density. Other risk factors include having had a fracture as an adult, having a close relative who has osteoporosis and low testosterone levels.

To ward off osteoporosis, Brown says, both men and women need to make sure they are getting enough calcium in their diets and are engaging in regular weight-bearing exercise. They should also avoid alcohol and tobacco, he says.

Medicare and most insurance companies pay for bone-density screening for men over 70 and women over 65, as well as those at risk for osteoporosis. To order the test, a doctor's referral is necessary.

For more information about bone health, consult your physician or call the Center for Bone Health on the Reno campus at (775) 784-3522.

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

When little throats are burping acid

Pain and vomiting in infants and children may be a sign of acid reflux, also known as gastroesophageal reflux or GERD. It's what happens when stomach acid backs up into the esophagus, causing painful erosion of delicate tissue.

Fortunately, new research shows that acid-blocking drugs known as proton pump inhibitors are safe and effective in the treatment of acid reflux in children.

Dr. David Gremse, professor and chair of pediatrics at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, was one of the principal investigators in a recent pediatric clinical trial of a proton pump inhibitor called pantoprazole. The results were published in the April 2006

issue of the *Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology & Nutrition*.

Before fighting acid reflux with drugs, however, Gremse advises that the child try these simple lifestyle changes:

- Eat smaller meals.
- Avoid carbonated drinks, chocolate, caffeine, fatty foods, or spicy foods.
- Avoid eating two hours before bedtime.
- Elevate the head of the bed.

Because pain and vomiting are common in children, it's important to know whether the child has acid reflux or something else. Sour burps, abdominal pain radiating to the chest, painful swallowing, a sensation of food sticking when swallowing, chronic

cough or hoarseness — they're all symptoms of acid reflux. Vomiting blood or green or yellow bile, and significant weight loss — those are signs of another medical condition.

Gremse is currently involved in two pediatric clinical trials of new treatment protocols for children with acid reflux.

For more information on the disease, call the School of Medicine's Kids Healthcare Clinic of the Department of Pediatrics in Las Vegas at (702) 992-6868.



Prescription disaster: the perils of mixed meds

If you're over 65, you're probably taking multiple medications. If so, try this: Empty the contents of your medicine cabinet into a bag and bring it to your doctor.

Dr. Owen Peck, emeritus executive associate dean of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, and other physicians recommend doing that once a year so your physician can check for possible harmful interactions. And not just between prescription drugs. Vitamins and herbal supplements can create problems, too.

Some 80 percent of Nevada seniors (people 65 and older) are at risk for potentially adverse reactions because they are taking multiple, unmonitored medications and supplements that should not be taken together, according to a study by the University's Sanford Center for Aging.

Seniors in the Medication Management Pilot Project were found to be taking an average of 11 prescription medications in addition to over-the-counter drugs, vitamins and herbal supplements. Some 16 percent were taking the same drug twice.

Peck recalls the case of a patient who was hospitalized for toxic psychosis — “He went crazy” — because the five different doctors he was seeing, including an ophthalmologist and urologist, had prescribed five medicines from the same family. None of the doctors' offices had taken a complete history of the patient or knew what the others had prescribed. Fortunately, when the man stopped taking the medicines, he recovered.

The Sanford Center offers medication reviews for people over age 65. Call (775) 784-4774. Short of that, Peck says, talk with your pharmacist or doctor about possible interactions between drugs or between drugs and vitamins or herbal supplements. Tell them if you're experiencing unexpected symptoms.

One simple way to avoid most drug interaction problems is to have all your prescriptions filled at the same store. Most drug store chains nowadays have computerized records to keep track of what their customers are taking.

GEAR UP FOR DISASTER

If an earthquake, fire or flood displaced your family tomorrow, would everyone know their Social Security number?

If not, they're not fully prepared for a disaster, says Elizabeth Amos, associate professor in the Orvis School of Nursing and a member of the board of directors of the American Red Cross, northern Nevada chapter.

Amos says information is a vital, but often overlooked, part of any disaster-preparedness plan. During the Katrina hurricane disaster, for instance, many people were slowed in receiving assistance because they could not remember their Social Security numbers.

The nursing professor also strongly recommends that people stock an easy-to-carry emergency supplies kit and keep it where they can grab it during a hasty exit from the house (See checklist). Replace the food, water and batteries at least once a year, and keep information updated, she says.

Amos also recommends that at least one person in every household know CPR. Classes are offered through hospitals, emergency responders, the American Heart Association and the Red Cross.

What to include in your emergency kit

- ☑ A list of phone numbers and important contacts
- ☑ ID badges for each family member including Social Security, driver's license and passport numbers
- ☑ Bank account numbers
- ☑ First aid and emergency reference booklet
- ☑ A cell phone programmed with important contact numbers, with the Global Positioning System locator turned on
- ☑ An extra set of house and car keys
- ☑ Copies of the most important papers, such as birth certificates and deeds
- ☑ Medications for 10 days and prescription numbers
- ☑ Water purification tablets or a small bottle of bleach (one tablespoon per gallon of water to disinfect)
- ☑ Salt tablets (for electrolyte balance)
- ☑ Dehydrated food (not canned, which is too heavy) and energy bars
- ☑ Water in a hard plastic or polycarbonate bottle
- ☑ Flashlight
- ☑ Battery-operated radio
- ☑ Batteries

Iranians (and others) with uranium — what exactly might they be doing?

For more than a year the international community has debated what to do about Iran's intention to enrich and reprocess uranium. Iran's leaders insist that they want only to generate electricity. Some politicians outside of Iran worry that this is a ruse and Iran's real aim is to build nuclear bombs.

International concern over nuclear weapons only increased after North Korea announced last fall that it had conducted a successful nuclear test underground. There's also the continuing fear that weapons-grade nuclear fuel from the former Soviet Union will find its way into the hands of terrorists, who will turn it into bombs.

In trying to understand these developments, it's useful to know how nuclear fission works, what is meant by enrichment and reprocessing, and what, if anything, is different about the nuclear fuel one needs to run a power plant versus building a bomb.

First, fission. Nuclear fission, or the splitting of a nucleus, was discovered in 1939. The nuclear reactor was born three years later.

After World War II, the United States developed nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers, and in 1957 the first commercial, civilian nuclear power plant produced electricity.

When we talk about "splitting" a nucleus, we mean a neutron — one

of the three basic subatomic particles, along with protons and electrons — collides with the nucleus of a chemical element. Sometimes the nucleus absorbs the neutron. One possible outcome after the absorption is the splitting of the nucleus into two major fragments and the emission of other particles, including about two to three neutrons. Those emitted neutrons can cause further fissions, which result in the emission of more neutrons, which cause more fissions, and so on. This is called a chain reaction. Fission can take place only with nuclei

of heavy elements like uranium, which is the heaviest element found in nature.

Left unchecked, that chain reaction may produce an explosion. This is what happens in an atomic bomb. But when controlled, the chain reaction merely produces heat. In



U.S. Department of Energy

Spent nuclear fuel rods are removed from a reactor when they no longer have enough fissile material to keep the reactor running.

a nuclear power plant, this heat boils water, and the resulting steam turns a generator that produces electricity.

The neutrons coming out of fission are moving so fast that they're unlikely to cause enough fissions to keep a chain reaction going. But if the neutrons are forced to slow down, the probability of causing continued fissions increases dramatically.

Like a running back encountering would-be tacklers, neutrons naturally slow down when they collide with nuclei. How much they slow down depends on the size of the nuclei they hit. Light nuclei take away more energy per collision than heavy nuclei. So lighter nuclei, by slowing down the neutrons better, improve the odds of keeping the chain reaction going.

The element with the lightest nucleus is hydrogen. But because hydrogen is a gas and would be difficult to handle in a reactor, engineers use the next best medium to contain the collisions. That's water.

Water slows down the neutrons, increasing the probability of continued fission, but the process still won't continue unless the nuclei in the line of fire are from a particular form or isotope of uranium, U-235.

Like most elements, uranium consists of more than one type of nucleus. These variations are called isotopes. The two main uranium isotopes found in nature are U-235 and U-238. The number indicates the total count of particles in the nucleus.

The trouble is, U-235 is extremely rare, less than 1 percent of natural uranium. A power plant would need uranium that's at least 3 to 4 percent U-235. A nuclear weapon would require vastly enriched uranium, on the order of 90 percent U-235.

During World War II, U.S. scientists had two possible methods to enrich the uranium they were using to a level sufficient to build a bomb: diffusion and centrifuge. The goal of the United States at the time was to have a nuclear weapon ready as soon as possible; no financial or other considerations came into the decision-making process. So diffusion — which uses a membrane full of holes to separate out tiny quantities — was chosen, even though it required enormous amounts of electricity.

At the time the only available source of considerable amounts of electricity was the Tennessee Valley Authority's hydropower generating stations, so gaseous-diffusion plants were built in Tennessee in what is now the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

It should be mentioned that a gaseous-diffusion operation involves lots of machinery and space. It occupies thousands of acres; it is not a "garage" or "basement" operation. And it takes time — months — especially if the goal is to produce weapons-grade fuel.

Nicholas Tsoulfanidis is interim chair, Department of Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno. He also is editor of the journal *Nuclear Technology* and coauthor of the book *The Nuclear Fuel Cycle: Analysis and Management*.

Shakespeare

By Eric Rasmussen

Today, countries that need new enrichment services, including the United States, opt for the centrifuge method of enrichment, which separates materials out by spinning them in a cylinder. The heavier materials fly out from the center. The main advantage of the centrifuge over diffusion is that it consumes about one-tenth the energy.

But the centrifuge method is also a huge operation, both in terms of machinery size and space needed. It is not easy to hide (like, say, a laboratory to make chemical or biological weapons of mass destruction). And, again, you cannot obtain the enriched product overnight. It takes time — months, depending, of course, on the amount of effort devoted to such a project.

How can anyone tell whether a country is enriching uranium to make it useful for electricity generation (3-5 percent U-235) versus preparing it for use in weapons (more than 90 percent)? If the country allows inspectors to sample the product, it is relatively easy to determine the enrichment level. But from a distance, it is not possible to tell.

As mentioned above, U-235 is the only uranium isotope found in nature that can be used as fuel in a water-cooled reactor. But this is not the only fuel available to us. In today's reactors, only 3-5 percent of the fuel is U-235; the rest is U-238. As the heavier isotope absorbs neutrons, it eventually turns into plutonium. Plutonium is a perfectly good nuclear fuel. In fact, in today's reactors, about 15-20 percent of the reactor power is produced by the plutonium made in the reactor core by the U-238 taking on extra neutrons.

When most of the U-235 is used up, the fuel is discharged from the reactor. This is called "spent nuclear fuel." The process by which useful isotopes are extracted from spent nuclear fuel and repackaged for future use is called reprocessing. Reprocessing also has been used by the major nuclear powers to extract plutonium for weapons.

Apparently North Korea did the same thing: It reprocessed its spent power-plant fuel to obtain weapons-grade fuel instead of enriching uranium. [N](#)

1. Shakespeare invented nearly 2,000 words, including critic, exposure, fixture, housekeeping, hurry, laughable, lonely, Olympian, puke and road.

2. Shakespeare's wife was eight years older than the playwright — and three months pregnant when they got married.

3. Charles Jennens, an 18th century editor of Shakespeare's plays, wrote the libretto to Handel's *Messiah*.

4. Howard Staunton, another Shakespearean editor, invented the design of modern chess pieces.

5. Archeologists have found early clay pipe fragments near Shakespeare's house in Stratford-upon-Avon that show traces of marijuana and other hallucinogenic substances.

6. At a performance of *Macbeth* in 1672, the actor playing the title role apparently used a real dagger and murdered the actor playing Duncan.

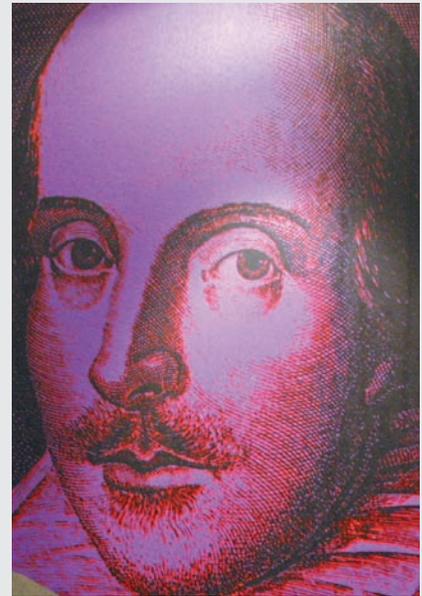
7. The actors in Shakespeare's company didn't get a copy of the full script, just the lines spoken by their character written on a narrow strip of paper that could be rolled up, which became known as the actor's "role."

8. *King Lear*, with its portrayal of a mad king, was banned on the London stage from 1788 to 1820 because of the real insanity of the reigning monarch, King George III.

9. All of Uranus's 21 moons are named after Shakespearean characters.

10. In the 46th Psalm in the King James Bible, which was printed when Shakespeare was 46 years old, the 46th word is "shake" and the 46th word from the end is "spear." Proof positive, some argue, that Shakespeare wrote the Bible!

Eric Rasmussen, English professor, University of Nevada, Reno, is one of two editors chosen by the Royal Shakespeare Company to edit The RSC Complete Works of Shakespeare as an official edition to accompany a Shakespeare stage extravaganza currently playing in Stratford-upon-Avon, England.



. . .set an unbreakable record

By Kevin Kouzmanoff

When 2003 Nevada All-American Kevin Kouzmanoff stepped to the plate for his first big league at-bat, Sept. 2 in Arlington, Texas, he ended up doing something no one had ever done before or ever will surpass.

It was almost midnight, and the phone was ringing. I picked it up. It was my manager with the Triple A Buffalo Bisons, Torey Lovullo.

There were only three games left in the season, and we were back at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Rochester, N.Y., having just lost to the Red Wings 3-0 in the third game of a four-game series. I'd gotten one hit in four at-bats. I asked him what was up.

He said, "I have some good news and some bad news for you. You're not going to be in Buffalo's lineup tomorrow. You're going to be in the Indians' lineup tomorrow."

It was a dream come true to hear those words. He told me I would be flying out the next morning to Texas, where the Cleveland Indians, our parent club, were playing the Rangers. It was what I'd thought about every day of my life growing up, and now it had happened. I was in the big leagues.

Well, almost. At the airport in Dallas, my luggage didn't come out in the baggage claim. I ended up sitting there waiting forever and panicking because I was going to be late for pre-game stretching. Here I am, my first day and I'm going to show up late. But finally I got my bags and got a cab to the stadium. I went straight to the locker room, still lugging my bags.

I met a couple of the guys and found a locker with my name on it. I just stared at all the premium Dri-FIT undershirts, all the fleece, and there's my jersey, No. 11, Kouzmanoff, hanging there. My locker was right next to Travis Hafner's, the Indians' star designated



John Byrne

Kevin Kouzmanoff

hitter, and Aaron Boone, the third baseman, and I was like, "Wow, this is unbelievable." It was the first time I'd ever been in a Major League locker room, and I thought about how I'd worked hard my whole life to get here and now it was time to work even harder and take care of business.

I went to go see the manager, Eric Wedge. He shut the door and told me what my role was going to be. I

was going to be DH-ing in place of Hafner, whose hand had been injured the night before when he'd been hit by a pitch. They found out later that it was broken, and he ended up missing the rest of the season.

As I got ready for the game I was feeling a little nervous. I'd had a tough time sleeping the night before, and I couldn't eat. I was out along the leftfield line warming up when I heard, "Hey, Kev."

I looked up and saw my little brother, Ky, walking down the aisle in the stands. I hadn't seen him in a while. He told me he and a couple of buddies had driven the entire day from their school in Nebraska to see me. It was awesome to see him. I'd called my parents the night before to tell them I'd been called up, and they were flying in from our home in Evergreen, Colo., near Denver. I imagined them later on looking down at me and saying, "There he is. He's in the big leagues."

Finally the game got started and I was sitting in the dugout. I just tried to think about my first at-bat, going through my usual routine, telling myself to be patient, look for a good pitch to hit. Being the road team, we batted first, but I was hitting seventh, so I didn't expect to get up till at least the second inning.

Things didn't go as I expected.

Grady Sizemore led off with a home run, and the second guy hit a single. The next two made outs. But then Casey Blake, our right fielder, walked. Suddenly I was in the on-deck circle. Then our shortstop, Jhonny Peralta, walked. The bases were loaded, and I was going to hit.

On deck, I had been thinking, I'm the new guy, they're just going to go right after me, just see what I've got. So as I stepped to the plate I was looking first-pitch fastball. And that's what I got. It was a little up, about letter-high. It's tough to hit a pitch that's at the letters, but I was ready to go and swung.

LOOK ONLINE

Watch Kevin Kouzmanoff's record-setting home run and its aftermath from video taken by SportsTime Ohio at www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue.

I didn't get it solid, I didn't even get it square, not crisp on the barrel. But it went up in the air and I just said, "Go, ball, go." I didn't want to fly out with the bases loaded. I was just blowing the ball out.

It went over the center field fence.

I don't remember hearing anything. I just remember thinking, "Oh, my gosh, I just hit a grand slam in my first at-bat." As I rounded third, third-base coach Joel Skinner said, "That a boy. Congratulations." I was so excited to get to home plate to give my teammates high fives, running into the dugout.

After that my heart was just racing. I was trying to calm myself down because I was taking these short, deep breaths. Casey Blake started giving me a hard time. "You come in here and hit a home run. It's that easy, huh?"

The game's that easy for you?" But it was all positive, all fun.

In my next at-bat, I got up to the plate, and their catcher, Gerald Laird, congratulated me and said, "Good swing." 

After becoming the first player to hit a grand-slam home run on the first pitch of his major league career, Kouzmanoff hit his second home run in the fifth inning the next day to break up a perfect-game bid by Texas pitcher Kevin Millwood. He finished the season batting .214 with three home runs and 11 runs batted in in 16 games. The 25-year-old Kouzmanoff, who hit a combined .379 in the minors at Akron and Buffalo last year, was traded by the Indians Nov. 8 to the San Diego Padres. Former Nevada player Joe Inglett (1997-2000) is a strong contender to stick with the Indians after batting .284 in 64 games as a utility player last year.

