

# NEVADA

Silver&Blue

The magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno • Summer 2008



## Health Sciences:

The future of Nevada Medicine

## New Imaging Technology

*Offers early MS diagnosis*

## MALIN PRUPAS

More to life than work

## Overwhelmed by junk

ARE YOU A COMPULSIVE HOARDER?



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## From the President

# Ensuring a healthy Nevada

As Nevada grows and matures as a state, health care and research are key to providing a high quality of life for our citizens. The University of Nevada, Reno is home to the state's medical school and bears a large part of the responsibility for ensuring a healthy Nevada. Our new health sciences precinct in the north part of the campus gives visibility to our commitment and will provide the facilities needed to do cutting-edge research. The build-out of the Health Sciences Division will be an important part of this effort. The new Center for Molecular Medicine is a public-private partnership with support from University research indirect costs, the Whittemore Peterson Institute and the Nevada Cancer Institute.



Milton Glick with John McDonald,  
Vice President Of Health Sciences

We are also taking important programmatic steps to ensure that this build-out will create the type of cross-disciplinary collaboration that will have maximum impact for the people of Nevada. With new knowledge and discoveries occurring in the health sciences, it seems only natural that we, as an institution, should be taking the lead in helping to translate these advances to our citizens. The first decade of the 21st century has made it abundantly clear that the future of the health sciences is tied to the intersections of many disciplines, with more and more scientists and researchers realizing that their work can and should be in partnership with others. The Health Sciences Division greatly improves the University's ability to meet the state's short-term needs—graduating more doctors and nurses to care for the country's most rapidly growing population base—as well as, in the long-term, to create the partnerships and teamwork that take scientific insights and transform them into the best possible health care, treatment and outcomes for the people of Nevada.

In a broader sense, our new medical precinct is emblematic of a movement on our campus toward what I have called a "sticky campus". I have said before that our new facilities (the Joe Crowley Student Union, the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, the Davidson Mathematics and Science Building) are transformative: They form the basis for a sticky campus—a place where people come and engage. These facilities are key to our core missions of instruction and research. We want to build an environment where the best students come, learn and graduate. We want facilities that attract the best scholars. New, expanded facilities represent more than new square footage for our campus—new space is symbolic of the kind of university we want to be, and the kind of faculty and student scholars we want to attract to our university.

It is my hope that we have communicated that the University cannot be successful if it is separate from the community. The University has almost 20,000 students, faculty and staff—not to mention a significant alumni base in Washoe County. In numbers alone, we make a significant impact on the economy. But this impact reaches well beyond purchasing power and wages. Our teaching and research enterprise make us an economic anchor for the region, and our contribution is *knowledge*. We need your support, and in return we will give you the best that we have to offer: the best graduates—graduates who will build a new economy and transform the great industries that built this state; research that enhances the quality of life in Nevada; and a partner to work hand-in-hand with business, government, industry and the citizenry.

It is the ideas and the knowledge that ferment in the University, the talent we produce, and the ability to transform lives, not just of our students but of the entire community, that drive me and my colleagues to enhance this fine University and the quality of life in Nevada; to make this a point of pride for the region and an economic and intellectual magnet.

Without you, we can operate but we cannot *innovate*—we cannot transform society.

Without your investment, we can continue to be good, but we cannot be great.

Sincerely,

**Milton D. Glick**  
President

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

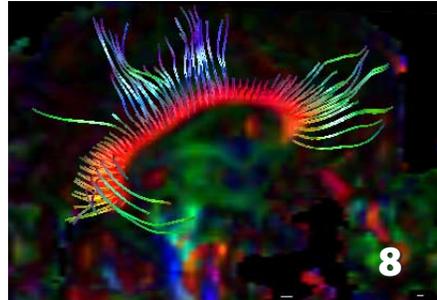
Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

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**About the cover**

Photographer Dave Smith took this picture of Craig Nielson, a third-year resident in the University of Nevada School of Medicine's pediatric residency program, as Nielson and Echezona Ezeanolue, director of the pediatrics residency program and assistant professor of pediatrics, conduct a well-baby checkup on 22-month-old Jenaya Mathis, daughter of proud parents Lana and Johnnie Mathis of Las Vegas, at Ezeanolue's Las Vegas clinic.

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- Three faculty named 2008 Foundation Professors** – Full story about all of the Honor the Best Awardees.
- Commencement Photos** – Photos from Nevada's May 17 Spring 2008 Commencement.
- Med School Hooding Photos** – Photos from the School of Medicine's annual hooding ceremony.
- Mackay Week Photos** – Photos from Nevada's Mackay Week event.
- Fred Anderson: father of the School of Medicine** – Read the full story from the files of the University of Nevada Oral History Program.

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# State faces critical need for medical education

By Melanie Robbins '06M.A.



The University of Nevada School of Medicine is struggling to keep pace with the skyrocketing health care needs of the citizens of Nevada.

That's why the Board of Regents recently voted to set funding for the Health Sciences Education Building on the Reno campus as its top priority in the upcoming legislative session.

In the recent swath of budget cuts that hit the state, some \$35 million in matching funding for the \$48 million, 51,000-square-foot building was cut. Tellingly, \$3 million in planning funding was retained, indicating that the

project was of high priority for the state, as well as the Nevada System of Higher Education.