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... tell me how to properly pronounce 'Nevada', he helped guide our project through a complicated and challenging approval and permitting process enabling us to bring to Reno what will prove to be an unparalleled retail shopping experience."
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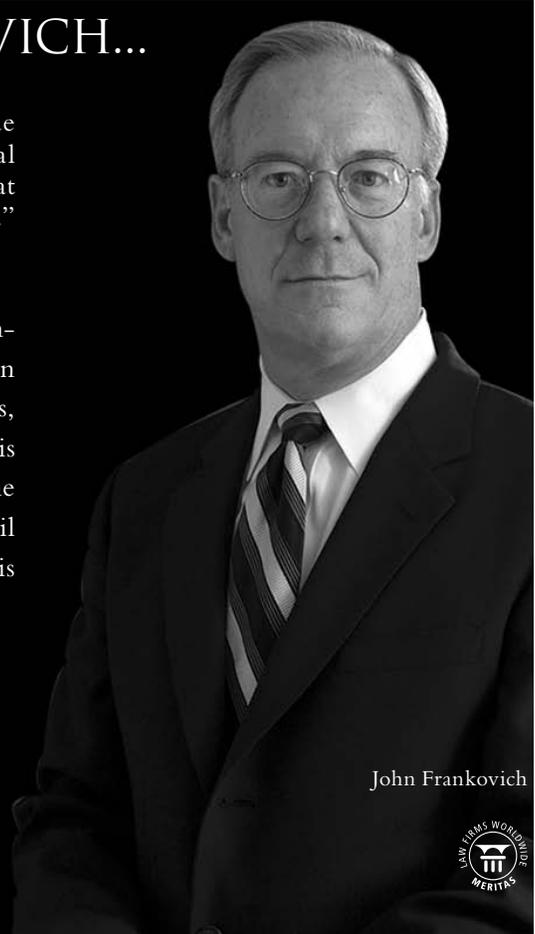
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John Frankovich



How Ol' Blue Eyes lost his casino license

The Cal Neva Lodge, straddling the California-Nevada border on the north shore of Lake Tahoe, is believed to be the oldest licensed gambling facility in the country. It was built in the 1920s, but its heyday came in the early 1960s, after singer Frank Sinatra became part owner.

Sinatra booked major stars, including his Rat Pack buddies, into the new Sinatra Celebrity Showroom, had a helicopter pad incorporated into the lodge's new roof design, and dug a tunnel beneath the lodge so

the stars and his other special guests could travel between the showroom and the bungalows behind the hotel without being seen.

Sinatra's days as a Nevada casino owner became numbered, however, in the summer of 1963, after the *Chicago Sun-Times* had published a story describing how the singer broke up an altercation at the club that involved Chicago mafia boss Sam Giancana.

Giancana had disappeared after being subpoenaed to appear before a federal grand jury investigating organized crime. The Nevada



Don Dondero

Frank Sinatra talks with Marilyn Monroe during her visit to his Cal Neva Lodge in 1960. Also pictured is Cal Neva Lodge club manager Bert "Wingy" Grober. Monroe is known to have visited the Cal Neva a week prior to her apparent suicide in August 1962.

Gaming Control Board, under the direction of Governor Grant Sawyer, was on a crusade to clean up the reputation of the state's gaming industry and had placed Giancana's name on its "List of Excluded Persons," people not allowed in a licensed casino.

On Saturday, Aug. 31, 1963, Sinatra phoned Ed Olsen, chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board, to discuss the situation. Another board official, Guy Farmer, recalls the conversation in this 2001 interview from the University of Nevada Oral History Program.

Giancana wasn't just a Chicago mobster, he was the Chicago "godfather," one of the top organized crime figures in the United States.

As I recall, the FBI had lost his trail. They usually followed him around Chicago, but somehow he made it out to Nevada, invited by his friend, Frank Sinatra, who had a life-long association with organized crime figures. He'd been invited to come out to have a rendezvous with his girlfriend, Phyllis McGuire, of the singing McGuire Sisters.

Grant Sawyer and Ed Olsen were very unhappy about Frank's operations at the Cal Neva at Crystal Bay. Ed had talked to Frank at the outset of that summer season about the unsavory characters that we were seeing up there and about running prostitutes or call girls through the lobby — a pretty shabby operation — and said that we wanted him to

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. For more information on the holdings: unr.edu/oral-history

clean that up and behave himself. Sinatra's basic response to all of this was, "I've got a lot of friends, and I treat them right, and that's what I'm going to do, and there's nothing you can do about it."

Ed wanted to talk to Sinatra about the Giancana visit. Sinatra called Olsen — he was agitated about publicity that the board and commission were going to subpoena him and some of his friends to come and tell them what was going on up there. I had gone to work for the board in July or August of 1963, and I happened to be in the office that day. When Frank called, Ed told me to get on the phone.

It was before all the sophisticated listening devices, so I was the listening device, and I heard the conversation, which got increasingly heated. . . . Sinatra was profane in the extreme. He called him every name in the book. Sinatra even called Ed, who was crippled by polio in his youth, "a crippled SOB."

Olsen picks up the story in his own oral history, dictated in 1967-69, from a memorandum he wrote about the Sinatra call a few days after it happened:

[Sinatra] asked why I couldn't come up to Cal Neva to see him. I gave him the same reasons as I had given Hancock [Newell Hancock, an original member of the Gaming Control Board who, in 1963, was a partner in the accounting firm representing the Cal Neva Lodge]. To which he replied, "You're acting like a f-----g cop . . . I just want to talk to you off the record."

I asked him why he couldn't just as easily come to my office. [Olsen wanted the conversation to take place on his own turf.] He indicated he didn't wish to encounter reporters. As I started to assure him such would not be the case, he said in essence: "Listen, Ed, I haven't had to take this kind of s--t from anybody in the country, and I'm not going to take it from you people." He continued: "I want you to come up here and have dinner with me, and bring that s--t heel friend, La France."

[Charles La France was chief of the board's investigative division.]

Mr. Sinatra went on to say: "It's you and your goddamn subpoenas which have caused all this trouble."

I replied that only the board and the people subpoenaed the day before were aware of the subpoenas.

"You are a goddamn liar. It's all over the papers," he said.

I said the subpoenas were not in the papers.

He said they were.

I said they were not.

He said, "I'll bet you \$50,000."

I said, "I haven't got \$50,000 to bet."

He said, "You're not in the same class with me."

I said, "I certainly hope not."

Mr. Sinatra continued: "All right. I'm never coming to see you again. I came to see you in Las Vegas, and if you had conducted this investigation like a gentleman and come up here to see my people instead of sending those goddamn subpoenas, you would have gotten all the information you wanted."

I pointed out that I had indeed sent three agents and a stenographer to Cal Neva Lodge to interview witnesses the same night Mr. Leypoldt [W.E. "Butch" Leypoldt, a member of the Gaming Control Board] and myself had interviewed Sinatra in Las Vegas. I noted that Mr. D'Amato [Paul D'Amato, executive in charge at the Cal Neva] had declined to be interviewed by our agents and that Mr. King [Eddie King, the Cal Neva maitre d' who supposedly had witnessed the altercation] had declined to be interviewed by our agents and that Mr. King obviously had lied. I added that I wasn't satisfied at this time that Sinatra himself had told us the truth.

He said, "What about?"

I said he denied breaking up the fight involving Giancana, while another witness said otherwise. [This witness said Sinatra applied a Band-Aid after Giancana and King combined forces to work him over in Phyllis McGuire's chalet at Cal Neva Lodge.]



Sam Giancana

"I'm never coming to see you again," said Sinatra.

I told him if I wanted to see him I would send a subpoena.

"You just try and find me," he said. "And if you do, you can look for a big, fat surprise . . . a big, fat, f-----g surprise. You remember that. Now listen to me, Ed. Don't f--- with me. Don't f--- with me. Just don't f--- with me."

The tone of his voice was menacing, and I asked, "Are you threatening me?"

He replied, "No, just don't f--- with me. And you can tell that to your f-----g Board and that f-----g Commission, too."

Repeatedly, during the conversation, I suggested to Mr. Sinatra that he hang up and call me back another time when he was not so emotionally overwrought. This suggestion only seemed to make him angrier. He noted that he has other enterprises from which he makes his living, that Cal Neva is only incidental to his welfare but is important to the livelihoods of many "little people."

I suggested it might be better for all concerned if he concentrated on his enterprises elsewhere and departed the Nevada gambling scene.

He replied, "I might just do that, and when I do, I'm going to tell the world what a bunch of f-----g idiots run things in this state."

At this point he renewed his invitation to me and my friends to come up for dinner. I refused the invitation.

Under intense pressure from gaming regulators, Sinatra told the state on Oct. 7, 1963, that he would sell off his Lake Tahoe and Las Vegas properties and give up his casino ambitions in Nevada, which he did. [N](#)

In 2006, the program published Guy Farmer's oral history, Gaming Regulation in Nevada: The Second Sawyer Administration, as part of its series on the casino industry.

GRAPE EXPECTATIONS

Time is ripe for promising alternative crop

Nevadans are not used to seeing vineyards in their neighborhood. Kathy Halbardier '93 (MBA) found that out after she and husband, Rick, planted 1,500 grape vines at their home in Genoa.

“We were turned in for growing pot,” she says. “Douglas County sheriffs showed up and said there were complaints by the neighbors.”

By John Wheeler '86, '87M.A. is an associate editor of *Nevada Silver & Blue*.

That was in the early 1990s. The Halbardiers were just beginning an endeavor that's since seen them establish Tahoe Ridge Winery. Their Genoa operation has

grown from producing 3,000 bottles a year five years ago to more than 100,000 today. Although they have successfully produced and sold a wine made solely from Nevada grapes (it was gobbled up at more than \$30 a bottle), virtually all their wines are made from California grapes. That's also true of Nevada's oldest winery, the Pahrump Valley Winery, 62 miles west of Las Vegas.

“We remind people that even some of the most well-known wineries in California don't grow any grapes; they buy all their grapes from different sources,” says owner Bill Loken. “So we really act just like a normal California winery.”

Like the Halbardiers, Loken is attempting to produce a Nevada-grown wine. He planted a vineyard on his property and anticipates having some Pahrump wine to sell next year.

So what are the odds of Nevada having a home-grown wine industry that amounts to more than just the occasional release of a few thousand bottles? Pretty good, say once-skeptical experts like the Grant Cramer, a biochemist in the University of Nevada, Reno College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources who has been making wine from grapes grown at the University's experimental plot in downtown Reno since 1999.



Jean Dixon

Siri Frey, a senior at Churchill County High School, joins in the grape harvesting on her family's farm in Fallon.

"We have shown that it is viable," he says. "I just came back from Romania. They grow grapes in colder climates than here, and they've been doing it for 3,000 years."

It doesn't take that long to develop expertise, though. Washington State began planting vineyards in the 1960s and now boasts more than 500 wineries.

"Based on a study of vineyards in Washington state ranging from 10 acres to 40 acres, they were breaking even from their investments in between two and five years," Cramer says.

Even more intriguing is a graduate thesis by Miguel Henry in the college's Department of Resource Economics that demonstrates that alfalfa is actually a money-losing crop consuming 12 times more water than a vineyard. More than 90 percent of Nevada's irrigated agricul-

tural lands are devoted to alfalfa, which is primarily used to feed livestock. Henry's research indicates Nevada farmers could be making from \$5,000 to \$7,500 an acre growing wine grapes instead of losing money growing alfalfa.

So what's stopping them? Roger Gehring thinks he has the answer.

"Old habits die hard," says the Las Vegas educator who grows both alfalfa and wine grapes on his Amargosa Valley property, 88 miles northwest of Las Vegas. "Not many people sit down and think, 'How can I do this better?' What they normally do is say, 'I'm growing alfalfa, how can I grow it better?'"

Gehring is one of a number of nonfarmers in various parts of the state who are, nonetheless, pioneers in moving a potential wine industry forward. He's contracted to sell his grapes

to Tahoe Ridge, which has also established relationships with other small growers. If Gehring's initial five-acre vineyard is successful, he has 40 acres of alfalfa he can convert, he says. Similarly, Bob Reagan, a field engineer at the Yucca Mountain radioactive waste repository, has begun planting vines on 1.5 acres of a five-acre parcel in Crystal Heights, about 80 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

"I have another 20 acres that I can potentially put another 12,000 vines on," says Reagan, who along with Gehring is getting research assistance from Bob Morris of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Las Vegas. "I want to be a grape farmer. That will be my retirement hobby. I didn't even want to say I

Continues on page 22

BRIEFS

NEVADA EXPORTS — ESPECIALLY TO MACAU

Nevada is not known as one of the country's export powerhouses. However, Nevada's exports jumped from just over \$2 billion in 2003 to almost \$4 billion in 2005, and over the last three years the state has ranked among the top three states for the growth of its exports.

That's due in part to Macau, the former Portuguese colony an hour's ferry ride west of Hong Kong. Exports from Nevada to Macau were up 226 percent in the first six months of 2006, compared with the year before, to more than \$11 million. It's a gaming hotspot whose revenues rival those of the four-mile, hotel/resort-adorned Las Vegas Strip. In 2005, Macau generated \$5.6 billion in casino-gambling revenue compared with Las Vegas' \$6 billion.

"Macau is going through a very rapid expansion right now," says Bill Eadington, professor of economics and director of the University's Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming. "They are buying a lot of capital equipment that is very gaming-industry specific."

That's good news for gaming-machine and software producers such as Nevada-based International Game Technology and Bally

Technologies. The other primary reason for the boost in exports was the more-than-25 percent rise in the price of gold in 2005. The higher price bumped up that commodity's export value.

Some Nevada export facts:

- The total dollar value of Nevada's exports: almost \$4 billion (2005)
- Number of countries Nevada exports to: about 150
- No. 1 export country for Nevada: Switzerland.

Nevada's income from exports to Switzerland (almost \$2 billion in 2005) is twice that of No. 2 Canada. It's nearly all gold, according to Al DiStefano, director of global trade and investment for the state Commission on Economic Development. "There are Swiss companies that buy it and refine it up to 99.999 percent pure," he says. A major use of so-called "five nines" gold is as a fine wire that connects computer circuits to semiconductors.

ONE CHART NEVADA WOULD PREFER NOT TO TOP

Nevada is one of the fastest-growing states ... in global-warming pollution.

That's the finding of a recent study by the

nonpartisan Public Interest Research Group. Between 1960 and 2001 Nevada's carbon-dioxide emissions increased 835 percent. Only Alaska had a higher rate of emissions growth during that period.

"The growth was primarily due to growth in population," says state climatologist and University geography professor Jeff Underwood. "In 1960 our population was approximately 250,000. Now it is close to 3 million."

Underwood says that even though the percentage increase is enormous, Nevada is still one of the lowest carbon-dioxide output states in the nation.

"In big states like California, the growth wasn't great, but the net amount they put in the atmosphere is extraordinarily bigger than us," he says.

Coal combustion accounted for 43 percent of the state's increase, the report indicates. Since 1960, Nevada has added nearly 2,800 megawatts of new, coal-burning power plant capacity. But oil and natural gas use were also major factors.

"Adding carbon dioxide into the atmosphere does us no good," Underwood says. "I would hope that over the next 40 years, Nevada will be somewhat on the leading edge of reducing carbon emissions."

was growing a vineyard until the things grew, but they are growing like weeds.”

That’s not necessarily a good thing in the oven-like temperatures of southern Nevada. Wine grapes need to mature slowly and like hot days and cool nights to develop a desirable sugar-acid balance. One location with that approximately 40-degree temperature differential is Fallon.

“This is a good agricultural area for a couple of reasons,” says Debbie Frey ’73 (art), who along with her husband, Charlie ’70 (accounting) and son, Colby (currently a business student), is successfully growing wine on 10 acres of the family farm. “This is kind of like a banana belt and that’s why Fallon is really famous for its cantaloupes and its melons.”

The Freys have an edge over some others attempting to grow wine grapes in Nevada: They are professional farmers working tried-and-tested land.

“We read in one of the trade magazines that the best way to get good wine is from a good farmer,” Debbie Frey says. “We have really good soil. This is old farm ground.”

Old indeed. A lush decorative arbor of Concord grapes in front of the Freys’ house was planted 60 years ago. Working with University of Nevada Extension’s Jay Davison, the Frey family started an experimental vineyard just five years ago. Today, it’s likely they have more vines than the rest of the state combined, with the potential for much more; they have 730 acres of alfalfa.

The Freys’ success will likely stimulate other farmers in the region to convert some of their land to wine grapes.

“It would be really nice to have a lot of small vineyards around,” Debbie Frey says. “The way we could all afford it is to have a co-op — share the equipment and the labor pools. We want the industry to be successful. We want Rick and Kathy to be successful. We want Amargosa Valley to be successful. We know we can make a really good wine. We think this could be a new tourist industry for the state.”

LOOK ONLINE

For more information on growing grapes and making wine in Nevada: ag.unr.edu/cramer/nevadawinegrapes.htm.

BOOM TOWN



John Wheeler

Name: Pahrump

Where: 62 miles west of Las Vegas, 39 miles south of the Nevada Test Site, where the nation’s nuclear weapons were tested from 1945 to 1992.

Name comes from: the Paiute words *pah* and *rimpi*, for springs or flowing waters emerging from a rock.

Square miles: 277

Population, 1990: 7,424

Population, now: 37,000+

No. of cinemas, 1990: 0

No. of cinemas now: 0

Distinguishing characteristics: reputed to be a haven for people in the federal Witness Protection Program; weather is sunny 216 days a year, second only to Yuma, Ariz.

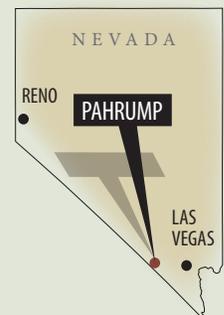
Best-known resident: Art Bell, who, until his recent move to the Philippines, broadcast his nationally syndicated radio show, *Coast to Coast AM* (yes, the one that talks about aliens), from his Pahrump home.

Why it’s booming: Rising home prices in Las Vegas have made Pahrump attractive as a bedroom community.

No. 1 problem: lack of water. “There are about 11,000 wells in the Pahrump Valley and water levels have declined as much as 100 feet over some portions of the basin. . . . The Chamber of Commerce for years has been saying this is the third-largest aquifer in the United States and that’s just a blatant misrepresentation,” says Tom Buqo, consulting hydrogeologist for Nye County, which includes Pahrump.

Best place to meditate: The labyrinth at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension office’s demonstration garden. Built by graduates of the extension service’s Pahrump Master Gardener program, the labyrinth, or maze, is listed on the National Registry of Labyrinths. It attracts international visitors.

Happy Pahrumpian: “It’s great that we’re just one hour from Vegas. . . . all the shopping and great restaurants we could ever want, and it’s nice to come home to peace and quiet and tranquility,” says Cheryl Beeman, acting planning director for the Pahrump Regional Planning District and a Pahrump resident for six years.



Anatomy of a physician shortage

By Melanie Robbins '06M.A.

Why Nevada is hurting for doctors and nurses and all kinds of other medical professionals, and what, if anything, can cure the deficiencies.

Ann Simon can't find a doctor. The 26-year-old communications professional, who survived a childhood bout with cancer, moved to Reno from another state a year and a half ago. The cancer has been in remission for five years now, and her future looks bright.

But the chemotherapy and radiation treatments she underwent damaged her thyroid, an endocrine gland in the neck that produces hormones that regulate metabolism.

She needs daily medication and an endocrinologist to evaluate her and keep her on the right medicine. But she can't find one in her area and under her insurance plan who is accepting new patients.

"I've been seeing a nurse practitioner, instead," she says. "She evaluated my situation and has increased my medi-

cine dosage three times in the last three months. But I don't feel well."

Simon — a real person but not her real name — is experiencing the consequences of Nevada's continuing shortage of medical personnel. The state ranks last or close to last in the number medical professionals per capita in category after category: all physicians (46th), dentists (48th), home health/nursing aides or orderlies (49th), registered nurses (50th).

In some subspecialties, the shortage almost defies belief. For instance, this is the number of board-certified pediatric endocrinologists who

practice in Nevada:
Two.

If you've lived in Nevada for a long time and already have a doctor, the shortage may sound exaggerated. But for newcomers — Las Vegas and Clark County have 8,000 of those per month — it isn't. Immigrants typically have to call several doctor's offices



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before they can find even a family-practice physician accepting new patients under their particular medical insurance. OG-GYNs are especially overburdened, so much so that some Nevada women have given up trying to see such specialists for checkups and are settling for their regular family-practice physician instead.

IT'S NOT JUST NEVADA

The United States is facing a shortage of physicians. By 2020 the deficit will exceed 100,000, according to Edward Salsberg, director of the Center for Workforce Studies at the Association of American Medical Colleges.

One of the reasons is that, beginning in the late 1970s, medical schools heeded a warning from workforce analysts and public policymakers to reduce the number of medical school graduates. The consensus was that, without a cutback, the country would have a glut of physicians by the turn of the century. People thought managed care would reduce the need for physicians.

It didn't happen.

Since 1980, the number of graduates from traditional M.D.-granting medical schools has been essentially flat. Many active physicians are now reaching retirement age while the population is growing by 25 million people per decade, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. And it's an aging population, because of the baby boomers. The Census Bureau forecasts that the number of Americans 65 and older will double by 2030.

Elderly people consume the most medi-

cal services, so unless something changes soon, demand for medical services will outweigh supply.

In addition, some areas of medicine are facing particular shortages due to dwindling financial incentives to practice.

For example, doctors are shying away from traditional family practice because Medicare and insurance reimbursements are so low that even working 50, 60 hours a week, they can't earn enough to pay off their loans from medical school. Some have found they make a lot more money in less time doing what are often optional or cosmetic procedures. That's because no insurance reimbursement is involved; the patients pay cash.

Aside from ever-thinning profit margins in traditional doctoring, a cultural change has taken place, doctors say. The house call has long since become a relic of black-and-white television. But the new generation of doctors also isn't willing to work 80 hours a week like the physicians — principally male — who trained in the '40s and '50s, medical educators says. Many are looking for lifestyles that leave time for family — men as well as women, who are entering the physician workforce in numbers that will soon equal men.



Jean Dixon

People think of Nevada as being a doctor-unfriendly state following a 2002 malpractice insurance crisis, according to Dr. John Fildes, director of University Medical Center's Trauma Center and vicechair of the School of Medicine's Department of Surgery.

When you have fewer doctors, and the doctors are working shorter hours than previously, it only compounds the shortage.

A PERFECT STORM IN THE HIGH DESERT

Nevada is arguably worse off than any other state because of its rapid growth. It's been the fastest-growing state for the past 19 years, and the doctor supply simply hasn't kept up with the pace of immigration.

Dr. John McDonald, dean of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, says Nevada is facing the "perfect storm" of stress on the medical system: a growing and aging population, an undersized pipeline for producing health-care professionals, and difficulty recruiting physicians to move here from out-of-state.

The Nevada School of Medicine is the smallest public medical school in the United



States in terms of enrollment capacity, and Nevada has the fewest residency programs. A residency is the period of advanced training in a medical specialty that normally follows graduation from medical school. It's required to become licensed to practice medicine.

New physicians tend to stay in the state where they do their residencies. But graduates of the Nevada med school have no in-state opportunities to do residencies in neurosurgery, anesthesiology, pediatric psychiatry, pediatric endocrinology, cardiothoracic surgery, oncology and other important fields. Almost half of Nevada's med students fall into this nothing-in-state category, McDonald says. So they have to leave. And they usually don't come back.

To meet projected needs, the state must boost its ranks of physicians by more than 1,600 by the year 2015, according to John Packham, a researcher with the School of Medicine's Center for Education and Health Services Outreach. The center works to provide greater coverage of medical services for rural Nevada. With the School of Medicine graduating just 57 doctors a year, it won't come close to meeting projected demand. The state would have to rely on imports from other states and other countries.

Other forces have combined to reduce the number of Nevada doctors. A malpractice crisis in 2002 in southern Nevada caused the University Medical Center's Trauma Center to close for 10 days after doctors, overburdened by skyrocketing malpractice rates, left the practice. Insurance companies had raised premiums in response to high rates of litiga-

tion, and one major insurer left the state altogether.

A special session of the legislature called by then-Gov. Kenny Guinn resolved the issue by putting a cap on malpractice claim payouts, but the episode set back efforts to recruit more doctors to the Silver State.

Dr. John Fildes, director of the Trauma Center and vice chair of the School of Medicine's Department of Surgery, says, "A lot of [doctors] remember the [trauma] center closing. People think of Nevada as being a doctor-unfriendly state."

Despite the malpractice-claims cap, malpractice insurance remains onerously high in Nevada compared with other states. For example, an OB-GYN in Clark County with five or more years of experience pays about \$100,000 per year. Similar physicians in Los Angeles pay about \$40,000 to \$60,000 per year, according to Don Roberts '89M.D., chair of the OB-GYN department of the medical school.

Why are malpractice insurance rates so much higher in Las Vegas than Los Angeles? No one knows for sure, but California has had its malpractice liability limits in place longer. Roberts speculates that the risk-taking, gambling culture that pervades Las Vegas may also prompt more people to try their luck in the court-room.



Photo courtesy of the University of Nevada School of Medicine

Marsha Matsunaga Kirgan, M.D., assistant professor of obstetrics, with University of Nevada Medical School obstetrics residents and students. Even if the school were to quadruple its current number of OB-GYN residency positions, it would take 5-10 years to have a meaningful impact in Las Vegas, says the medical school's OB-GYN chair.

One hopeful sign on the doctor-supply side is that the School of Medicine is gearing up to increase its graduates from 57 a year to about 100 by 2010. And Touro University, a private osteopathic school of medicine that opened in 2004 in Henderson, south of Las Vegas, has a class of about 100. (Osteopathic schools grant the D.O. degree, which adheres to a philosophy that disorders of the body can be treated by manipulative techniques in conjunction with conventional medicine. Osteopathic doctors constitute about 5 percent of the nation's physicians.)

Both institutions' graduates must complete residencies, but, as noted earlier, residencies are in short supply here. One reason for that involves the federal government. The feds long subsidized residency programs at hospitals in the interest of maintaining an adequate supply of medical professionals, but the government decided to stop funding additional positions in 1996 in a cost-containment move.

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“It’s as though the federal government froze the system and made no allowances for the rapid growth of a state like Nevada,” McDonald says. Now, if a hospital wants to increase its number of residents, it has to pay the cost entirely. This restricts additional residency training programs to hospitals that have never housed residency programs previously.

THE SOLUTION?

Training new doctors requires not only money for residency programs but for teachers and facilities — both classrooms for academic work and partner hospitals where students and residents can complete clinical training.

The solution proposed by the Nevada System of Higher Education is to create a Health Sciences Center, essentially a coordinating entity for the 200-plus health-sciences programs already in place at Nevada’s public colleges and universities.

The system is asking state lawmakers to appropriate:

- \$206 million for construction projects to house lecture halls as well as clinical and research facilities;
- \$29 million over two years to increase faculty;
- \$21.6 million as the first phase of doubling the state’s nursing program. (That program graduated 1,570 nurses in 2004-05. The goal is to get to 3,140 a year by 2013-14.)

The Health Sciences Center proposal calls for the initial \$206 million to come from the

state but the rest to be funded through a combination of tax money and private donations.

Backers of the plan say it would dramatically increase higher education in all areas of health and medicine and help the state’s medical system catch up with growth.

Opponents argue that the plan is vague and asks too much from taxpayers. Also, one critic in the medical community doesn’t like the idea of using taxpayer dollars to fund faculty physicians who would constitute competition. In actuality, tax money would go toward only the teaching portion of faculty doctors’ reimbursement. Doctors typically pay their own way via patients’ payments.

Jim Rogers, chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education and a strong proponent of the Health Sciences Center idea, says fears of competition are unfounded.

“The demand is much greater than the supply at this point. Even if we double the size of the medical school, it is not going to satisfy the need. My feeling is that we will still be 50th in the nation. Whatever we do should not affect the income of current doctors.”

The legislature is expected to take up the Health Sciences Center proposal this year.

In the meantime, the private sector responds.

Dwight Hansen, financial analyst for the Nevada Hospital Association, says hospitals have been adding beds in the last decade in response to population growth. The state still has one of the lowest ratios of hospital beds per capita, but because of the additional beds the situation at least hasn’t deteriorated. Further expansion is planned, including 10 new facilities and 15 expansions in southern Nevada, and four expansions in northern Nevada.

Renown Health (formerly Washoe Health System), based in Reno, has a 10-story wing slated to be completed by fall 2007. Plus the hospital is looking into building a women’s and children’s center.

Like many others in Nevada’s hospital industry, Renown also is bringing more doctors to the state. The company is offering income guaranties and relocation costs to physicians willing to move to Renown’s service area, according to recruitment officer Chris King.

THE PROGNOSIS

Whatever public or private groups wish could be done to ease the state’s shortage of medical professionals, the reality is that the problem isn’t going to be solved overnight. One reason: It takes the typical academically talented high school graduate 11 years to become a practicing physician.

Increasing a medical school’s capacity will take time, too. Roberts, the School of Medicine’s OB-GYN chair, says, “We need to double the number of OB-GYNs in Las Vegas from about 150 to 300.” But the residency program he oversees currently only accepts only three trainees per year.

He would like a dozen OB-GYN residency positions, but even at that level it would be five to 10 years before the program could make a meaningful impact on the market for obstetrics and gynecology in the Las Vegas area, he says.

Similar situations exist in other places in Nevada and with other medical specialties.

Until conditions change, it’s reasonable to expect the perfect storm to continue. **N**



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meet the Flockers

Story by John Wheeler '86, '87M.A. • Illustration by Calder Chism '90

Nevada has been the fastest-growing state, in terms of percentage population increase, for two decades. Who are all these people, why are they moving here, and why is the influx so worrying in a state that, even after all that growth, remains almost empty?

"This week's work is the first step toward giving the world a knowledge of Nevada, and it is a giant stride, too, for it will provoke earnest inquiry. Immigration will follow, and wild-cat advance."

Mark Twain in a letter published in the *Territorial Enterprise*, Nov. 7, 1863, praising Nevada Territory's push toward statehood.

When Mark Twain made his immigration prediction, the Nevada Territory had a population of just a few thousand. That number would grow about tenfold by 1880, as the Comstock Lode became a magnet for the state's first flurry of flockers.

By 2005, the Census Bureau estimated, the Silver State had grown to more than 2.4 million — with almost all of those attracted to Nevada heading for the vicinity of Reno and Las Vegas. Nevada's population

has climbed more than 20 percent just since 2000 and is likely to grow another 40 percent by 2012, according to State Demographer Jeff Hardcastle with the Nevada Small Business Development Center, located on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno.

SNOWBALL IN THE DESERT

Sustained growth such as Nevada is experiencing creates its own momentum. As new residents establish themselves, they push up the demand for services such as schools, shops, gas stations and restaurants. There aren't enough local workers to fill this demand, so more people flood in, having heard that work can be found here.

This dynamic is particularly strong in Las Vegas,

Continues on page 30

which creates 80 percent of the state's new jobs. Several major hotel-casino expansions are underway or imminent on the Strip, the famous four miles of Las Vegas Boulevard South that is home to some of the world's largest casino, hotel and resort properties.

The latest projects will add about 40,000 rooms in the next four years, says Hardcastle, and the rule of thumb is that each room creates 2 1/2 direct and indirect jobs. In the past 10 years, eight major casinos have opened. Each has added as many as 9,000 new jobs.

Many of the people who move to Vegas to fill these jobs have young families. That strains school systems and other community services.

"In the last 10 years Las Vegas has built more than 100 new schools," says Leah Marchione of the Clark County School District. "We're opening 11 or 12 new schools a year."

The schools are Clark County's largest single employer with a payroll of more than 35,000. But as an industry, leisure and hospitality still top the charts. Despite a statewide push for economic diversification, about one-third of all Nevada employment is involved in tourism.

For those in the right place at the right

time, the rewards of going to work for a flashy new casino resort are great. Casino mogul Steve Wynn recently revealed that dealers at his new Wynn Las Vegas hotel-casino make \$100,000 annually. That's made it tough to retain floor supervisors, Wynn says. A floor supervisor's salary: \$60,000 a year.

However, not everyone deals at the Wynn. "Almost 90 percent of Nevada's fastest-growing jobs — including cashiers, sales clerks, maids, janitors and guards — were paid less than a living wage in 2000," says Susan Chandler, associate professor of social work at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Chandler's research has highlighted the fact that many of the new Nevadans who come seeking a better life still face a gritty economic reality — even if it is better than where they came from.

through — about 60 percent," says Larry Riehle, a sales associate for Woodside Homes, one of dozens of developers building new homes on Las Vegas' west side. While Riehle talks, his phone rings repeatedly.

"It's a mixed bag, families and a lot of retirees. People downsizing, I see a lot of that. Most seem to come here to get out of the rat race in Los Angeles and San Francisco."

Although Californians are the primary source of new Nevadans, they're coming from all over. Jobs are a big reason. It doesn't look like a major slowdown is due anytime soon, according to Riehle.

"The market was out of control," Riehle said last fall. "Now it's a normal, healthy market. People are moving here in search of a better life, and I don't think it's going to stop."

WHAT DO THEY ALL DO?

Construction makes up about 10 percent of the state's workforce, according to the Nevada Department of Training, Rehabilitation and Employment. The industry accounted for more than 20 percent of new jobs in the state in 2005.

The other major industries are food preparation and food service (about 15 percent), sales and related occupations (about 12 percent), and office and administrative support (about 10 percent). Together, those four categories account for about half of all Nevadans in the workforce.

As much as the state's economic development authorities would love to see Nevadans in high-paying technology jobs, the state is still predominantly a service economy. With about 50 million tourists visiting each year, that's not a dynamic that's going to change anytime soon.

However, the state's reputation as pro-business — largely due to the absence of a slew of corporate taxes found elsewhere — is paying off. In 2005, northern Nevada was ranked by Inc. Magazine as the No. 1 place for doing business in America. Las Vegas is rated the country's fastest-growing major market for small businesses, with about half the new

John Wheeler '86, '87M.A. is an associate editor of *Nevada Silver & Blue*.

FLOCKER FILES

Name: Jenese Martin

Age: 31

Now living where:

Pahrump, 63 miles north of Las Vegas

Occupation: sales clerk, Jiffy Mart

Came to Nevada in: 2006

Where from: Cedar City, Utah

What she did there: telemarketing

Why here: "In Utah you can't make a lot of money unless you farm or do manual labor. I have family here, so it was a place to land."

Quote: "People here are more liberal. There are not so many trying to pass judgment on you."



FLOCKER FILES

Name: Geoffrey Allen

Age: 50

Now living where:

southwest Las Vegas

Occupation: security guard, Wynn Las Vegas

Came to Nevada in: 2005

Where from: El Paso, Texas

What he did there: police officer, 29 years

Why here: retired; stepchildren live here.

Quote: "I like it; it's similar to El Paso. The Mexican food is not as authentic as El Paso. I meet people who are coming here from all over the country — Kansas City, Ohio, New Jersey, New York."



FLOCKER FILES

Name: Jade Bailey-Assam
Age: 24

Now living where: on the border of Las Vegas and Henderson

Occupation: Public relations coordinator, Wynn Las Vegas.

Came to Nevada in: 2006

Where from: New York City

What she did there: non-profit public relations

Why here: "It was a career move. I was thinking about working in Las Vegas and contacted Wynn."