Vice President for Health Sciences John McDonald explains the dire need for the building, as well as expansion of health sciences programs statewide:

"The University of Nevada School of Medicine started 40 years ago as a community-based school at about the same time as a number of other medical schools were started around the country," he says. "The goal was, and still is, to train practitioners for the state of Nevada."

## Critical shortage

Now, the state of Nevada is facing a critical shortage of nurses and doctors, with both groups ranking among the lowest provider-to-population ratios in the nation. A 2007 report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shows Nevada as leading only California in having the lowest number of registered nurses per capita in the nation.

A 2006 study by LarsonAllen, a Minnesota firm tasked with evaluating Nevada's medical education and capacity, concluded that the state's medical school is too small to meet the state's growing needs, and recommended



Rendering courtesy SYWB Architects

*The 51,000-square-foot Health Sciences Education Building is the Board of Regents' top funding priority. The building will allow the University to expand its physician and nurse education programs.*

developing a health sciences center so that medical and graduate medical education opportunities would increase dramatically.

"Forty years ago, nobody anticipated what the state would look like now," McDonald continues, "a major population center in the south, a booming population center in the north, and the entire state the fastest-growing in the country the last 20 out of 21 years."

## NUMBERS:

School of Medicine spending on medical education, patient care services and capital improvements generated **\$120.2** million in total output in 2006. School of Medicine activities generated **\$39.5** million in employee compensation and **\$3.8** million in other income to Nevada businesses. In addition to the **1,671** faculty, resident and staff jobs, School of Medicine activities directly and indirectly support another **962** jobs in other businesses across the state.

*Source: The Impact of the University of Nevada School of Medicine on the Nevada Economy (April 2007)*

Other states that started their medical schools at the same time as Nevada have managed better than Nevada to deliver health care professionals to their communities.

"We have a high-quality medical school, but we don't have a complete medical school," McDonald says. Having residencies and fellowships—post-graduate specialty training—in state is key to retaining doctors in Nevada. "Research shows that if physicians complete their residency training in a given location, they are much more likely to stick, to practice in that location," McDonald notes.

Currently, Nevada loses many of its students to out-of-state post-graduate programs. While Nevada graduates are highly competitive, matching with programs of their choice virtually 100 percent of the time, "We'd like to be able to offer them the choice to stay here," he says. But growing residency training programs requires dedicated faculty. The School of Medicine has the lowest ratio of faculty to residents in training of any of the surrounding states. Moreover, the school lacks some of the critical core specialties such as pulmonary medicine, gastroenterology, cardiology and neurology. "We don't have fellowships in any of these

specialties, so our students seek residencies in programs where they have a greater opportunity to be accepted into fellowships."

### Evolution of health care

In addition, health care in the United States is being forced to evolve due to its high cost—higher than any other developed country—and inefficiencies.

"Our health care costs per individual are twice that of any other developed country," McDonald says. "More than 16 percent of the gross domestic product goes to health care; that's roughly one dollar in six—an astonishing figure. It's actually the largest segment of the economy. It's twice the defense budget."

If we were paying for high-quality, well-managed care that served everyone, this might be acceptable, but we're paying for a system that fails to cover some 47 million who are uninsured, and focuses on acutely ill patients and trauma victims, rather than chronic disease, which accounts for the bulk of the cost.

### Integrated care

A preponderance of health care dollars is spent managing about 20 common, chronic ill-



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Recent graduate Whitney Ice '08 (nursing) receives airway management instruction from Assistant Professor Kim Baxter. "I know for a fact that patient simulators like 'Frank' (SimMan) help students when they enter the workforce with live patients," Baxter says. "When nurses are called into duty, it seems that muscle memory kicks in. There isn't always a lot of time to think when someone is crashing."

nesses such as arthritis, heart disease, diabetes and hypertension, McDonald notes. Research shows that there are better outcomes at a lower cost for those who suffer from these diseases when they are cared for in an integrated health care system—so-called "one-stop-shopping"—such as that pioneered by the Veterans Administration, which employs a team approach and uses an integrated electronic medical record database.

An integrated electronic database will include the health, medication and allergy history and will flag any new team member with appropriate information, such as reminders about preventative measures or when it's time for a routine checkup.

"A person with diabetes, for example," Mc-

Donald explains, "needs foot exams, nutrition counseling and tests for kidney function. In an integrated system, you don't need reminders to schedule the patient for these elements of care, they pop up electronically and keep reminding you until the tests and visits are completed."

The lack of integrated systems results in an accumulation of redundancies: repeated unnecessary tests, disarray and mistakes made in medication and health histories, and wasted time spent giving each new provider health, insurance and medication information. These inefficiencies drive costs up, with ramifications beyond health care. "In a global economy, it's increasingly difficult to have 8 or 10 percent more added to the cost of your product due to health care costs for workers," McDonald says.

## Team approach

To meet demand for health care practitioners educated to work as an integrated team—nurses, doctors, social workers, nutritionists and others—the University of Nevada, Reno recently reorganized to create a Division of Health Sciences that includes the schools of medicine, nursing, social work, public health and other units, many of which were in the College of Health and Human Sciences. (See chart below.)