Quote: "I like it so much more here than I thought I would. You're on the cusp of something new all the time."



businesses originating from California. Often, they bring their current workers, who are happy to move with them. For example, when PC Doctor, a software provider to the computer manufacturing industry, moved from the San Francisco Bay Area to Reno in 2003, about 60 percent of its staff moved with it.

THEIR PLACE IN THE SUN

Warm weather, relatively affordable housing — compared to the Bay Area and Southern California — and great indoor and outdoor entertainment are some of the reasons why Nevada is now outdrawing traditional retirement hotspots Florida and Arizona. Many Californians are choosing to sell their homes to cash in on huge equity run-ups and opting for comfortable retirement in Nevada.

"Somebody who bought a home in California 30 years ago for \$80,000 can sell it for \$750,000 and come out here and pay cash for a pretty nice house and still have money left over," says Claudia Collins, a sociologist who specializes in aging issues for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Las Vegas.

The number of senior citizens in southern

Nevada has more than doubled in the last 10 years. About a quarter of those moving to Nevada are 55 or older. That's a lot of golden girls and guys, and although they are healthier and more active than previous generations, a population overweighted with the elderly poses problems.

"Retirees will create a huge drain on our economy in 10 to 15 years because they won't be so healthy and they won't be so wealthy," Collins says, noting that health problems can quickly wipe out retiree savings.

So can gambling addictions.

"We have people losing homes who paid cash for them," she says.

And what will happen come 2011, when baby boomers start turning 65?

"I don't think we have to wait until then to experience the impact," says Larry Weiss, director of the University's Sanford Center for Aging. "With the tremendous influx of retirees, we're already seeing the burden, particularly to our health system."

What many people don't realize, Weiss says, is that many health-care costs aren't covered by insurance. "People think Medicare is going to cover everything," he says. "It covers acute illness but not long-term care. The cost of medical care from 70 years to death is about \$136,000."

SPOILING THE UNSPOILED

Las Vegas touts, "What happens here stays here." Well, many wish Nevada could say of its California immigrants, "What happened there can stay there."

On the contrary, what happened there is happening here: urban sprawl, crowded schools, clogged highways and depletion of natural resources such as water.

"We've got two time bombs ticking here," says Collins, the sociologist who specializes in aging issues. "We've got this huge retiree population moving here who are going to overwhelm this population with demand for services in the next 10, 15, 20 years, and then we have this younger population coming in, having children and flooding

our school district. We will need so much money for mandatory services that we won't have money to provide roads or for anything else in the state."

In Las Vegas, residents are resigned to sitting in traffic on Interstate 15 or the Strip, but 10 miles to the west of the Strip, it's another story. As each newly minted, gated community begets the next in the slipstream of the also-newly-constructed I-215 beltway, it's not unusual to sit mired in Hondas and Hummers, unable to escape the off-ramp.

The irony is that all those people moving here for a better quality of life are diminishing it by their presence. And that's causing the next domino to fall. Increasingly, people are moving farther out from the city centers to urban satellites, to a perceived simpler lifestyle and less-expensive homes.

Draw a circle with a 75-mile radius from either Reno or Las Vegas to see where this is occurring. In the north, towns such as Fernley, Fallon, Carson City, Minden, Gardnerville and Dayton have all seen significant growth.

"I've got such sticker shock that I may have to move to the other side of Dayton (12 miles from Carson City) to be able to find a house I can afford," says David Leonard, the U.S. Small Business Administration's northern Nevada senior area manager. Leonard moved to Reno in 2005 but first encountered the area 10 years earlier when housing was much cheaper.

"I haven't bought a home yet. I've got two daughters in college. I'm renting right now," he says.

In the south, the scale of development is even more dramatic. Las Vegas outliers such as Mesquite and Pahrump, both within a 90-minute drive of Las Vegas, are nouveau boomtowns. Not everyone commutes to Vegas.

"I have three kids, and the schools are wonderful," says Jenese Martin, who moved to Pahrump from Cedar City, Utah, earlier this year. A former telemarketer, Martin, who has family in the area, found work as a sales clerk at a convenience market on the road heading into downtown.

And then there's Coyote Springs.

Continues on page 32

Harvey Whittemore '74 (political science), who was a partner in the 1,600-acre Wingfield Springs housing and golf course development in Reno's neighbor city, Sparks, is planning to make his Coyote Springs development, 50 miles north of Las Vegas, one of the state's largest communities. How large? In 30 years he envisages about 160,000 homes.

"This is really the creation of a new town, a new city," Whittemore told the *Reno Gazette-Journal* last year. "In five years it could be as big as Fernley."

Maybe the Fernley of today, but Fernley is a moving target. The formerly sleepy bedroom community of 16,357 people, 28 miles east of Reno, is expanding rapidly: casinos, housing developments, business parks. In 2005, an 18.7 percent population jump caused it to leapfrog past Boulder City to become the state's ninth-largest population center.

A TAXING QUESTION

Population growth in the north of the state is now driven in large part by economic diversification, but the south still rides on the back of the casino industry.

"We have something like \$35 billion worth of new construction planned on the Strip in the next decade," says Las Vegas journalist Geoff Schumacher '88 (journalism). "That translates into an estimated, additional \$35 billion worth of construction off the Strip. So there is \$70 billion to be invested in Clark County in the next decade. That will require people, and it's going to accommodate all the new people."

State demographer Hardcastle projects Nevada's population will grow another 40 percent in the next five years to more than 3.5 million. In 20 years, the number of newcomers will equal what the whole population of the state was in the mid '90s, he says.

"And that doesn't mean just people. You're adding roads, schools, houses — everything that existed in Nevada at that time. Think about having to rebuild all that and more, plus maintain the infrastructure that you've got now in just 20 years."

Financial constraints will make this difficult to achieve. State Budget Director Andrew Clinger '95 (accounting) notes that, since 1979, the state has had a statutory cap on spending.

"In the '08-'09 budget, we're going to hit that cap for the first time," he says. "I think what is also going to make it more challenging in the future is the idea that people want to reduce government spending and restrict tax increases."

A Tax and Spending Control Initiative almost made it on the November 2006 ballot and could return in the future. Such a constitutional spending limit would further compound the impending budget crunch, Clinger says. He points out that unless the spending cap is increased, the state will have no choice but to make cuts.

"Something has to be done to relieve the pressure. Otherwise you're going to be facing tough decisions on cutting back services to deal with our primary function of providing education, public safety and health and human services," he says. "There really will be nothing new on the table because all those things are going to eat up all the money that we have."

Although many share Clinger's concerns,

there are positives. For example, northern and southern Nevada have both enjoyed expanded cultural opportunities in recent years as sophisticated urbanites among the newcomers demand the arts and music they enjoyed in the big cities they left.

"The first instinct as longtime Nevadans is to be grumpy about all these newcomers," says Schumacher. "But my experience with a lot of newcomers — especially from places like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles — is that they bring a lot of fresh thinking to our state and a lot of new ideas that we ought to be considering. They have been through some of this stuff before and we can learn from them."

Sociologist and aging expert Collins agrees. She says that although aging seniors will put strains on the state's economy, they also bring benefits, like "a wonderful skilled, part-time workforce that in most cases does not need health insurance and has a strong work ethic."

"And, most importantly, They're an incredibly diverse, potential volunteer population that could meet a number of community needs." ▢

FLOCKER FILES

Name: Violet Mugala
Age: 43

Now living where:
west Las Vegas

Occupation: soliciting customers for Magic Carpet mini movies, Luxor Las Vegas.

Came to Nevada in: 2006

Where from: San Leandro, Calif.; originally from Uganda.

What she did there: Owned a restaurant/deli
Why here: "I was frustrated that my business didn't work out."

Quote: "I'm happy here. Life is different from what I was used to. There are lots of jobs."



FLOCKER FILES

Name: David Leonard
Age: 55

Now living where:
northwest Reno

Occupation: senior area manager, U.S. Small Business Administration

Came to Nevada in:
2005

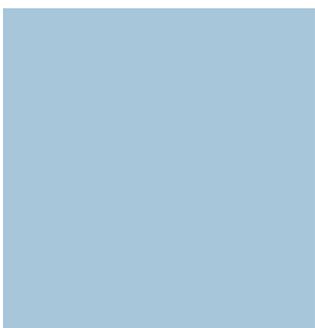
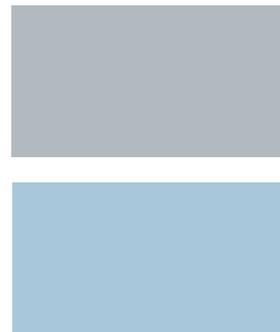
Where from: Birmingham, Ala.

What he did there: the agency's state chief of economic development.

Why here: "I love this area; I love the outdoors. When I was here before I just fell in love with the open range, the idea that I'm driving down a road and all of a sudden some wild horses cross the road in front of me. I literally have had that happen."

Quote: "I'm not against growth if it's careful, smart growth. You don't want to blow what's making really bright, smart people come here."





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HOMELAND ON THE RANGE

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

Basque immigrants didn't have a conventional nationality to give up when they moved to Nevada. That didn't mean they were eager to trade in their identity entirely. If the old country and the immigrants' descendants have their way, they never will.

The three Basque men spot the perfect tree to cut down — a cottonwood about 35 feet tall, nearly without branches, growing alongside an irrigation ditch at a Fallon ranch. Green leaves sprout from the top. The tree's alive, but that's good.

At a Basque wood-chopping demonstration, green wood is preferred, says Juan Brana, 47, a Reno construction worker and father of two. A sturdy, muscular man in T-shirt and jeans, he will wield his ax at Reno's annual Basque festival in Wingfield Park downtown on the Truckee River, now a week away.

Gathering wood for the event is an annual tradition for Brana and other members of Reno's Zazpiak Bat ("Seven as one," a reference to the seven Basque provinces) Basque Club, and when it comes to wood, Brana is picky. During a demonstration one year he chipped his blade on a knot in a piece of pine.

"Those axes are expensive," he complains.

But enough talking about wood chopping. Brana's friend Jesus Goni, 58, is impatient.

"Hey, are we gonna cut it down?"

With a few deft applications of Brana's chain saw, the tree falls, missing a fence and the 1959 Ford Custom Cab of club Treasurer Buddy Barrencea, the license plate of which reads "BBASQUE." Brana slices the trunk into sections that Goni measures using a deleafed twig.

"Basque measuring tape," Goni says, straight-faced.

In his memoir *Sweet Promised Land*, published half a century ago by the University of Nevada Press, Robert Laxalt '47 (English), author and founder of the press, foresaw changes for the Basque way of life.

The book describes his father, a Basque shepherd who'd traveled to Nevada from the Basque homeland in the Pyrenees Mountains between Spain and France to make his fortune. He stayed and made the West his home. But adjustments to the New World were costly. The elder Laxalt, in traveling back to the old country later in life, felt awkward. He worried that his children's

Continues on page 36

Photo by Miel A. Elustondo

BASQUE BLVD

STOP

children would not remember their Basque heritage.

Robert Laxalt invoked Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur's idea of a melting pot into which the singular Basque identity would eventually dissolve.

"And in a little while," Robert Laxalt wrote, "even our sons would forget, and the old country people would be only a dimming memory, and names would mean nothing, and the melting would be done."

Laxalt was wrong, or at least his timing was off. The descendants of the Basque immigrants who flocked to Nevada and other Western states from the mid-1800s through the 1960s to dig for gold, herd sheep, and run hotels are undoubtedly more American than they are Basque. But Nevada's Basques, full-blooded and otherwise, stubbornly refuse to let the culture dissolve entirely into the American broth.

"These people don't melt," declares Margi Silonis, 61, a registered nurse and dental hy-

gienist in Reno. "Their pride's the biggest part of them. They don't melt."

She should know. When Silonis was 9, her mother married the man who is today one of Reno's best-known Basques — Louis Erreguible, proprietor of Louis' Basque Corner.

Silonis grew up working in the restaurant and married a Basque herself.

Erreguible, now 80, cuts his own firewood, tends his garden, and, after 40 years, still serves Basque cuisine at the landmark restaurant on Fourth Street.

"You retire, they gonna throw six feet of dirt in your face," he tells his daughter.

WOOD IS HARD TO COME BY

Back on the ranch in Fallon, Barrenchea, the club treasurer with the aged pickup, rolls a log up an incline. The 52-year-old, retired from the Churchill County phone company,



Joxe Mallen-Olaetxe



Kevin Clifford



Miel A. Elustondo

Lonely Basque shepherders carved words and images on the trunks of aspen trees. This one, in the Tahoe National Forest north of Truckee, Calif., still looks exquisite after 80 years. Lower right: the Villa Basque Deli on Basque Way in Carson City. Upper right: Visiting scholar Pedro Ibarra from the University of the Basque Country with Ph.D. candidate Argitxu Camus Etchecopar in the Center for Basque Studies library on the University of Nevada, Reno campus.

wears a T-shirt with the Basque flag. When he was growing up in Fallon, he says, friends called him "Basco," but he felt little affinity for his heritage. Lately he's been rediscovering his roots.

He traveled to the Basque country and toured parts of the seven Basque Provinces that straddle the western end of the Pyrenees Mountains. Posters and souvenirs from the Basque country now hang throughout the home he built himself in Fallon.

Goni hoists hefty chunks of wood onto the trailer while Brana continues working with the chain saw. Brana and Goni came to the United States from the same territory of the Basque country, Navarra, home to Pamplona and the running of the bulls. Goni is a *bertzolari*, a Basque troubadour who composes verses and sings songs at Basque events and

festivals across the western United States. He has performed at the White House and United Nations.

The men finish their work and clean the site in record time. It's 9 a.m. The sky is cloudy. A few drops of rain fall.

"It was an easy tree," Goni says. "It was going to die anyway, just like me."

Barrenchea goes to his truck for cold Budweisers. The men worry over the future of Basque wood-chopping.

Brana's daughter Stephanie, a sophomore at the University of Nevada, Reno, has been chopping wood since age 13, but she's an anomaly. Wood is hard to come by in Nevada. That makes training difficult.

"It costs a lot of money to keep traditions alive," Brana says. "I wanna retire, but I don't see anybody coming behind me."

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*.

LONG NAMES, SHORT LEGS

The Basques who immigrated to Nevada, Idaho and California kept a low public profile for decades. That's changed, says Carmelo Urza, who heads the University Studies Abroad Program, based at the Reno campus. He came from the Basque country at age 6.

"It's safe to say they've come out of the shadows," Urza says. "It's very cool to be Basque these days."

In the 1980s Urza served on the design committee for the Basque Shepherd Monument at the base of Peavine Mountain in Reno. The abstract bronze work, sculpted by Basque artist Nestor Basterretxea, signifies a shepherd carrying a lamb on his shoulders. Its dedication in 1989 drew hundreds of Basques from around the United States, and Urza wrote a book about it: *Solitude: Art and Symbolism in the Basque Monument*.

About 7,000 Nevadans claim Basque heritage, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. The number seems smaller than one would guess from the impact Basque culture has had on parts of the state. Many communities boast restaurants offering Basque cuisine, from *chorizos* (spicy sausages) to lamb chops. Basque festivals sometimes draw tourists by the thousands. And the only academic center in the world dedicated to study of the Basque Diaspora is at the University. (A younger Basque studies program, with a different orientation, exists at Boise State University.)

The Reno center publishes English translations of classic Basque books, and its library includes 40,000 catalogued books and countless uncatalogued manuscripts, many in Spanish or Basque. A center graduate, Joxe Mallea-Olaetxe, studies tree carvings, some of them pornographic, made by Basque sheepherders in the West.

Mainly a research organization, the center attracts about 100 students a year to its Basque language courses and to other courses that examine such areas as Basque culture, history, art and architecture. Roughly another 40 students a year take Basque studies courses online. The center awards a Ph.D. in Basque studies and currently has five students in that program.

Being smack in the middle of Basque settlement in the West, it's not surprising that the University of Nevada, Reno counts several prominent Basque Americans among its alumni. Those include John Etchemendy '73 (philosophy), '76M.A., provost of Stanford University; and John Echeverria, a Reno attorney and chair of the Basque center's advisory board.

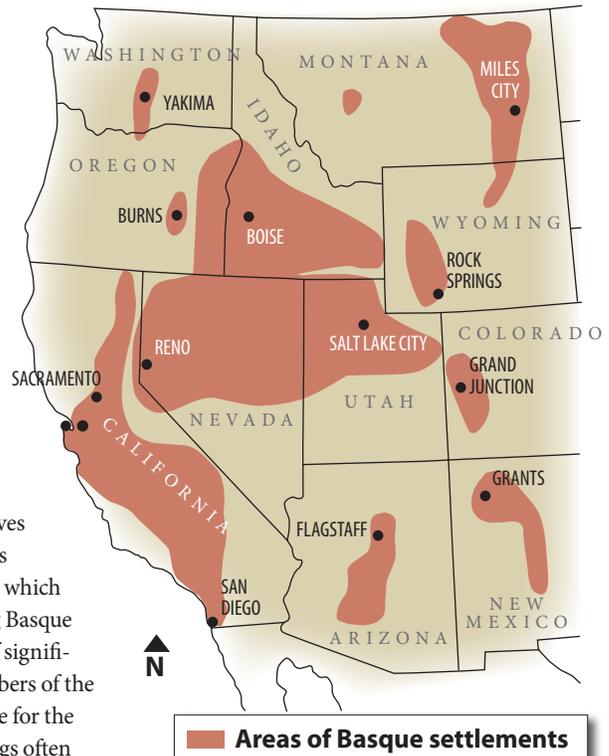
Although it has no political affiliation, the center receives funding for particular projects from the Basque government, which values its efforts in preserving Basque culture and studying issues of significance to Basque people. Members of the Basque government who come for the Nevada center's board meetings often leave impressed, says Sandra Ott, an associate professor of Basque studies.

"They say, 'It puts us to shame. We've heard more Basque spoken in Reno and San Francisco than in Bilbao' [the largest city in Basque country, in the north of Spain]."

Ott, an anthropologist, has spent so much time living in the Basque village of Santazi that, after 30 years, the inhabitants deem her an honorary citizen.

"They say, 'To us, you're Basque, though your name is too short and your legs are too long,'" says the scholar, a tall, slender blonde from Pennsylvania.

The Basque provinces are under the control of Spain and France, but the Basque homeland has in recent years gained the administrative and legislative power to enforce its own laws, collect taxes and run schools. The most infamous group campaigning for complete Basque sovereignty is the ETA or *Euskadi Ta Askatasuna* (Basque for "Basque Homeland and Freedom"). ETA is a paramilitary group listed as a terrorist organization by both the European Union and United States and is



SOURCE: *Amerikanuak Basques in the New World*, copyright 1975

blamed for approximately 900 killings and dozens of kidnappings. ETA declared a permanent ceasefire in March 2006.

Basques like to talk of their ethnicity's mysterious origins. The Basques are regarded as one of the most ancient of European peoples, and some Basques trace their origins all the way back to Cro-Magnon man, the first-known European *Homo sapiens* who survived the Ice Age. Although for centuries other peoples traveled through the Basque lands, traditions and language remained intact for the people of the Pyrenees.

"Everybody went through there," says Dr. Javier Narvarte, a Reno nephrologist (kidney disease specialist) and president of Reno's Basque club. "[The Basques] stayed there and survived."

Some of the Basques who came to the western United States seeking their fortune

Continues on page 38

eventually returned to the Basque country. Others, like the Laxalts, stayed. Journalist and author Robert Laxalt's brother Paul became governor of Nevada and a U.S. senator. He is namesake for the University's Paul Laxalt Mineral Engineering building.

When Robert Laxalt published *Sweet Promised Land* in 1957, many Basque-American families identified with the story. Those who wrote to the author were invited to the first-ever Western Basque Festival in Sparks in 1959. The festival, with folk dancing, weight carrying and wood chopping, was sponsored by the Nugget, a local casino managed by a Basque named John Ascuaga. It inspired similar events in Basque communities throughout Nevada, Idaho and California.

'NOBODY KNOWS WHAT THAT IS'

The sun hangs low on the western horizon. Parents watch from the lawn as the dancers weave along the circular driveway, past potted flowers, SUVs and a card table set up with drinks and cookies.

It's the last practice for the Zazpiak Bat dancers before their performance at Reno's Basque festival. Dance instructor Kate Camino, program assistant for the Center for Basque Studies, shouts praise and directives.

"Ready, jump!"

"Nice, nice."

"Smile, smiling! We love the Basque lands!"

The dancers — male and female, from age 2 to adult — march in pairs. They stop to twirl and leap for the *Behe Nafarroako Martxa*, a traditional Basque dance.

At the festival, girls will wear *poxpolina*, long flouncy red skirts with three black stripes along the hem. Guys will dress in white with red scarves and *txapelak* (berets).

Tonight in the driveway of a home in the Reno foothills, dancers dress comfortably in jeans or shorts and sleeveless shirts.

Tori Barrenchea, 12, sometimes squeezes dance practice in after soccer. She enjoys a heritage that sets her apart from other students at her Reno middle school.

"I like to say I'm Basque and nobody knows what that is — or a lot of people don't," she



Jean Dixon



Jean Dixon



Jean Dixon



Ed Cohen

Wood-chopping competitions and traditional dances are part of Reno's annual Basque Festival. Nevada student Stephanie Brana was the only woman wood-chopping competitor. Jesus Goni (wearing cap) is a bertsolari or Basque troubadour who performs at festivals across the western United States. Bottom, right: A professor of Basque studies, Sandra Ott (third from left), takes one of her classes to an end-of-semester dinner at Louie's Basque Corner in Reno.

says. "It's different and unique."

Courtney Swanson, 15, a Spanish Springs High School student, is learning some Basque this summer as her two cousins are visiting from a Basque province in Spain. They don't speak English. The Swansons don't speak Basque.

The cousins, university students in Spain, watch dance practice. When Camino, who teaches Basque language classes at the Reno campus, translates, the two women — Amaigoia Echebarria, 18, and Iratxe Izurieta, 19

— take advantage of the rare opportunity to communicate freely.

"The music is the same from home," Echebarria says. "But the dance steps are different in our region."

Izurieta is *ilusioa* to see Basque dancers this far from home. Camino frets over a translation.

"Excited?" she says. "No, it's more than that."

Courtney, hair held back in two thick braids, stays after others have left to practice a dance for the festival's close. She grins widely

even without Camino's directive: "Smile, smiling! We love the Basque Country!"

'THEY FOUND IT IN A CAVE'

Lively accordion music drifts over the Truckee River. Curious spectators hike over a bridge to Wingfield Park where dancers in the bright red and white *poxpolina* wait to perform.

Hair is braided. Traditional Basque dancing shoes, the flat leather *abarkak*, are tied with black cord criss-crossing white tights.

Gaven Sarratea, 12, holds a recorder-like instrument, the *txistu*, on which he'll later play a solo, "Ixil Ixilik."

"It's one of the oldest instruments in the world," Sarratea says. "They found it in a cave."

The event gets started late.

"Basque time," says dance instructor Camino, sighing. She's been thinking about the translation of the Basque word *ilusioa*.

"It's more like extremely happy."

A young dancer, about 3, sways with the music near the stage. Her swishing skirt attracts other young dancers. They twirl and snap fingers. Then it's time. A blouse gets tucked in. Dancers line up in pairs.

Master of Ceremonies John Ysursa introduces the dancers who begin with the *Agurra* — a dance of greeting.

Reno's Basque club began in 1966 with 33 people. Dues were \$3. Now membership includes 200 individuals and families. Its annual Basque Festival is a one-day whirlwind of weight carrying, dancing, wood chopping, traditional music and Basque cuisine: lamb stew, *chorizos*, beans and wine.

If turnout at the July event seems low, it's understandable. As part of Reno's Artown celebration, the 2006 Basque Festival competes with a kite-flying competition, the Downtown Reno Wine Walk, kayaking on the Truckee and the *Pirates of the Caribbean* sequel at the Century Riverside.

But *ilusioa* is evident as kids compete by drinking grape juice from bota bags and during the shrill yodel-like trilling of the *irrintizi* (yelling) contest.

An afternoon *txinga proba* (weight-carry-

ing) competition draws a crowd.

By 2:30 p.m. the temperature's nearly 100 degrees. The audience packs into the shade to cheer for women and men who take turns carrying weights across the grass. The rectangular *txingas* (weights) are roughly the size of car batteries, with handles. The women carry 75 pounds in each hand. The men carry two 104-pound weights painted green, red and white — colors of the Basque flag.

The final contestant, Tom Davidson, 43, of Sparks effortlessly outdistances the other contestants, walking back and forth between orange cones, 400 feet, 500 feet ...

"Now he's going for the record book!" Ysura announces. "Tom's going to keep going. We're going to have to turn the lights out and go home. Six-hundred feet and he's still going!"

Davidson, who works for a local paving company, is a Basque weight-carrying champion. But Davidson isn't Basque. He calls himself "a Euro-mutt, like everybody else." One weekend his boss, married to a Basque, invited Davidson to a picnic.

"I guess he thought I'd fit in," Davidson says.

Basques aren't elitists. All are welcome. Davidson fits in.

Chips of cottonwood fly across the amphitheater stage at Wingfield Park. Stephanie Brana, 19, dressed in a white Wolf Pack tank top, chops alongside her father, Juan. Backs are held straight as the choppers stand atop logs. With each well-aimed stroke of the ax, heels rock back. A notch deepens. The logs are split.

Jesus Goni, the troubadour, stands at Stephanie's side offering advice. In the crowd, Stephanie's friends cheer her on. She methodically hacks through two logs.

"My arms are like *uggh!*" she says. "It's a total endurance thing."

A high-school-age dancer walks by. Gone is the bright *poxpolina*, the look of the old country. The teen wears a tank top and shorts. She carries a cell phone.

When the chopping ends, Goni takes the microphone and sings: "Why do you look today for a picnic? Keep the Basque traditions alive. That's the main thing." ■

Sweet promised year

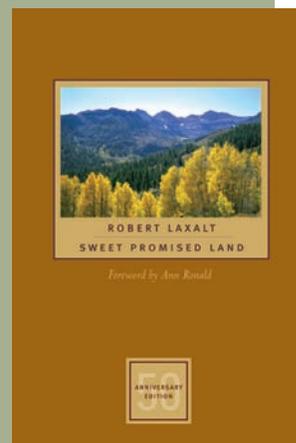
This year marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of Robert Laxalt's seminal work, *Sweet Promised Land*, a memoir of the father of the 1947 University graduate (English) and a reflection on the Basque immigrant experience.

The book, which has never been out of print, is a landmark of Nevada culture that helped redefine literature about the American West.

Throughout 2007, the University of Nevada, Reno Reynolds School of Journalism and several other University programs and statewide culture organizations will be celebrating the anniversary.

The University of Nevada Press is publishing a 50th anniversary commemorative edition with a foreword by English Professor Ann Ronald. Nevada Humanities, the Nevada State Library and Archives, the University's Center for Basque Studies and Friends of the University Library are organizing several events, including public readings from the book and communitywide reading programs.

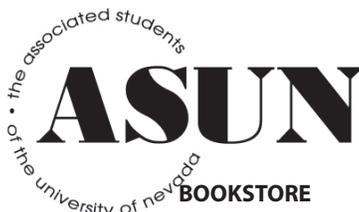
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HOME MEANS NEVADA

UNIVERSITY & ALUMNI NEWS

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Hall of Fame celebrates Marion Motley's impact

The Nevada jersey of Pro Football Hall of Famer Marion Motley hung in the Freedom Center of the Hall last fall. The display commemorated the 60th anniversary of the reintegration of the country's most popular sport.

Motley, a Wolf Pack running back and linebacker from 1940-42, helped lead the Cleveland Browns to five consecutive pro football championships, first in the All-America Football Conference and then after the Browns joined the NFL in 1950. Enshrined in the hall, which is located in Canton, Ohio, in 1968 and named to the National Football League's 75-Year Anniversary Team, Motley gained 5.7 yards per carry in his career, one of the highest averages in pro football history.

In 1946, Motley, with Browns teammate Bill Willis and Los Angeles Rams players Kenny Washington and Woody Strode, entered the National Football League as the first black players since 1933.

Motley died in 1999 at age 79.



Motley as a Cleveland Brown in the early 1950s.



Andrei Derevianko

Jean Dixon

His team changed the world's time

Atomic clocks, the most proficient timing devices known to man, were already accurate to three-quadrillionths of a second. They just became five times more accurate, thanks to research by a trio of University of Nevada, Reno researchers.

Their findings were published last July in the journal *Physical Review Letters*.

Physics faculty Andrei Derevianko and Ulyana Safronova and graduate student Kyle Beloy improved the atomic clock by focusing on how temperature differences can throw off the devices.

All clocks work by counting periodic motions. In a grandfather clock, the motion is the swinging of a pendulum. In an atomic clock, the motion is an electron moving back and forth between two energy levels. That motion is perfectly constant — as long as conditions around the atom remain constant. When the conditions change, it throws off the timing.

Atomic clocks are “set” to a temperature of absolute zero, -459.67° F, the lowest temperature possible in nature. But atomic clocks are often asked to operate at room temperature. This throws off the accuracy by an infinitesimally small amount. The difference might amount to one second every 6

million years.

That sounds absolutely meaningless, and it is on the scale of normal human activity. But in the laboratory, where extremely precise measurements of weight and distance and time are required, the discrepancy can be important.

“You need perfect timing for the digital signals in a network,” says Derevianko. “For example, cell-phone towers house atomic clocks at their heart.”

Another familiar device that relies on atomic clock accuracy (and satellites and lasers) is the Global Positioning System. The timing between satellite and receiver affects the navigation system.

Derevianko, a past winner of the University's Mousel Feltner Award for Excellence in Research/Creative Activity, says his group is collaborating with several experimental groups around the world to develop even more accurate atomic clocks. These would lose only one second over the estimated age of the universe, 14 billion years. Such clocks, he says, could potentially improve deep-space navigation and the timing of digital signals. They'll also help scientists probe fundamental laws of nature.

State's Professor of the Year comes from English

English professor Cheryl Glotfelty was selected as the 2006 Nevada Professor of the Year in a competition sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.



Cheryll Glotfelty

Nearly 300 professors nationwide were nominated by their institutions for their "outstanding commitment to teaching undergraduate students and their influence on teaching."

"Look no further!" a former student of Glotfelty's wrote to the selection committee. "The best professor to ever teach a class is here at the University of Nevada, Reno."

Besides her appealing teaching style, Glotfelty is well known for helping create the nation's first graduate program in literature and environment at the University.

LOOK ONLINE

Read letters in support of Glotfelty's nomination at www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue.

The sponsoring organizations selected one national Professor of the Year in each of four categories of institutions of higher learning.

The groups also named Professors of the Year in 43 states, the District of Columbia and Guam. Not every state had a nominee deemed worthy of the designation.

Students organize Carter visit, governor debate



Jean Dixon

The Young Democrats hosted former President Jimmy Carter's visit to the University's Reno campus Sept. 28. He was campaigning for his son, Jack, who later lost his U.S. Senate bid to Republican incumbent John Ensign. The presidential visit preceded a gubernatorial-candidates debate on campus that was organized entirely by the Young Democrats and their fellow campus student organization, the College Republicans. One of the memorable moments of the debate, which was televised statewide, happened when the Democratic candidate, State Senator Dina Titus, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas professor, mistakenly thanked UNLV students for organizing the event. Titus eventually lost to Republican Congressman Jim Gibbons '67 (geology).

LOOK ONLINE

More photos of the presidential visit at www.unr.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue.

Voters back Nevada public servants

Several alumni and employees of the University of Nevada, Reno ran for public office last November. Here are some of the results:

- Jim Gibbons '67** (geology), '73M.S., governor, won
- Catherine Cortez Masto '86** (finance), attorney general, won
- Mark Amodei '80** (prelaw), state Senate, won
- Bernice Martin-Mathews '70** (nursing), state Senate, won
- Maurice Washington**, former student, state Senate, won
- Randolph Townsend '73** (physical education), state Senate, won
- Francis Allen '99** (political science), state Assembly, won
- David Bobzien**, University webmaster, state Assembly, won
- Heidi Gansert '90MBA**, state Assembly, won
- Sheila Leslie '79M.A.** (Spanish), state Assembly, won
- Bernie Anderson '71** (history), state Assembly, won
- John Marvel '51**, state Assembly, won
- Tom Grady**, former student, state Assembly, won
- Mark Alden '71** (accounting), Nevada System of



- Higher Education Board of Regents, won
- Geno Martini '72** (physical education), Sparks mayor, won
- Dwight Dortch '94** (general studies), Reno City Council, won
- Sharon Zadra '78** (journalism), Reno City Council, won
- Mike Carrigan '97M.A.** (journalism), Sparks City Council, won

Did you run for office? Let us know about it. Send an email to silverblue@unr.edu

Medal honors inventors among alums

The College of Engineering announced the first winners of its Scrugham Medal for alumni. They are:

- **Henry Bunsow '71** (electrical engineering), a patent attorney and a pioneer in intellectual property law. In 2002, he won a jury verdict for more than \$61 million in an infringement case against the telecommunications firm Ericsson Inc.
 - **Tim Casey '84** (electrical engineering), an expert on global Internet law and intellectual property.
 - The late **Charles Douglass '33** (electrical engineering), inventor of the laugh track used for audience reaction in television shows.
 - **Allen Gates, '61** (mechanical engineering), '63M.S., chair of the mechanical engineering department. He launched a national research program to produce biodiesel fuel from algae and weeds. His goal is to replace 20 to 30 percent of the fossil fuel diesel used in Nevada.
 - The late **Ralph Hoepfer '51** (electrical engineering). He took Northern California's rural Foresthill Telephone from a handful of lines in the 1950s to an independent service provider handling a 230-square-mile area with 3,200 access lines.
 - **Paul Reimer '50** (civil engineering), formerly one of nine members of the Department of Defense Environmental Response Task Force, which oversaw environmental cleanup of military facilities the agency was closing.
 - **Ali Saffari '82** (electrical engineering), senior vice president of engineering at International Game Technology. He's helping create a new computer-game degree program at the University.
 - **Ron Toomer '61** (mechanical engineering), designer of The Corkscrew roller coaster, the first to turn its riders upside down three times.
 - **Simon Wong '79** (civil engineering), '84M.S., an award-winning structures and bridge-design engineer.
- The medal is named for James Graves Scrugham, a successful mechanical engineer who became a University professor in 1903. He was 23 and taught for 11 years. He served as the first dean of the college for three years before being commissioned as an Army major during World War I. After the war, he returned to Nevada and was state engineer, state public service commissioner, governor, editor and publisher of the *Nevada State Journal* newspaper in Reno, special adviser to the U.S. secretary of the interior on Colorado River development projects, a congressman and a senator. He died in 1945 at age 65.

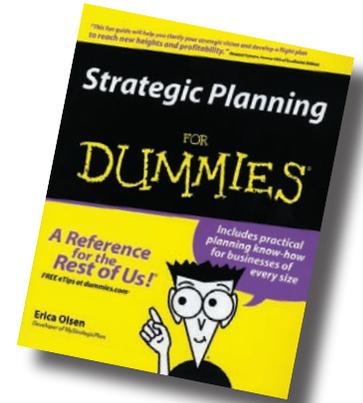
Alum is latest author in 'for Dummies' series

Strategic planning and fun don't often come together in the same sentence, but Erica Olsen '97 (journalism) wants to change that.

She's the author of *Strategic Planning for Dummies*, newly released as part of the famed Dummies book series. Olsen says strategic planning has gotten a bad rap, overcomplicated by jargon, competing semantics and consultants.

"Strategic planning is not just a tool for big businesses," Olsen says. "It's not about taking on additional work; it's about taking all those numerous daily decisions and making them part of an integrated process."