Patsy Ruchala, director of the Orvis School of Nursing, says the integration of the health sciences programs will bring together faculty and students in a way that facilitates joint learning: "Both medicine and nursing have their own curricula that they have to impart to their students, but when our students graduate, they will be working together as part of a team."

One joint learning opportunity will come about by consolidating the human simulator resources of medicine and nursing once the new Health Sciences Education Building is built. The facility is earmarked for joint use by nursing and medicine. Currently, medicine

# Division of Health Sciences

**John McDonald**  
Vice President of Health Sciences



**School of Public Health**  
Dana Loomis, director



**School of Social Work**  
Denise Montcalm, director



**Orvis School of Nursing**  
Patsy Ruchala, director



**School of Medicine**  
Ole Thienhaus, dean



**Gerontology**  
Betty Dodson, director



Photo by Jean Dixon

uses “Stan,” a virtual male (although Stan has some interchangeable parts), while nursing uses “Noelle,” a simulated pregnant woman and baby, as well SimMan and SimKid. Human simulators are robots that can be programmed to simulate many real-life critical situations, for example, cardiac arrest, or in the case of Noelle, who “gives birth to a baby,” an obstetric emergency. If these robots receive the wrong treatment, they will respond as a live patient would, and will even “die.”

### Fast-track programs

One way to address the need for additional doctors and nurses is to fast-track nursing and medical education programs. In order to bring more doctors and nurses to the community more quickly, both nursing and medicine have developed fast-track programs.

The education of doctors takes anywhere from 12 to 16 years—eight years to earn an undergraduate degree and graduate from medical school, followed by a minimum of three years, often five, in a post-graduate residency program, and then another one to three years in a specialty fellowship. To speed up the process, the School of Medicine has developed

*University of Nevada School of Medicine’s Class of 2008 consisted of 49 graduating students, who celebrated completion of their medical education by receiving their academic hoods and reciting the Hippocratic Oath, which reaffirms their commitment to the medical profession.*

a B.S. to M.D. accelerated degree early admission program, which will launch this fall. The program allows motivated, bright high school students to apply to the School of Medicine in their senior year, with guaranteed acceptance three years later, as long as they successfully complete the rigorous academic program. The B.S. to M.D. shaves one year off their undergraduate education and lets students skip the grueling process of applying to various medical schools.

The Orvis School of Nursing has long been at the forefront in providing innovative nursing education. They were the first nursing education program in Nevada and the first in the state to provide both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nursing. The entry-level BSN program runs year-round with classes in

fall, spring and summer. This pace, while intense, allows students to graduate and become eligible to enter the workforce one semester sooner than if they were on a traditional fall-spring schedule. The R.N. to BSN program is an online program for registered nurses who have already completed an associate’s degree in nursing to obtain a bachelor’s degree. The Orvis School of Nursing also offers a master’s degree in nursing to prepare nurses at the graduate level as clinical nurse leaders, nurse educators, and family nurse practitioners. **N**

*For more information on ways to support health sciences at Nevada, please contact Stefanie Scoppettone, director of development for the School of Medicine, at (775) 682-9143 or email [scops@unr.edu](mailto:scops@unr.edu).*

Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas

# Health Sciences



**Sanford Center for Aging**  
Larry Weiss, director



**Campus Recreation and Wellness**  
Steve Pomi, director



**Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies**  
Nancy Roget, director



**Center for Program Evaluation**  
Elizabeth Christiansen, director



**Nevada Center for Ethics and Health Policy**  
Noel Tiano, director

# School of Medicine program helps moms with HIV deliver healthy babies

By Melanie Robbins '06M.A. Photos by Dave Smith.



TOP: Echezona Ezeanolue in his Las Vegas office. INSET: Craig Nelson, a third-year resident in Ezeanolue's pediatric residency program, and Jaswinder Singh, a physician observer from India, pose with their mentor.

Since Echezona Ezeanolue, assistant professor of pediatrics in Las Vegas, implemented the Nevada Care Program to identify and treat expectant mothers who are infected with HIV, no infants in Las Vegas have been born with the deadly virus.

"We can reduce the risk from 30 percent to 1 percent," he says, of the program that began operations in 2007. Ezeanolue, a Nigerian native known to his patients as "Dr. EeeZee," says that the first step is to identify mothers with HIV, then treat them with antiretroviral drugs, and follow up by monitoring the baby.

In Las Vegas, approximately 500 women of childbearing age (15 to 44 years) are infected with HIV, according to Ezeanolue. In 2005,

following a six-year period when no Clark County babies were infected perinatally (during their time in the womb, at birth, or following birth via breastfeeding), 20 HIV-infected mothers gave birth. Of those, four babies became infected with HIV.

The virus has proven fatal in more than half of children who acquire it. Of the estimated 8,460 United States children infected with HIV from their mothers since the epidemic began, some 4,800 (57 percent) have died, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion. Transmission of HIV via the mother is the most common route of HIV infection in children in the United States, and the source of almost all cases of AIDS in children, according to the CDC.

Therefore, Ezeanolue fought together with local partners for a 2007 state bill that requires providers to perform HIV testing on pregnant women and newborns, with consent

## NUMBERS:

According to the Academy of American Medical Colleges, the percentage of physicians who complete residency training in Nevada and stay to practice is **62** percent. Nevada ranks third in the nation for the number of physicians who stay to practice once residency training is completed. The national average is **47.6** percent.

of the mother. The law went into effect in October 2007.