Olsen tested her belief in



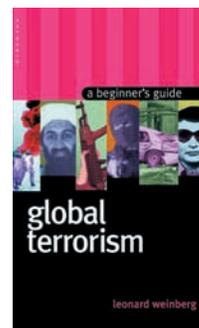
strategic planning by surveying a wide variety of Nevada businesses with the help of University marketing students.

"We found that companies who had a high commitment to strategic planning performed better, reporting 12 percent greater sales and 11 percent better net income," she says.

Prof's terrorism book called best

The best study of terrorism and counterterrorism one can find is by a Nevada political science professor, Leonard Weinberg, according to a trade journal for libraries and book sellers.

In its November 2006 "Polis" special section on the global society, *ForeWard* magazine lists Weinberg's 2005 *Global Terrorism: A Beginner's Guide* (\$14.95, Oneworld Publications) among its "25 Top Books for Today's Bookshelf." Since 9/11, books on terrorism have been among the best sellers worldwide.



The book also has drawn the praise of a lecturer in public policy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Jessica Stern, author of *Terror in the Name of God*, says Weinberg's *Beginner's Guide* "displays vast knowledge, humor, good sense and wisdom."

Weinberg has taught political science at Nevada for 40 years.

All-in-one research center opens at Tahoe

Environmental researchers at Lake Tahoe can now work together under one roof.

Last October, the University, the Desert Research Institute, the University of California-Davis and Sierra Nevada College officially opened the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences. The facility is on Sierra Nevada's campus in Incline Village on the northeast shore of the lake.

The \$24 million facility will house research space for Nevada, the Des-

ert Research Institute and UC-Davis along with teaching space for Sierra Nevada. Nevada's specialty is watershed research. The Desert Research Institute and UC-Davis are known for expertise in atmospheric sciences and water, respectively.

A portion of the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences houses interactive educational displays like this one, modeled on a research vessel.



Jean Dixon

Soccer women make first trip to NCAA tournament



John Byrne

The women's soccer team qualified for the NCAA championship tournament for the first time in its seven-year history last fall.

The team lost to Stanford 2-1 in the first round. The Wolf Pack earned an automatic bid to the tournament by defeating top-seed Fresno State in the Western Athletic Conference tournament final. The game ended in a scoreless tie and Nevada won 4-2 on penalty kicks. (The photo above was taken after that game.)

The team finished its most successful season with a record of 13-5-4.



Jean Dixon

Closed for renovation

The University Inn closed Dec. 22. Originally built in 1967 by Prudential Life Insurance Co. as one of 11 student housing projects on university

campuses in Western states, the facility is being converted back into a full-time residence hall. The University bought the inn, located across from campus at 10th and North Virginia streets, in 1978 and opened the rooms to visiting judges who were working with the campus-based National Judicial College and National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. After renovation, the building is expected to house as many as 270 students. It is scheduled to open in 2008. The extra rooms are needed to meet the growing demand for on-campus housing. The space also may be used as "swing space" to house students displaced by possible renovation and earthquake retrofitting of the Lincoln and Manzanita residence halls.

Engineering alum encourages students to follow in his footsteps

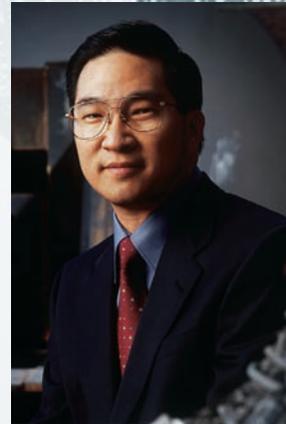
When it opened in San Diego in 1986, Simon Wong Engineering was just that — a civil engineer named Simon Wong. He had two degrees from Nevada (a bachelor's and a master's) and a few years of professional experience in structural engineering.

Twenty years later — and dozens of employees larger — the firm has helped design and engineer bridges and other huge structures from California to New York. Its work has been honored with awards from the American Society of Civil Engineering and the American Public Works Associations, among other groups.

To encourage future engineers and to recognize their accomplishments while they're still in graduate school, Simon Wong endowed the Nevada Medal for Distinguished Student Paper in Bridge Engineering. The medal, which includes a \$1,000 cash prize, is awarded by the Department of Civil Engineering at Nevada to a graduate student in engineering whose research paper on bridge design and safety is recommended by a committee of experts. The Nevada Medal is an international competition that not only supports excellence but raises the University's visibility to excellent students.

Endowing a prize like the Nevada Medal or a scholarship or professorship is a way to promote excellence in one's profession and encourage the next generation to advance the state of the art. In fields like engineering, medicine and dozens of others, that also happens to be the aim of the University of Nevada, Reno.

To learn more about the Nevada Medal or how to support the College of Engineering, contact Melanie Perish at (775) 784-6433 or email mperish@unr.edu.



Jeff Ross

Physicist's contributions range from nano to human scale

Reinhard Bruch's wide-ranging and often groundbreaking research focuses on science and technology on the nanoscale — one-billionth of a meter. Nanotechnology is one of the hottest research fields around and promises to produce huge advances in energy systems, pharmaceuticals, information and communications systems and many other areas.

But Bruch, physics professor and adjunct professor of electrical and biomedical engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno, is also interested in things on the human scale. Since traveling from his homeland of Germany to northern Nevada in 1984, he's helped generations of students learn physics. Now he's pledged a gift that will make possible a laboratory in the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, future home of the College of Science.

Bruch tells us there have been many engineers, scientists and physicians in his family, including his parents, who passed on their values of supporting charity and research projects as a way to help others. Thanks for helping us.

For information on ways to support the physical sciences, please contact Ted Wynn at (775) 784-4591, ext. 3007 or email twynn@unr.edu.



Jean Dixon

Reinhard Bruch in front of the granite pillar that bears his name in the Honor Court on the Reno campus.

ONGI ETORRI GURE ETXERA

IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THESE WORDS, YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

They mean “Welcome to our house” in Basque, the language of the ancient ethnic group that lives in the Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain. Basque is the language that the people living in this house, adjacent to the University, speak most of the time. They're visiting scholars with the University's internationally acclaimed Center for Basque Studies.

The house was donated to the University Foundation by William A. Douglass '61 (Spanish), who established the Basque Studies program at Nevada in 1972. He served as the program's director for 32 years, until his retirement in 1999 (the unit originated at the University's sister institution, the Desert Research Institute, in 1967). He knew that the center often hosted visiting scholars, even government officials from the Basque country. He wanted them to feel at home. So he gave them one.

Douglass' gift will make a difference at the University for generations to come.

You can too.

When it comes to making a gift to the University, donating real estate can offer some of the greatest tax advantages. Many analysts say that the boom in real estate is nearing or has reached its peak. So if you own property, now may be the optimum time to make a gift of real estate and accomplish your charitable goals.

If you like, a gift of real estate can be used to fund a charitable gift annuity that provides regular income to you for life. Or you may choose to continue to live in or otherwise use the property — rent free — even after you donate it.

Of course any gift to the University, whether real estate or some other asset, will be used to help fulfill our mission of teaching, research and service to Nevada.

For information about giving real estate or other non-cash gifts such as stocks, land, artwork or mining claims, contact Planned Giving directors Bob Eggleston or Lisa Riley at (775) 784-1352 or email beggleston@unr.edu or lriley@unr.edu.



Gloria Tortoricaguena

William A. Douglass, founder of the Basque Studies program, donated this house adjacent to campus as a home for visiting Basque scholars.

Donating real estate pays

A donation of real estate can provide you with the maximum tax benefits allowed by law. There are many reasons why donations of real estate are a flexible and beneficial option for you to consider in your overall estate and charitable giving plans. Consider that you can:

- receive the maximum tax deduction allowed by law when you contribute property to a qualified public charity like the University;
- avoid capital gains tax on highly appreciated properties with your gift of real estate;
- avoid the expense and inconvenience of marketing the property;
- eliminate your legal and tax liabilities on the properties you donate;
- attain personal financial goals while also supporting a great charity;
- choose to participate in an opportunity that allows you to diversify your assets and establish an income stream for your lifetime;
- choose to retain the right to continued use of the property, and you can begin to achieve your dreams of charitable giving immediately;
- attain a level of giving you might not have considered possible, through an asset you own now.

Dear Nevada Alumni,

As the 2007 Nevada Alumni Council president, I am excited to welcome this year's slate of officers as well as six new board members (see the list to the right). This group of dedicated alumni volunteer their time and talents to help determine policies and programs the Alumni Association pro-



vides to its constituents.

Throughout 2007, I plan to continue building upon the momentum of the association's task forces: Membership and Marketing, Student Involvement, Volunteer Involvement and

Community Outreach. All four have had much success this past year whether it was doubling the volunteer database, providing networking opportunities for students with alumni, bringing the community to campus for free events, or more than doubling the size of our dues-paying membership program. We will look for even more ways to reach out to alumni through these priority areas.

Finally, the Nevada Alumni Association is your organization. I encourage you to get involved by becoming a dues-paying member, attending events and/or volunteering, or just providing feedback about services you would like to see offered by the association.

For more information about how to get involved and upcoming activities, please visit our website at www.unr.edu/alumni.

Sincerely,

Randy J. Brown '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 Clemo Hanna '96

Jim Conkey '83

Roger Diedrichsen '71

Dawn Etcheverry-Miller '94

Jason Frierson '96

Kerri Garcia '92

Carlos Ledon '01

Judy Machabee '91

Lisa Lyons-Maloney '88

Patrick Martinez '95

Marlene Olsen '74

Mercedes Parsons '84

Stephanie Pesek '97

Lauren Sankovich '98

Chris Vargas '95

Charlie Walsh '86

Reno Iron Works, under the leadership of owner and president **Andrea Pelter '50** (business administration), celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2006.

Robert Wengert '51 (electrical engineering) is happily retired from G.E., living in deep snow – Syracuse, N.Y. – and still teaching a little.

In the fall of 2006, **Bill Boyd '52** (arts & science) retired from the casino industry after many years of service. He often cites establishing the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas as his proudest accomplishment.

Ben Echeverria '61 (chemistry) has moved from New Mexico to Colorado. After unpacking, Ben activated his law license in Colorado and joined the Denver Bar Association. "Retirement was boring," he said.

Nancy (Jones) Brown '61 (accounting) and Lyle Brown '63 (forestry) recently celebrated 45 years of marriage by boating on the Snake River.

Robert Trimble '68 (elementary education), '74M.Ed. (school administration) is currently at Sierra Nevada College as director of teacher recertification. Robert and his wife, Reneal, have been married 38 years. They have five children and eight grandchildren.

A Realtor for 30 years, **Susi Botsford '69** (sociology) has just moved to RE/MAX Realty Affiliates. Since being diagnosed with colon cancer last fall, Susi adamantly encourages fellow alumni to be proactive about taking care of their health.

Joe Hardy '73 (medicine) was just re-elected to the Nevada Assembly from District 20. Joe lives in Boulder City with his wife, Jill. Joe and Jill have eight children and 10 grandchildren.

David Morris '73 (marketing) is one of the Truckee Meadows' top real estate broker/

agents. He has worked with REMAX Affiliates for more than 16 years. He relaxes by piloting his new Cirrus airplane, interacting with its four on-board computers, and seeking new adventures wherever his interests – and the prevailing winds – take him and his wife, Caren.

William Baker '74 (mechanical engineering) is manager of R&D at Vident in Brea, Calif., developing dental implants and accessories. His son, young Bill, is a junior in mechanical engineering and a TKE fraternity member at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Richard Cable '74 (business administration) and his wife currently own four retail stores in western Washington. Richard is also chairman of the board of directors of Worldwide Distributors, a position which brings him to Reno and allows him to visit campus at least semi-annually.

David Thomasberg '75 (managerial sciences) recently celebrated 17 years as a master craftsman plumber at Monterey Bay Aquarium, the only institution to boast two great white sharks in captivity. He and his wife of 31 years, Kathleen, met at White Pine Hall on campus.

Carole Jett '76 (plant science) was recently promoted to senior policy advisor to the chief of the Natural Resource Conservation Service by the U.S. Agriculture Department. While working with the NRCS in Washington, D.C., Carole maintains her home in Sparks.

Bicycle Bananas, owned and operated by **Dan Brown '77** (economics), was recently voted Reno's Best Bike Shop by *Reno News & Review* readers for the fourth consecutive year. Brown is an outspoken member in the bicycle community and has served on the Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board, the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Regional Transportation Commission and the Reno Bicycle Council. He is also past president of both the Reno Wheelmen and the Procrastinating Peddlers.



Michael '94M.P.A. (public administration and policy) and Conny (Rogier) Steele '91 (psychology), '95M.A. (counseling and educational psychology) with their Dalmatians.



Leeann Gallagher '78 (speech and theatre) with students from Kesenumma High School in Japan.



David Morris '73 (marketing) and his Cirrus airplane.



Dan Brown '77 (economics)

Susan Desmond-Hellmann '78 (premedical), '82M.D., president, product development for Genentech, is No. 17 on *Fortune Magazine's* 2006 list of "50 Most Powerful Women in Business." Susan was instrumental in the biotechnology research company receiving four FDA approvals in 2006, including one for Avastin, a drug designed for use by chemotherapy patients with colon or rectal cancer.

Leeann (Colegrove) Gallagher '78 (speech and theatre) was selected as a Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund recipient for the summer of 2006. In Japan she was immersed in the country's public schools, its political structure, and a host family's daily life. Leann has taught English and special education for 22 years in Montana and Nevada.

Allen Forbes '79 (geological engineering), a principal with Forbes Dunagan Struc-

tural Engineers, and his firm are handling the structural engineering for the new Joe Crowley Student Union, which is scheduled to open late fall 2007.

After serving as the executive director of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association for nearly two decades, **Jerry Hughes '79M.S.** (physical education) has announced his retirement. Jerry, an avid bicyclist, skier and fitness enthusiast, will take on a new role as associate faculty in residence in the sports education and leadership department (College of Education) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Judy L. Taylor '80 (political science), '95M.A. (history) has recently published the first two novels of her Cindy Nesbit mystery series. *Cinderella and the Vampire*

Continues on page 52

Wolf Sightings



1 The Nevada Alumni Association proudly presented \$58,000 dollars in scholarship money to deserving students at the annual scholarship reception on Oct. 17.

2 Sherry Rupert '05, Kari Emm '01 and Michelle McCauley '04 celebrate Homecoming with the Native American Alumni Chapter on Oct. 21.

3 Jeanne Reitz and Emeritus Faculty Dr. Ron Reitz enjoy the Emeriti Faculty Tailgate Party, hosted by the Nevada Alumni Association on Nov. 11.

4 The staff of Nevada Security Bank's Moana Branch show their silver and blue pride during Homecoming Week. Back Row from L to R: Julia Danila, Jim Fletcher, Nichole Sundem, Ty Nebe '91, Imel Triumph, Jessica Meriam, Cheryl Lord. Front Row from L to R: David Taylor '99, Ellie Piazza, Leea Mason, Darrick Bissell '05, Matt Dickson.



5 & 6 The USAC "family" enjoys an evening of family-style dining at a local Basque restaurant.



7 Sally Turek and Nancy Batchman chat with Former President Joe Crowley at the Pete Newell Challenge pre-game party on Dec. 3 at the San Jose Tied House.



8 Washington, D.C. area Nevada grads get together at RFK Stadium for the Annual Alumni Baseball Picnic. Front Row L to R: Ryan Nash '00, '04, Ronda Bybee '95 and Bob Fregoso '72, '77, '84. Back Row L to R: Sean Fregoso, Daniel Muller '00, Don Bailey '88, Lisa Whitby '04 and Dick Sherwood '70.



9 Wolf Pack fans made the trip to San Jose for the Nevada Alumni Association's pre-game party prior to the Pete Newell Challenge basketball tournament.

10 Applied Staffing Solutions gets ready to cheer on the Pack during Homecoming Week. Standing from L to R: Erich Schmitt, Chip Lindloff, Karen Oswald, Jesse Jenkins, Tonya Jones, Judy Griggs, Megan Lee, Celeste Petersen, Cecelia Almanza, Sharma Spring, Debi Holm and Brenda Harris. Kneeling: Jim Annis, owner of Applied Staffing Solutions.



and *Cinderella and the Wolf* are available in electronic and print versions from www.hardshell.com or www.amazon.com. Judy writes under the name J. Lee Taylor.

Joseph Fox '83 (elementary education) has retired from the Nevada Air Guard after 22 years as a pilot. Joseph is currently a pilot for United Airlines based in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Lea, are the proud parents of John Patrick Fox, born August 15, 2006. He joins his sister Madeline and brothers Andrew, Matthew and Zachary.

Dale Erquiaga '85 (political science) has recently formed an independent consultancy, Get Consensus, working with businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations throughout Arizona and Nevada. Dale specializes in group facilitation, communications planning and organizational change. He was formerly a vice president with R&R Partners. He and his two children reside in Phoenix.

First Independent Bank of Nevada has promoted **Kip McKibben '85** (finance) to vice president, commercial lending officer. A native Nevadan with more than 12 years of banking experience, Kip is responsible for underwriting commercial real estate loans for the bank.

J. Carlos Velazquez '87 (speech and theatre) has recently joined The National AIDS Fund as the deputy director. Carlos' portfolio includes relief work for areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina, supporting the first AmeriCorps solely dedicated to HIV prevention, and providing technical assistance to a network of 400 grantees throughout the United States.

Western Nevada Community College has recently selected **Marie Gibson '88** (resource management), '94M.B.A. as the recipient of the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty of the Year award. She was chosen out of 290 adjunct faculty members. Marie teaches classes in business, management and accounting and



Kip McKibben '85 (finance)



Marie Gibson '88 (resource management), '94MBA



Nancy Pernarelli '96 (health science), '06MACC (master of accountancy)



Franco Yaconelli '97 (criminal justice)

is a WNCC workforce development workshop facilitator.

Karen (McDonald) Massey '89 (economics) has become a fellow in the American College of Medical Practice Executives, which is the highest distinction in the medical practice management profession. Karen is the chief administrative officer for Northern Nevada Emergency Physicians. She and her husband, Rex Massey '88MBA, live in Reno with their three boys.