“HIV is something that, thank God, we are seeing less of in pediatrics because of intervention programs,” he says. “But if you don’t continue to do these programs, you can reverse what you have achieved.”

“While the number of cases in children has decreased, the number of infected women has actually gone up,” he notes. “In 1985, women accounted for only about 7 percent of all cases of HIV. Now women account for 26 percent.”

The Nevada Care Program provides an integrated, comprehensive approach to combat the three most common preventable perinatal infections: HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis.

The program, directed by Ezeanolue, is a partnership among the School of Medicine’s departments of pediatrics and obstetrics and gynecology, and University Medical Center’s Wellness Center. It has received funding from a \$1 million Ryan White Title II grant from the state, as well as close to \$400,000 from an anonymous donor. [N](#)



## School of Medicine’s students and programs held in high regard nationally

The proof is in the pudding. Or, in the case of medical residency programs, it’s in whether your program can attract the top students in the nation. The University of Nevada School of Medicine’s surgery residency programs this year matched their top choices in both general surgery and plastic surgery from a nationwide slate of applicants.

“That’s success,” according to William Zamboni, ’80 (premedical), ’84M.D., chair of the Las Vegas-based Department of Surgery. “Out of more than 200 applicants, we ranked No. 1 and matched that person.”

The National Resident Matching Program is a private, not-for-profit corporation that provides an impartial venue for matching applicants’ and programs’ preferences for each other by reviewing their individualized rank order lists. Each year, approximately 16,000 U.S. medical school students participate in the residency match.

“That’s what it’s all about,” Zamboni says: “Creating the best training programs—not just mediocre programs—our programs are considered some of the best in the country. Success is having our own students matched to the training programs of their choice.”

In addition to attracting top residents to Nevada, the School of Medicine’s Class of

*William Zamboni ’80, ’84M.D., chair of the Department of Surgery, conducts an operation to remove a growth from the back of Dr. Joseph Millstein, a retired anesthesiologist from California, with the help of Peter Letourneau, chief plastic surgery resident. Mara Zulauf, a third-year medical student from Las Vegas observes. “I see people coming out very happy,” Zulauf says. “The surgeries are awesome.”*

2008 matched all 48 of its graduates in 29 different institutions across the United States, with some matching with the most competitive residency training programs, including placements with University of California, Davis Medical Center, UCLA Medical Center, University of Southern California and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H.

The Department of Surgery also has fellowships—specialized training beyond residency training—in surgical critical care as well as in hand and microsurgery. The hand and microsurgery fellowship has been in existence for 10 years. “We have trained some of the best people in the country,” Zamboni notes.

In addition, the department has launched the world’s first-of-its-kind fellowship in acute care surgery, under the direction of John Fildes, professor and vice chair of the department and director of the state’s only level-one trauma center at University Medical Center in Las Vegas.

Zamboni, who started the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Nevada School of Medicine in 1994, also initiated the state’s first replantation and microvascular program at University Medical Center, now the fourth-busiest center in the country. He is known for his pioneering work in treating limb reattachment patients using hyperbaric oxygen.

—Melanie Robbins ’06M.A.

# Casting light into darkness

By Mark Neil Levine. Photos by Dave Smith.

Long before the ravages of multiple sclerosis—a disabling disease affecting as many as 400,000 Americans—become evident, the disease is making its way deep inside the victim’s brain, destroying the protective myelin sheath that surrounds microscopic nerve fibers. When these nerve fibers, or axons, are destroyed, nerve impulses to and from the brain are disrupted, resulting in a variety of symptoms ranging from numbness in the limbs to paralysis and blindness.

If treated early, the course of the disease can be slowed. Until recently, the earliest stages of multiple sclerosis were undetectable even by the best magnetic resonance imaging technologies, and its symptoms can mimic other disorders, including depression. The cause of multiple sclerosis is unknown and there

*Mark Neil Levine is senior director of health science communication.*

is no cure. However, researchers at the University of Nevada School of Medicine are making steady progress in casting light into the darkness that is multiple sclerosis. Sophisticated new magnetic resonance imaging techniques are shedding new light on this disorder.

According to Dr. William Orrison, chief of neuroradiology at Nevada Imaging Centers and adjunct clinical professor with the School of Medicine, “We can view the brain in ways not possible just a few years ago, thus leading to quicker, more definitive diagnosis and the opportunity to begin treatment months and years before the symptoms might otherwise present.”

One of the most promising new diagnostic tools used at the School of Medicine is Diffusion Tensor Imaging or DTI, which uses a technique called “fiber tracking,” in which molecules of water within nerve fibers are imaged and color-coded depending on which way they are traveling, up-and-down or side-to-side. Because the water molecules are trapped

within minute nerve fibers, their motion is restricted. The fibers become visible onscreen as slender, threadlike bands of color—similar in appearance to a sea anemone’s tendrils.

Orrison notes that the major advantage of fiber tracking and DTI imaging is the ability to actually visualize the brain’s complex cabling system. This system interconnects neurons, the brain’s nerve cells, in the intricate wiring required for brain function.