Scot Macdonald '90M.A. (journalism) released his second book in November 2006, *Propaganda and Information Warfare in the 21st Century: Altered Images and Deception Operations* (Routledge: 2006). Scot is currently a senior marketing associate at

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and an adjunct professor of international relations at the University of Southern California.

James Upson '90 (English) was recently promoted to branch manager of Brickyard Building Materials in Vacaville, Calif., alongside Sacramento Branch Manager Dan Saulisberry, also a Nevada alumnus. James has been married to Teresa for 18 years, and they have four children, Jimi, William, Tristan and Julianna, and one granddaughter, Amaya.

Maj. Sharon (Rader) Heberer '91 (nursing) married Maj. Christopher Heberer on July 28, 2006. Sharon is currently stationed in Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., where she is assigned as a certified registered nurse anesthetist. She returned in April 2006 from a six-month deployment to Baghdad, Iraq. Her husband, a military police officer, returned in June 2006 after a one-year deployment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

The Nevada System of Higher Education has named **Karen (Denio) Grillo '91** (elementary education/special education) the Walker Basin Project coordinator. Karen will help manage a future comprehensive, collaborative research effort involving researchers from the Desert Research Institute and the University of Nevada, Reno, as well as the acquisition of water rights in the Walker River Basin.

After spending 16 years in Reno, **Bob Moffit '93** (journalism) has returned to

Nevada student elected to lead Washoe Tribe

General studies student Waldo Walker was elected chairman of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California last October.

The tribe has four communities in western Nevada (Stewart, Carson and Dresslerville) and one in eastern California (Woodfords). Its history in the region is estimated to extend to 7,000 B.C.

The 37-year-old Walker, a senior from Dresslerville, previously attended Boise State University and Western Nevada Community College.

Teresa Benson

International Atomic Energy Agency section head

Teresa Benson '74 (management) manages the IAEA's Coordinated Research Activities, which encourage the development of atomic energy for peaceful uses around the world. Her responsibilities are especially focused on the developing world. She is ranked as a U.N. diplomat.

California. He is one of five general-assignment reporters for NewsTalk 1530, KFBK radio, the No. 1 radio station in Sacramento. Bob and his wife, Joan, have two children, Veronica and Maggie, and make their home in Marysville, Calif.

Lisa (Friede) Rebagliati '93 (speech communication) and her husband, Randy, joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, Blaine Ella, on September 19, 2006. Blaine joins big brother Graeden Michael.

Michael Steele '94MPA (public administration and policy) is the city manager of Burnet, Texas. **Conny (Rogier) Steele '91** (psychology), '95M.A. (counseling and educational psychology) is the CPS investigations supervisor for the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Michael and Conny live with their rescued Dalmatians Daphne, Spookie, and Revlon.

Matt Black '94 (English) and **Lauren Nelson '95** (English) are living in Boston with their daughter, Griffin. Matt is an information architect for Arnold Worldwide, and Lauren is legal counsel for the House Committee on Ways and Means for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Tony Illia '96M.A. (English) has received a 2006 Nevada Press Association award for Best Explanatory Journalism for his article "City-Center in Line to be Top Energy User," which appeared in the *Las Vegas Business Press*.

Kelly Miller '96 (resource management), '02MED (secondary education) and Wendy (Courtney) Miller '97 (history), '03MED (educational leadership) were married July 8, 2006, in Reno. Kelly and Wendy are both high school teachers with the Washoe County School District.

Nancy Pernarelli '96 (health science), '06MAcc (master of accountancy), who works in tax for the Reno office of Grant

Continues on page 55

1. Should any country be allowed to develop nuclear energy, or is it too risky with countries like Iran because they might make bombs?

All countries should be allowed to develop peaceful applications of nuclear energy. It's really not fair to limit nuclear technology to a certain subset of countries. If the international controls are strong enough and work well enough, we can certainly make sure the technologies are used for peaceful purposes. These technologies can make important contributions to the development goals in developing countries.



Teresa with husband David Barrett and their children, from left, Shanta Kumara, Jayanthi Mala and Arianna.

2. What does it mean that you're ranked as a U.N. diplomat?

It means I'm one of the higher-level employees of the IAEA; one of relatively few women at this level. It means lots of extra work. It means that when you travel on behalf of the IAEA you are treated like a diplomat. You get those sorts of diplomatic privileges and immunity and are sometimes received by heads of state. Basically it's recognition of the level of work you're doing and opens avenues to you that you wouldn't have at a lower level.

3. Why is it so difficult for poor countries to advance economically?

Very often their access to information exchanges is precluded by policies of the more-developed countries. In order to have access to technology transfers and tools of advancement, oftentimes people in developing countries have to, in effect, sell their souls by accepting work in a more developed country because the employment outlook in their own country is bleak. The developing world is really affected by this brain drain. My group tries to bring researchers in developing countries together with those in developed countries to collaborate on research projects. If the researchers in poorer countries can simply network with their counterparts in the developed world, they're more likely to remain in their home country, where they're needed most.

4. Do you think you'll see a nuclear war within your lifetime?

I do not. If I did, I wouldn't believe in opening the use of nuclear technologies to countries in support of their development. There is a huge amount of political power and pressure that is being effectively used to dissuade the use of nuclear weapons. And I think that, in their hearts, whoever has access to nuclear energy knows that to use it as a weapon would be the beginning of the end.

5. What can the average person do to fight extreme poverty?

The average person can start by putting a halt to this very, very conspicuous consumption and by saying, "I really don't need all of this to live and be a happy person." What it really boils down to is a very low percentage of the world's population is using most of the resources, and it's not necessary. One needs to realize that all the people in the world are interconnected. If you have so much more, people elsewhere are going to have less. Recognizing the interdependence of all human beings — that's the first step, and that's the essential step.

Chapter Updates

Alumni Band

Dawn Miller '94
unrbandalum@hotmail.com

The Alumni Band took a break in 2006, but we will be back and better than ever in 2007. Anyone who marched in the University of Nevada Marching Band for at least one semester is eligible to participate. We plan to have our largest turnout ever for the 10th Alumni Band Reunion, which will gather for 2007 Homecoming events. We send a monthly e-newsletter with updates about members and stories from the past. To update your information, or to register as a member of the Alumni Band, please contact Dawn Miller.

Alumni & Friends of the Reynolds School of Journalism

Kristin Burgarello '97
kburgarello@unr.edu

Alumni, friends, students and faculty gathered at Scripps Plaza on October 20 to celebrate Homecoming. Dean Campbell informed the group about the new graduate program, which will graduate its first class in May 2007.

On November 6, the school welcomed Lou Cannon, former Washington Post correspondent and Reno resident, back to Reno. Lou Cannon, a Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writer, visited with students, met with faculty and spoke at a public appearance. Joe Crowley and Bruce Laxalt were celebrated for their most recent books on November 16 at the annual Lighting of the Hearth.

COBAA Chapter

Caesar Ibarra '00
cibarra@macpas.us

Did you know that COBAAA membership is just \$15 a year? Are you a member? If so, we thank you. If you'd like to become a member, please visit www.unr.edu/alumni, then choose the COBAAA chapter to sign up. Speaking of our website, watch for more information to come in March about the COBAAA kickoff party in the new second story student lounge, as well as the COBAAA Golf Tournament on Thursday, May 3 at Lakeridge.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ Jan. 27, Sacramento Chapter Mystery Bus Dinner.
- ▶ May 3, COBAAA Golf Tournament (Lakeridge Golf Course).
- ▶ May 17 Senior Scholar (Alumni Lounge, JTSU).
- ▶ May 18-19 Golden Reunion.

For more information on upcoming Alumni events, call (888) NV ALUMS.

Native American Chapter

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

The Native American Alumni Chapter has begun planning the 3rd Annual University of Nevada, Reno Spring Pow-wow, which will include traditional food, dancing, vendors and a visit from Miss Indian World, Violet John. The Pow-wow is a collaborative effort between the chapter, Center for Student Cultural Diversity and Nevada Alumni Association. We are currently collecting monetary donations. If you can help, please call Sherry Rupert at (775) 687-8333.

The chapter hosted its first tailgate for Homecoming, and approximately 25 alumni attended. Special thanks to the Nevada Alumni Association for supporting this event.

If you are interested in becoming involved, visit <http://www.unr.edu/alumni/chapters.aspx> or contact Sherry Rupert.

Orvis School of Nursing

Kathie Baldrige '05
orvis_alumni@hotmail.com

The Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association (OSNAA) held a tailgate party with the Nevada Alumni Association prior to the Homecoming game on October 21. We enjoyed a beautiful fall day, with great food and drink and a fun, congenial atmosphere.

Our membership is nearing 100, and soon we will be asking for committee volunteers to assist with planning. Membership will be free through 2007; so if you haven't done so already, please join by logging on to www.unr.edu/alumni, or by calling the Nevada Alumni Association at (775) 784-6620 or (888) NV ALUMS. Look for more fun activities in 2007, including Orvis' 50th Anniversary Celebration.

University Club

Jerrie Marson
drjerrie@sbcglobal.net

After having been in existence for nearly 50 years, the University Club is changing its schedule to offer better food, ambience and programming. In 2007, we will have luncheon meetings at the Siena Hotel in Reno on Feb. 21 and Oct. 17, and dinner meetings on Apr. 18 and Dec. 12.

We recently announced our four scholarship recipients and are working with the Young Alumni Chapter to further strengthen our presence in the Reno Area.

The club congratulates Jack Goetz '43 (electrical engineering), who was honored with a University Service Award during the 2006 Homecoming Gala.

If you would like to join the University Club, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (888) NV ALUMS or (775) 784-6620.

University Studies Abroad Consortium

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

The University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) Alumni Club is at it again! From BBQ's to dinners to coffee meetings, we've started out the school year strong! The International Basque dinner was a great hit with a delicious seven-course meal, wine, and dessert. The atmosphere made us all feel like we were dining in the heart of the Basque Country. It was a great opportunity for alumni to get to know one another and share amazing stories, memories, and laughter. When the weather gets a little colder we plan to show off our skills at the ice rink! If you are interested in coming to any of our events or would just like more information, please contact the USAC Central Office at (775) 784-6569.

Washington, D.C. Chapter

Ronda Bybee '95
crashrb@alumni.gwu.edu

On September 16, Nevada alumni, family and friends gathered for the 6th Annual Alumni Baseball Picnic before watching the Washington Nationals beat the Milwaukee Brewers. The evening was capped with celebratory fireworks! This annual event occurs every September. Be on the lookout for an invite in your mailboxes in August 2007. While it wasn't Mackay Stadium, Nevada alums displayed their pride on October 21 as they watched the Pack beat San Jose State for Homecoming.

Young Alumni Chapter

Seema Bhardwaj '02
Seema.Bhardwaj@GT.com

The Young Alumni Chapter had a remarkable year in 2006! Our first year with membership dues (\$5) brought our membership count to over 115. In April, a record number of attendees took part in our annual Beerfest fundraiser. Due to the amazing turnout, we were able to divide \$16,500 in scholarships among 13 University of Nevada students. In November, our annual Mystery Bus Dinner sold out (as always) and was a success (as always). This year we surprised our attendees with a trip to the Cottonwood Restaurant in Truckee, Calif., where we enjoyed a delicious meal and live music. Without the help of our board members and officers, many community leaders, volunteers, and new members, we would not be where we are today!

Thornton LLP, won the University of Nevada, Reno Outstanding Graduate Student award from the Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Franco Yaconelli '97 (criminal justice) recently won the overall open title at the 2006 Folsom Fitness Extravaganza, winning a National Gym Association professional card in the process. He also placed third in Open Men Lightweight Class in the 2006 Capitol City Natural Bodybuilding Championships in Sacramento, Calif. Franco works as an attorney for Griffin & Griffin Law Offices in Woodland Hills, Calif.

Erica Olsen '97 (journalism) has recently written Strategic Planning For Dummies, a friendly, straightforward guide for business

owners, released in November 2006. Erica is vice president of M3 Planning, a Reno-based strategy development and execution firm, and is a board member of WIN and the Girl Scouts of Northern Nevada.

Travis Foley '98 (electrical engineering) was recently promoted to assistant to the regional manager of Carl's Jr. northern region branch. He currently lives with his fiancée, Misty, and a pug named BK.

Rebecca Rose '99 (marketing) has recently been appointed director of client service for the communications and creative design division of ASG Renaissance in Costa Mesa, Calif. In this position, Rebecca will oversee West Coast operations, including managing the P.R. and creative design staff, providing

strategic direction for current clients, and securing new business.

Maureen Tinker '99 (nursing) and William Dewey were married September 30, 2006, in Lakewood, Wash. Maureen is an Army community health nurse, and William is a terminal manager for a local trucking company. The couple make their home in Lacey, Wash.

In June 2006, **Nancy McBride '00M.Ed.** (counseling and educational psychology), '03Ed.Sp. (counseling and educational psychology), '05 Ph.D. (counseling and educational psychology) earned diplomat status in school neurology from Texas Women's

Continues on page 57

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

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Wolf Cubs



Will Woolsey '02 (computer science) and Rebekah (Newman) Woolsey '03 (biochemistry) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Emma Jeanne, on May 28, 2006.



Monette Greer '97 (chemical engineering) and Brian Greer, '99M.S. (mechanical engineering) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Tyler Austin Greer, on Nov. 27, 2005.



Matthew Wood '96 (accounting) and Kimberly (Griffin) Wood '99 (management) announce the birth of their third daughter, Kailyn Danielle, on May 4, 2006. Matt is an accounting manager for Noble Metal Processing, and Kim is a business analyst for Michigan's Dept. of Transportation. They live in Sterling Heights, Mich.



Mark Mellow '97 (journalism) and Casandra (Fix) Mellow '97 (marketing) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Neva Josephine Mellow, on Sept. 1, 2006.



Sarah (Warner) Ledon '00 (elementary education/ special education) and Carlos Ledon '01 (chemical engineering) announce the birth of their son, William Carlos Ledon, on Jan. 31, 2006. He joins 2½ -year-old sister, Calista Michelle.



Joe Frock '98, (education) and Erin (Taggart) Frock '97, (journalism), '05 CEP are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Xavier J. Frock on Feb. 17, 2006.



Jason Houston, '95 (journalism) and Ellen (Wofford) Houston, '96 (journalism) and '05 C.E.P., welcomed daughter Lily Marie on Nov. 17, 2006.



Ryan Dixon '98 (civil engineering) and Yvonne (Lum) Dixon '98 (speech pathology) are proud to announce the birth of their third child, a son, Brady William, on April 18, 2006. Brady joins his big sister, Annika, and big brother Ryker at their home in Reno.



From left: Christie (Carlson) Gellman '91 (economics), '94M.S. (economics) with son, Jacob; Jennifer (Pliske) Meyers '92 (management) with son, Joshua, and daughter, Madilyn; Trish (Bullentini) Kuzanek '92 (nutrition) with daughter, Emily; Lisa (Hardenbrook) Blauth '92 (journalism) with son, Nicolas; Wendy Kruse-Mills ('87-'92)* with sons, Nathan and Zachary



Addie Walter-Horejs '99 (journalism) and Sean Horejs '99 (journalism) are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter, Delaney Grace Walter-Horejs, on June 29, 2006. Addie and Sean live in Corpus Christi, Tex., where Addie works for CITGO Refining and Sean is a sports anchor for KRIS-TV. They have been married since 2003.

University. Nancy is now board certified through the American Board of School Neuropsychology. In August 2006, she earned national certification in school psychology through the National Association of School Psychologists. Nancy is currently a school psychologist in the Lyon County (Nev.) School District.

Nancy O'Neill '00 (social work) traveled to China in October 2006 on a People to People National Association of Social Worker's professional exchange.

Christina (Sergott) Sarman '00 (marketing) spent a busy summer buying a new house with her husband, Chris Sarman '03 (environmental and natural resource science) and starting a new job. Along with two very dear friends, Anni Chedwick and Nicki Insley, Christina has also created a new baby clothing company, which can be found at www.babytalkonline.com.

John Zimmerman '00 (agricultural and applied economics), '02M.S. (resource and applied economics) has joined the Reno office of Parsons Behle & Latimer. John is a member of the law firm's environmental, energy and natural resources department and practices primarily in the area of water law. The area includes governmental permitting and licensing of water projects and due diligence analysis of water rights.

Amber Brooks '01 (health science) has received her master's in physician assistant from Midwestern University. She is currently a Hospitalist P.A. at the Mayo Clinic Hospital in Phoenix, Ariz.

Rajan Zed '01MBA has been selected as one of nine members of the Reno Police Chief's Advisory Board, which provides review and input on police programs and

Continues on page 60

Alumni Association & Chapter Meetings

January 3

2 p.m. • Fallon Chapter Meeting

6 p.m. • YAC Meeting

January 9

8 a.m. • COBAAA Meeting

12 p.m. • Sacramento Chapter Meeting

January 10

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

January 17

11:30 p.m. • University Club Lunch Meeting

4 p.m. • Past Alumni Council Presidents' Meeting

January 19

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

January 27

8:30 a.m. • Alumni Council Meeting

February 7

12 p.m. • Fallon Chapter Meeting

6 p.m. • YAC Meeting

February 8

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

February 13

8 a.m. • COBAAA Meeting

12 p.m. • Sacramento Chapter Meeting

February 14

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

February 16

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

February 21

6 p.m. • University Club Lunch Meeting

March 7

12 p.m. • Fallon Chapter Meeting

6 p.m. • YAC Meeting

March 8

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

March 13

8 a.m. • COBAAA Meeting

12 p.m. • Sacramento Chapter Meeting

March 14

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

April 4

12 p.m. • Fallon Chapter Meeting

6 p.m. • YAC Meeting

April 10

8 a.m. • COBAAA Meeting

12 p.m. • Sacramento Chapter Meeting

April 11

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

April 18

6 p.m. • University Club Dinner Meeting

April 21

8:30 a.m. • Alumni Council Meeting

May 2

12 p.m. • Fallon Chapter Meeting

6 p.m. • YAC Meeting

May 8

8 a.m. • COBAAA Meeting

12 p.m. • Sacramento Chapter Meeting

12 p.m. • Community Outreach Task Force Meeting

May 10

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

May 17

6 p.m. • Senior Scholar

May 18

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

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Two families. One alma mater.