DTI reveals dramatic differences between a brain structure called the corpus callosum in healthy individuals and patients with multiple sclerosis. In multiple sclerosis patients, the nerve fibers are clearly damaged or missing. This technique has promise for early diagnosis, and thus the evaluation of new drugs once this preliminary work is confirmed.

While the exact cause of multiple sclerosis is unknown, it is clear that the immune system plays an important role in the disease. Myelin and axons—even neurons themselves—get attacked in this autoimmune disease. The disease is often characterized by episodes of improvement and deterioration generally resulting in sensory, motor and cognitive problems.

A suspected cause is a combination of genetics and environmental factors, says Dr. Steven Glyman, School of Medicine associate professor of neurology and one of the country’s leading multiple sclerosis clinicians. “There are clusters of multiple sclerosis, not in Nevada, but in the northern hemisphere,” he notes. These clusters lead researchers to speculate that sunshine, or the lack of it, and resulting lowered levels of Vitamin D could contribute to producing multiple sclerosis in those with a genetic predisposition to the disease.

Glyman has developed a strong clinical research program as he and his team investigate clinical drug trials to treat multiple sclerosis, as well as Parkinson’s disease, restless leg syndrome and other neurological diseases.



Glyman’s team includes Orrison; Phil Patton, associate professor of health physics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Dr. Eric Hanson, chief of research and education at Amigenics, Inc.; and stereolithographer Timothy Mueller.

Hanson, a research scientist with a strong background in genetics, is interested in studying how the different patterns of disease correlate with the patients’ genetic make-up. This combined approach of studying imaging, clinical status, and genetic analysis will allow better care for multiple sclerosis patients.

Glyman and his colleagues in the neurology department treat nearly 1,200 multiple sclerosis patients per year, many of whom come to Las Vegas from other states. They come not only for treatment but also to enroll in clinical trials testing new therapies for multiple sclerosis patients. “Our goal is to create an open access clinical, genetic and DTI database that will enable University Nevada, Reno research-



Steven Glyman, associate professor of neurology, stands in the viewing room of the Toshiba 320 Slice Aquilion One, a \$2.7 million computed tomography (CT) machine that allows physicians to see not only a three-dimensional depiction of an organ—including heart, brain and others—but also the organ's blood flow and dynamic function in one rotation, at high resolution.

ers to collaborate with fellow researchers studying multiple sclerosis,” Glyman says.

In addition to utilizing a team approach on the research side, Glyman also strongly believes in an integrated, supportive team approach to providing care. “Caring for multiple sclerosis patients requires a multifaceted team approach in order to ensure they receive the best treatment available. While new treatments promise as much as a 100 percent

increase in efficacy over current therapies, they will not be possible in Nevada unless we can build the medical infrastructure to administer

and monitor them safely,” Glyman states.

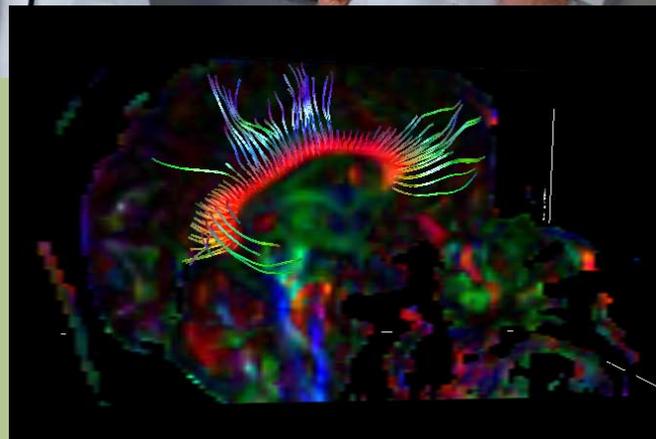
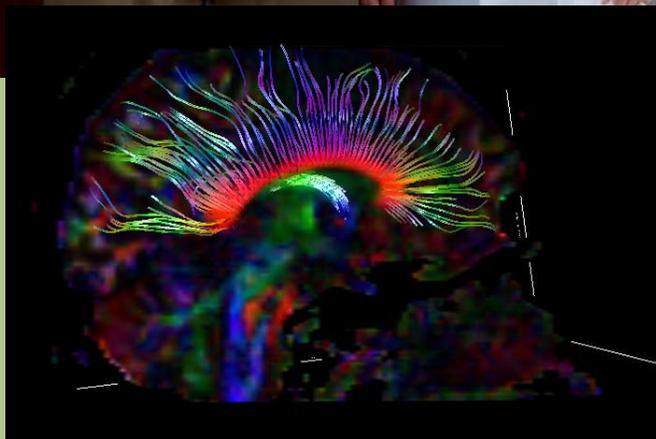
He adds that comprehensive care is more than just the professional services of physicians and nurses. Multiple sclerosis patients need psychologists and neuropsychologists to help them and their families deal with the cognitive and emotional prob-

lems associated with this devastating disease. Social workers are needed to help patients with complex insurance issues, financial problems, patient advocacy, and home health care. Physical, occupational and speech therapists play a vital role in the rehabilitation of patients with multiple sclerosis. Advanced practice nurses and other nurse specialists are important team members, who assist in the delivery of increasingly complex care.