The Klaich and Nelson families – our Winter 2006 Family Tree Challenge “Featured Families” – are a big part of Nevada’s history.

When Mike Klaich married Patrice (Nelson) Klaich, two families rich in Wolf Pack tradition formed one incredible family tree that dates back to 1924. Together, the Klaiches and the Nelsons have been branching out at Nevada ever since.

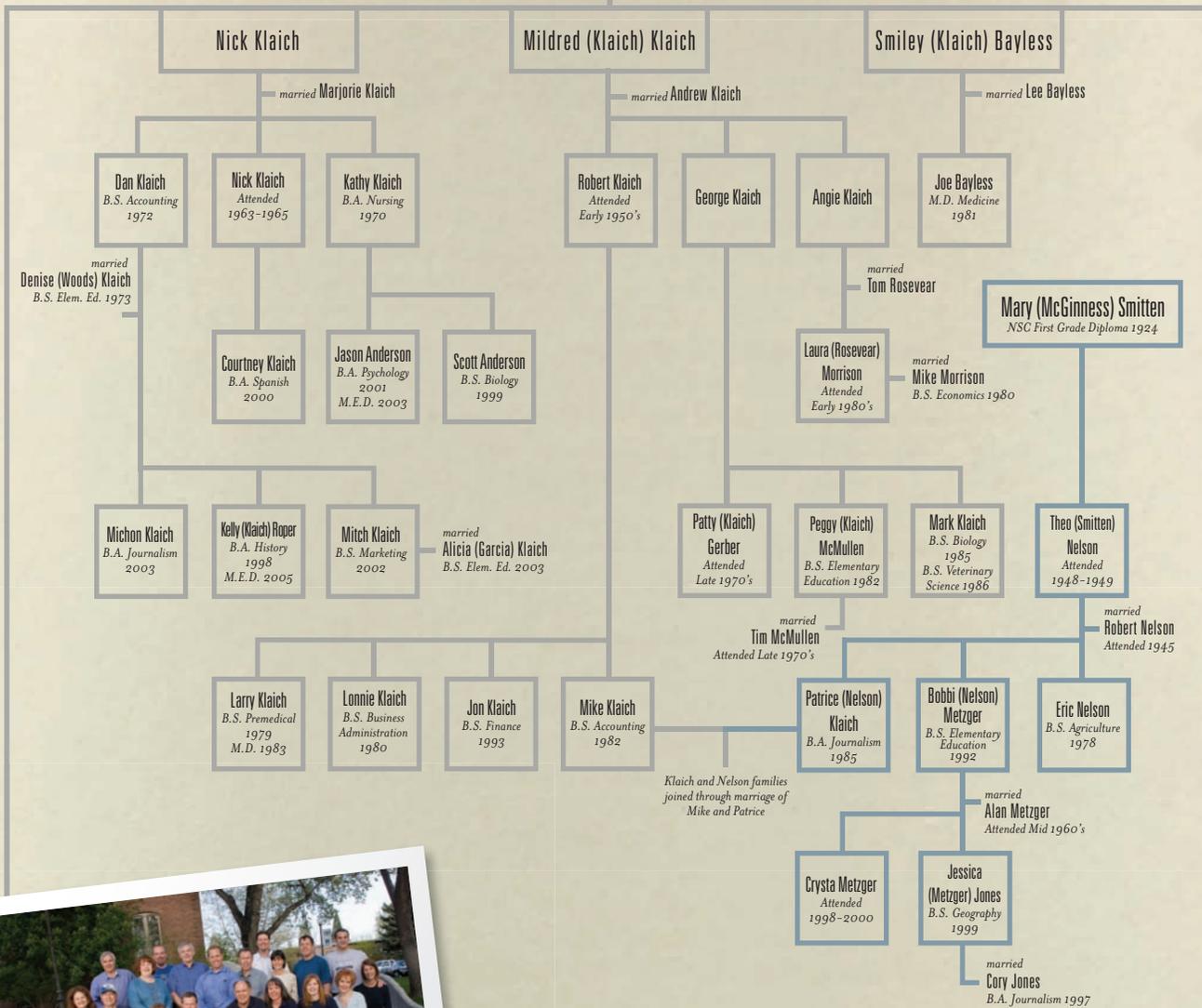


Top picture: Mary (McGinness) Smitten (2nd in from the right)*

Pictures from left to right: Mary (McGinness) Smitten middle back row*, Mackay Statue, Mike and Patrice (Nelson) Klaich attend SAE Spring Formal in 1981.

*Patrice (Nelson) Klaich's Grandmother

FAMILY TREE



Four generations of the Klaich and Nelson families



FAMILY TREE CHALLENGE

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



facilitates contacts between the chief of police and community members, among other duties.

Lake Tahoe Mortgage Corporation has hired **Jason Norris '03** (business) to provide mortgage planning services from the company's Reno office. Jason is currently working toward an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Vince Thomas '03M.D. (medicine) has been accepted into the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University School of Medicine Cardiology Fellowship Program, a highly competitive program that accepts just four fellows annually. Vince enjoys composing music and playing piano, alto saxophone and drums. He also plays basketball and attends and participates in cultural events and community service.

Former ASUN President **Matt Wolden '03** (health ecology), '05MPA (public health) was recently promoted to the clinical quality and patient safety consultant/analyst in the Department of Performance Improvement at UCSF Medical Center.

Lesley Davis '04 (accounting) has been working hard at International Game Technology in the revenue accounting department while having a great time staying involved with the University of Nevada's Young Alumni Chapter.

Former Sagebrush editor **Alex Newman '05** (journalism) has moved to the Washington, D.C., area and joined USA Today as a web producer.



John Zimmerman '00 (agricultural and applied economics), '02M.S. (resource and applied economics)



Rajan Zed '01MBA



Jason Norris '03 (business)



Vince Thomas '03M.D. (medicine)



Castulo Valdez '05MBA



Melissa Molyneaux '06 (marketing)



Jeff Stieber '06 (accounting)



Darren Schank '06 (accounting)

Castulo Valdez '05MBA has been promoted to assistant vice president, commercial lending officer with First Independent Bank of Nevada. Castulo's responsibilities include reviewing, analyzing and underwriting real estate/commercial loan packages. He is currently a candidate for chartered financial analyst (CFA) designation, board member for Make-A-Wish Foundation of Northern Nevada and player for the Reno Astros.

Melissa Molyneaux '06 (marketing) has joined Colliers International as a marketing specialist, preparing sales packages and presentations and assisting in landlord and tenant representation for the office division of the firm. Melissa was recently named

public service chair for Ad2 Reno, an affiliation of A2N2 (Advertising Association of Northern Nevada).

Jeff Stieber '06 (accounting) has been named University of Nevada, Reno Outstanding Undergraduate Accounting Student by the Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants. Jeff works in assurance for the Reno office of Grant Thornton LLP.

Darren Schank '06 (accounting) has been hired as a staff accountant by Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. In his new role, Darren will assist with tax preparation and audit engagements. He previously served as an accounting intern for the firm.



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Wolf Mates



Joanne (Licausi) Johnson '96 (speech communications) and Drew Allen Johnson are proud to announce their marriage in Santa Barbara, Calif., on September 9, 2006. Joanne is currently assistant vice president and marketing consultant for Wells Fargo & Co. Drew is a seed technologist at Seminis Incorporated's worldwide headquarters. They reside in Ventura, Calif.



Middle school teacher David Hartshorn '94 (biology) and marketing director Sarah (Leca) Hartshorn '97 (English) were married during an intimate ceremony in Florence, Italy, in July 2006. Before returning to the United States to celebrate their vows with friends and family, the couple traveled to the French Riviera, the Ionian Islands of Greece and the Amalfi Coast of Italy.

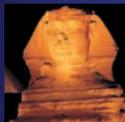


Michele (McArthur) Morris '05 (journalism) and Rob Morris '05 (electrical engineering) were married December 2, 2006, at Anthem Center in Henderson, Nev. Michele and Rob met while attending the University of Nevada, Reno. Michele, an employee of R&R Partners, and Rob, who is working for Paragon Consulting Services, hope to buy their first home in 2007.

VISIT NEW PLACES

2007 DESTINATIONS

EXPLORING
EGYPT



APRIL 10 - 20

TULIP TIME CRUISE
HOLLAND &
BELGIUM
IN THE SPRING



APRIL 21 - 29

BERLIN
DRESDEN
PRAGUE



MAY 12 - 22

SOUTHEAST
ASIA

THAILAND,
CAMBODIA,
VIETNAM AND
SAIGON WITH
MEKONG
RIVER CRUISE



JUNE 22 - JULY 6

ALUMNI
CAMPUS
ABROAD
CHIANTI IN A
TUSCAN
VILLAGE



JULY 15 - 23

YELLOW
STONE
AND GRAND
TETON
NATIONAL PARK TOUR



AUG 25 - 31

IN THE WAKE OF
LEWIS &
CLARK



OCT 26 - NOV 2

ALUMNI
CAMPUS
ABROAD
MAYAN
SPLENDOR IN
MEXICO'S
YUCATAN
PENINSULA



NOV - 3 - 10



The Nevada Alumni Association's Pack Tracks Travel offers an exciting educational travel schedule. You will receive first class customer service from the Alumni Association before, during and after your trip. Alumni and friends alike are encouraged to explore our trips!

Visit www.unr.edu/alumni/travelSchedule.aspx, call (888) NV ALUMS or (775) 784-6620 or email packtracks@unr.edu for specific details on any of the above trips, to request additional information or to book a trip with Pack Tracks Travel.

Remembering Friends



Dr. William Martin Pelter '53 (business administration) died October 23, 2006, at the age of 78. Bill was a gentle, kind and caring physician, a loving husband, father and grandfather. His patients and family came first. Beyond them, his next great love was fishing. Bill attended Reno schools and graduated from the University of Nevada as an ROTC second lieutenant in 1953, during the Korean War. Always active in sports, Bill played on the Nevada golf team all four of his undergraduate years. His partner was often his coach, Jake Lawlor. Bill was president of his college fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, and active in honor societies and other campus organizations. Bill is survived by his wife of 53 years, Andrea (Ginicchio) Pelter '50 (business administration), three children and four grandchildren. Bill was predeceased by his parents and his sister, Peg (Pelter) Jewett. Bill insisted that what would please him most was if those mourning him would gather all their family together and have a happy time: going fishing!

Susan Stenhjem-Brown '72 M.A. (counseling and guidance) died June 27, 2006, at the age of 58, under the care of her husband of 30 years, Patrick Brown. Susan was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority at the University of North Dakota and, as a graduate student, established the sorority's chapter at the University of Nevada, Reno. Susan's true passion was addiction counsel-

ing, and she was a pioneer in the addiction-counseling profession on national and state levels. During her 32 years as a skilled addiction counselor, Susan was often assigned the most difficult patients, including impaired doctors, lawyers and business executives. She was able to guide them to recovery with her toughness, wit and compassion. Susan was also a respected addiction-counseling educator. She was a clinical instructor of neuroscience with the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and taught an upper-division course in addiction counseling at the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D. In her spare time, Susan enjoyed spending time with her daughters, her grandson and her family, as well as bicycling, gardening and reading.



Jim Melarkey '47 (civil engineering) died November 19, 2006, at the age of 84. A lifetime Nevada resident, he attended the University of Nevada, Reno, both before and after World War II. Jim had a very successful basketball career with the Nevada Wolf Pack and was inducted into the Wolf Pack Hall of Fame in 1976. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, David Melarkey. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Betty (Avansino) Melarkey, his two children, Michael Melarkey '72



(political science) and Teresa Mackedon '74 (elementary education), his children-in-law, six grandchildren, two step-grand children, sister-in-law, brother-in-law and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He enjoyed attending Wolf Pack athletic events, his coffee group at the Gold-N-Silver, and his friends at LakeRidge Golf Course, where he was still employed as a starter. However, his greatest joy was his family. He was very proud of his children and grandchildren's accomplishments and had nearly perfect attendance at his grandchildren's sporting events.

Eugene B. "Bud" Longfield '56 (civil engineering) died July 12, 2006, at the age of 81. Born and raised in Reno, Bud entered the University of Nevada in the summer of 1951 under the G.I. Bill after serving during WWII. He and his wife, Suzanne, then lived at Victory Heights on Evans Avenue., moving to three different units over the years as each one fell to the wrecking ball. Not always the finest student, Bud often credited Dean of Engineering Howard Blodgett and professors John Bonell and Robert Poolman for getting him through college. Bud stayed true to his Nevada roots by opening and maintaining Longfield Engineering, where he practiced civil and professional engineering for a client list that truly reads like a Who's Who of the Silver State. He was keenly proud of Nevada, walking practically every inch of it on the job or taking advantage of its bountiful hunting and fishing. Bud is survived by his wife, Suzanne, his children and his many grandchildren, who all miss him dearly.

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ADVERTISE IN THE NEW NEVADA SILVER & BLUE

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Alumni Professional Services Directory

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HOW TO GET LISTED HERE

This is the place to advertise your professional services to fellow alums. Whatever your specialty, spread the word to the roughly 50,000 households that receive *Nevada Silver & Blue*. These are smart local consumers (the majority live in Nevada, the overwhelming majority in Nevada or California), and they would rather do business with a fellow alum than a stranger.

Existing life-members of the Alumni Association can get a listing in one issue for free. New life members can have their listing appear for a year (four issues) with their paid membership. For everyone else, it's \$50 for one issue or \$100 for four.

For more information and to submit a listing instantly online, visit the magazine's website at unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue.

LEGAL - STATEWIDE

Hale Lane Attorneys at Law has offices in Reno, Las Vegas and Carson City and alumni in these specialties:

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WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

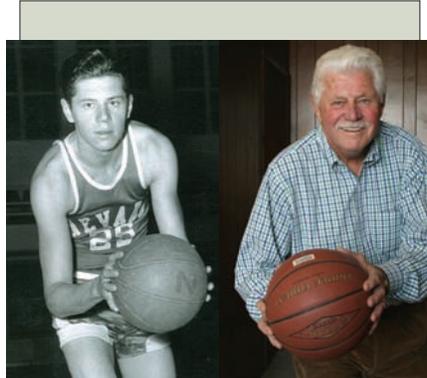
A lot of things: being a first-generation American, graduating from the University of Nevada, being on the Board of Trustees of First Interstate Bank for 25 years and on Saint Mary's Hospital's board for 22. I'm proud of having been chairman of the National Readymix Concrete Association and chairman of the Con-Expo Show in Las Vegas — the largest equipment show in the Western Hemisphere. I was president of the Nevada Associated General Contractors for two years. I'm proud of having been president and half-owner of C.B. Concrete. Our company developed the use of the first natural, lightweight aggregate for concrete in high-rise buildings. We supplied concrete for 99 percent of the high-rises in Reno, Sparks, Carson City and Lake Tahoe.

But I'm most proud of my wife of 56 years and of our family. We have four children who are all happily married and we have 11 grandchildren. We've stayed together in good times and bad. We are all in business together and have a lot of fun.

WHAT DO YOU REGRET?

I've always been very conservative and have let opportunities slip by. I should have moved to Las Vegas with my Readymix operation. As you know, Las Vegas has been booming the last 30 years.

The other regret I have is that I had an opportunity to buy virtually all of Storey County from Curtiss-Wright Corp. (manufacturer of jet engines). During



Bruno Benna '53 (education, business). Born: 1929 • The son of Italian immigrants, Benna was born, with a midwife's help, in his family's home in Garfield, N.J., about 10 miles from Manhattan. He came to Nevada on a basketball scholarship, played for legendary Coach Jake Lawlor, and has lived in Reno ever since. He met his future wife, Edna, at a Homecoming party at his fraternity house, Phi Sigma Kappa, in 1948. They married two years later. After graduation, he taught at Billingham Junior High School for one year. But with one child born and another on the way, he decided he needed to make more money. He accepted an offer to go to work for a former teammate of his, Ingvar Christensen, in the Christensen family's concrete business. The two have been business partners for 45 years — first in C.B. (for Christensen, Benna) Concrete Company and now, Rilite Aggregate Company.

World War II they bought all the available land in Storey County to test jet engines. Later on I could have bought it all for a million-three. At the time I didn't have a million-three. But if I'd been more aggressive I could have found the money somehow. Then, again, I wouldn't have had the time to spend with my family.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW COLLEGE GRADUATE?

Get a job in your field, and if you find you don't like it, get out as soon as possible and never look back.

Give your employer a day's work for a day's pay.

Get involved in the community — in the arts, service clubs, the University, your church, different organizations — use your expertise, and it will come back tenfold.

Be social. Talk to a lot of people. Listen to what they have to say. Many times opportunities come up just by listening and talking. Take advantage of those opportunities.

When I was still going to school and tending bar at the Little Waldorf (located where the Eldorado Hotel is in downtown Reno) a businessman gave me some advice. I asked him, "What do I need to do to make money?" His answer was, "Think money 24 hours a day, and you can't miss. What you will miss is your family and life itself."

My other quote is from George Washington: "Get what you get honestly. Use what you get frugally. That's the way to live comfortably and die honorably."

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. If you'd like to try your hand at this exercise in introspection, 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 where you can be reached. Don't exceed 650 words. The magazine will print one submission per issue. Others may be posted at the *Nevada Silver & Blue* website, www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue.

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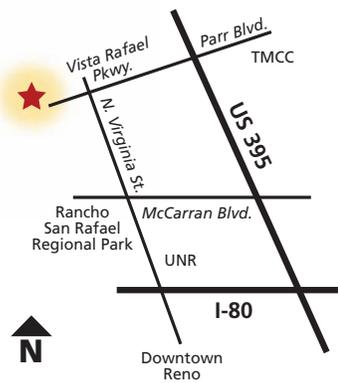


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