“Nurse educators need to be part of the team, teaching patients, families and community members about the complexities of multiple sclerosis. Only by coordinating all of these individuals and services into a comprehensive care facility can we provide optimal care,” Glyman says. The neurology faculty has established a close working relationship with

*“Whether adversity be a stumbling block, discipline, or blessing depends altogether on the use made of it.”*

**—Anonymous multiple sclerosis patient**



Images courtesy of Timothy Mueller.

TOP: Phil Patton, Eric Hanson, William Orrison and Steven Glyman showcase the new Toshiba 320 Aquilon One CT scanner. BOTTOM: On the left is an image of a normal, 21-year-old brain made with a 3.0 Tesla MRI Diffusion Tensor Imaging scanner. The image shows water molecules within normal corpus callosum nerve fibers, which appear as colored tendrils. The brain on the right, from a different patient, shows nerve fibers that have been destroyed by multiple sclerosis.

neuroradiologists, fellow researchers and physicians with significant expertise in multiple sclerosis treatment.

“If we can establish an endowed chair in multiple sclerosis, it would greatly accelerate the progress in research and treatment coordination, by allowing us to gather all the required staff and technical resources to partner within our multiple sclerosis practice,” Glyman notes. “A research chair will help us attract and educate the next generation of medical professionals who want to specialize in treating multiple sclerosis patients. Establishing the multiple sclerosis chair would go a long way in laying the foundation for developing a comprehensive treatment and research facility to expand and improve upon the treatment options for our multiple sclerosis patients and in the process help establish Nevada as a pioneer in the fight against this disease.”

## NUMBERS:

Multiple sclerosis affects **400,000** Americans, generally between the ages of **20-40**. There are about **2.5** million people worldwide with multiple sclerosis. Multiple sclerosis is the leading cause of disability of young adults. Multiple sclerosis was **first** identified and described by a French neurologist, Dr. Jean-Martin Charcot, in **1868**. Sclerosis means scars—plaques or lesions in the brain and spinal cord. Women are affected almost **twice** as often as men. Multiple sclerosis is **five** times more prevalent in temperate climates than in tropical regions.

# Center for Molecular Medicine targets chronic fatigue syndrome

By Emily Wofford Cobb



Renderings courtesy of DPS Design.

Opening in 2010, the Center for Molecular Medicine will dramatically change the northern landscape of the University.

“The view from McCarran Boulevard is going to be phenomenal,” says Tom Kozel, professor of microbiology and immunology. “Anyone driving north of the University will clearly see that medical research and education are an important enterprise here.”

Kozel, a long time faculty member of the School of Medicine, has been instrumental in planning the biomedical research building, which will be the first new facility of its type to be built on the campus in more than 20 years. He, along with several other University administrators and representatives from the Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease and Nevada Cancer Institute,

*Emily Wofford Cobb is communications manager for health science communications.*

has worked diligently to create a space that will not only advance medical research but will increase the school’s ability to train more students. “Expanding our space is significant because we’ll be able to increase Nevada’s number of trained medical researchers,” says Kozel, who estimates the new building will enable the University to add another 150 student slots to its graduate programs in the biomedical sciences. The building will also help us attract new and talented faculty to the state.”

Doubling the medical school’s research and

*The Center for Molecular Medicine will increase the University’s number of trained medical researchers, and add another 150 student slots to its graduate programs in the biomedical sciences.*

laboratory space, the 100,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility will house portions of the microbiology and immunology, physiology and cell biology, and pharmacology departments, as well as serve as the headquarters for the Whittemore Peterson Institute and the northern operations center for the Nevada Cancer Institute.

“At the heart of the Center for Molecular Medicine is the goal to improve the health outcomes of Nevadans through education and research,” Kozel says.

Work toward meeting that goal has already begun as medical school scientists and researchers from the Whittemore Peterson Institute combine efforts to understand the causes of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. As the first institute of its kind in the United States dedicated to finding a cause and cure for the debilitating disorder, the Whittemore Peterson Institute has promoted research at the School of Medicine by financially supporting collaborative projects with investigators from the Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

“Chronic Fatigue Syndrome seems to have immune and viral components to it,” says William Murphy, chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. “People afflicted with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome suffer from continuous fatigue and have significant alterations in immune function. This makes the collaboration between the department

with investigators from Whittemore Peterson an easy one.”

Murphy and faculty in the department are working with investigators from the Whittemore Peterson Institute, such as Judy Mikovitz and Dr. Daniel Peterson, to learn more about the causes of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. In Murphy’s lab, research is being conducted to learn more about the immunological nature of chronic inflammatory disease states. Dorothy Hudig, professor of microbiology and immunology, is collaborating with the institute to characterize defects in natural killer cells of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome patients, while the laboratory of Stephen St. Jeor, professor of microbiology and immunology and director of the University’s cell and microbiology graduate program, has been given funding to examine the presence and activation status of certain human viruses in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome patients.

“The Whittemore Peterson Institute has been a great partner,” says Murphy. “Not only have institute administrators provided research funding, they have also purchased the most advanced level equipment for immunological assessment. It is our hope that these studies will not only help us understand Chronic Fatigue Syndrome but also devise new treatments for patients.”

Construction on the Center for Molecular Medicine will begin this fall.



Photo by Theresa Daine-Douglas

*Catherine McCarthy is an assistant professor, director of the obstetrics fellowship and associate director of residents at the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. McCarthy currently heads the rural obstetrics program.*

## Like a good neighbor, the School of Medicine is there

By Ken Kempcke

Did you know that 87 percent of Nevada's land mass is made up of rural and frontier counties? Just 11 percent of the state's population lives in those counties. These 268,541 Nevadans must travel far to receive healthcare.

According to the *Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book*, the average distance most rural Nevadans must travel to reach one of the 15 acute care hospitals in rural counties or to reach one of the closest tertiary care hospitals in Reno, Las Vegas or Salt Lake City is 114 miles.

In order to assist rural communities with health care services, the Nevada State Office of Rural Health was created by the state legislature in 1977, later evolving into The Center for Education and Health Services Outreach within the University of Nevada School of Medicine. The center's mission has expanded to encompass the health care issues confronting medically underserved populations throughout the state, both rural and urban.

Pregnant, rural women are one such group served by the center, Dr. Catherine McCarthy, assistant professor of family and community medicine in the school of medicine, says. She operates an obstetrics clinic out of the Physician's Clinic at the South Lyon Medical Center in Yerington. Once a month, family medicine

residents from the School of Medicine drive there to see patients.

"Currently, there are no practicing obstetricians or family physicians practicing obstetrics in that area," McCarthy says, "Before our service began, in November 2001, many rural women chose to forgo prenatal care and would present to Carson, Fallon or Reno at the end of the pregnancy, in labor, without any prenatal care.

"Since the program began, we have provided prenatal care to approximately 200 pregnant moms in Yerington," McCarthy notes. "Many families have seen us for more than one pregnancy, or have referred pregnant friends, family or colleagues for care at our clinic."

Toward the end of their pregnancies, when women need to be seen more frequently, they also visit the Family Medicine Clinic on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. Each of these patients is assigned to a resident who is responsible for following the prenatal care and participating in the delivery.

"It is truly a rewarding experience for all involved," McCarthy says.

The center's primary programs are not only service oriented, but also include medical and continuing education as well as training opportunities.

The center is also actively involved in shaping state, regional and national policy that affects rural, frontier and urban underserved areas, and is frequently at the forefront of new and innovative programs. It assesses the impact of health care on the economies of rural counties, in collaboration with the University's Department for Applied Economics and Statistics, and has assisted policy makers in addressing the needs for infrastructure supporting health care services.

Other diverse programs that the center has advanced recently include a proposed Family Medicine Rural Residency Training Track program in Fallon, tele-health services to assist patients of the Shriners Hospitals for Children, expansion of health services for veterans in the Elko service area and telecommunication linkages for rural tribal health centers.

"The programs of the Center for Education and Health Services Outreach reflect our partnerships with a variety of individuals, organizations and communities to meet the needs of Nevada citizens," says Caroline Ford, assistant dean of the School of Medicine and center director. Her 24-year history with the center has provided a unique opportunity to work with several generations of people within Nevada communities, and expand the programs and services that reflect changing needs.

The center has been serving Nevada communities for more than 30 years and is a vital component of the mission of the School of Medicine and its commitment to community.

*For more information on ways to support the Center for Education and Health Services Outreach, please contact Stefanie Scoppettone, director of development for the School of Medicine, at (775) 682-9143 or email [scops@unr.edu](mailto:scops@unr.edu).*

# Orvis Nursing Clinic serves as community health care safety net

By Ken Kempcke

Health and wellness in the Reno-Sparks community is a top priority for the Orvis Nursing Clinic, opening its doors for primary health care that includes office management of acute and chronic illnesses, camp, sports, employment and school physicals, women's health exams and family planning, TB skin testing, well-child checkups, and child, adult and travel immunizations.

The clinic, part of the Orvis School of Nursing, is the one of a handful of nurse practitioner-run clinics in the state of Nevada. The primary goal of the Orvis Nursing Clinic is to provide affordable, quality healthcare to vulnerable populations in a dignified and healing environment.

"Access to good health care is the cornerstone to a healthy society," Doreen Begley, the clinic's administrator, who is also a registered nurse, says. "Without the clinic, many people in Washoe County would have no access to quality primary health care. The Orvis Nursing Clinic has become relied upon by our community as a safety net provider for health care."

Located on Second Street in downtown Reno, the clinic has five exam rooms and five full-time, devoted staff members, including Begley—Margaret Durand, nurse practitioner; Carole Shochat and Susan McFeely, licensed practical nurses; and Ginger Washington, administrative assistant—most with over five years experience at the clinic. Since opening in 1999, the clinic has grown from seeing a thousand patients a year to more than 6,500. "Our



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

*Carole Shochat, licensed practical nurse, administers an immunization to a young patient. Founded in 1999, the Orvis Nursing Clinic has established itself as a premier immunization site within the community. As part of the Orvis School of Nursing, it is also the only academically led nursing clinic of its kind in Nevada, and one of only 120 clinics affiliated with a nursing school in the country.*

goal for the future is to increase the number of staff and nurse practitioners in order to serve even more clients," Begley says.

The clinic has won numerous awards for its expertise in immunizations, and stresses the importance of illness prevention. It provides immunizations for anything from yellow fever and malaria to hepatitis A and B and is listed on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's international website as a travel immunization provider for northern Nevada.

Nurses at the clinic provide care for primarily low-income families who are underinsured or uninsured. The nurses take great pride in their work. They say they could not ask for a better working environment and feel they really make a difference in the community. Even though it's a small clinic, it provides a broad and far-reaching service to northern Nevada.

The clinic is funded by grants, donations and sliding-fee scale payments based upon federal poverty guidelines. It also collaborates with other community partners: Care Chest, Women's Health Connection, the Washoe County District Health Department, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Access to Healthcare Network and Catholic Healthcare West.

While the clinic's primary goal is to provide health care services to vulnerable populations, it also functions as an academic learning site for multiple educational entities promoting health professions, as well as the University's Orvis School of Nursing. By working in the clinic's environment, students are able to gain hands-on clinical knowledge as to what working in the real health care arena is like.

"Part of the mission of the Orvis School of Nursing is to provide service to the community, and our clinic provides essential health care to many in our community who would otherwise be unable to afford such services," Patsy Ruchala, director of the Orvis School of Nursing, says. "In addition, it provides us with an additional site for nursing education for both entry-level nursing students and for our master's-level family nurse practitioner students. The clinic is a very important part of the Orvis School of Nursing."

*For more information on how you can help support the Orvis Nursing Clinic, please contact Kendall Hardin, director of development, Division of Health Sciences, at (775) 682-7495 or [khardin@unr.edu](mailto:khardin@unr.edu).*



# Speech Pathology and Audiology ranks in top graduate programs nationwide

By Ken Kempcke. Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas.

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology in the School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno was recently recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top graduate programs in the country. Started in 1956, the department has grown to be internationally recognized for excellence in communication disorders and sciences.

"I am pleased to learn, but not at all surprised, that our program is considered one of the top speech pathology and audiology programs in the nation," Thomas Watterson, chair of the department, says. "This distinction is a credit to the quality of our faculty and the accomplishments of our students. We have an excellent, dedicated faculty and a bright, hard-working student body, so it is no surprise that we have achieved this recognition from our peers."

Typically, there are approximately 90 undergraduate majors and 40 graduate students enrolled in the department. "The outstanding learning environment attracts graduate students from all over the country," Watterson says. "Many end up staying in Nevada. Graduates of the program have a 100 percent passing rate on national certification and license exams and a 100 percent employment rate after graduation."

Kerry Lewis, professor and director of graduate studies in the department, says:

"We've heard from employers who say that they hire students from all over the U.S., but Nevada graduates are their first choice."

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology is housed on an entire floor of the Nell J. Redfield Building on the north campus. The facility and the clinic's outreach services are supported, in part, by

local service organizations, such as Sertoma, and private donors including the William N. Pennington Foundation, the Emblem Club, the Minnie B. Leonette Family Foundation, AT&T and the Nell J. Redfield Foundation. Also housed in the department are the Northern Nevada Cleft Palate Clinic and the Scottish Rite Language Disorders Clinic.

The department enjoys a high visibility within the medical school due largely to its active on-campus clinic and its outreach services. As the School of Medicine's first clinical department, faculty members see about 4,000 patient visits per year.

The Claude I. Howard Speech and Hearing Clinic offers treatment for voice disorders, language disorders, autism articulation/phonological disorders, hearing disorders, cleft palate and fluency disorders. Six diagnostic rooms are fully equipped for all types of speech, voice

## NUMBERS:

The University of Nevada School of Medicine runs the only ACS-verified Level One Trauma Center in Nevada. The Trauma Center treats more than **14,000** patients annually and earned national acclaim in **2003** for saving the life of Las Vegas entertainer Roy Horn after he was attacked by a tiger on-stage.

*LEFT: Katie Thompson '99 (speech pathology), '01M.S. (speech pathology and audiology) tests 5-year-old Jordan Moore's hearing at the Speech Pathology Clinic for the Washoe County School District's Child Find Project. BOTTOM: Nancy Kuhles '82M.S. (speech pathology) and Carissa Welch '98 (speech pathology), '00M.S. (speech pathology and audiology) provide support to Washoe County School District parents, such as Melissa Moore and 3-year-old daughter Charlee Moore, to ensure that their children receive the education, and intellectual and social/emotional support they need.*

and language evaluation and have observation capabilities. There are 19 completely equipped therapy rooms.

In addition, the department houses two specialty teams. The Northern Nevada Cleft Palate Team is a multi-disciplinary health care team dedicated to the care and treatment of children with cleft lip and palate, and other craniofacial disorders. It evaluates about 150 children per year at no cost to the patient.

The University of Nevada, Reno Multidisciplinary Autism Assessment Team provides comprehensive diagnostic evaluations for

children who exhibit characteristics of autism and/or other neurodevelopmental disorders. Families receive diagnoses and recommendations individualized to their child's strengths and challenges. The team includes child psychiatrists, child psychologists, developmental specialists, occupational therapists and speech-language pathologists.

The Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology also plays a supporting role in the Washoe County School District's Child Find Project which identifies, evaluates and provides appropriate assistance to Washoe County school children in need of special education services.

"The staff at the Child Find Project has enjoyed a reciprocal relationship with the University of Nevada Speech Pathology and Audiology Department for several years," Nancy Kuhles '82M.S. (speech pathology), lead speech and language pathologist for the project, says. "Whether we're making referrals to the craniofacial clinic, assisting in research studies or helping a child with a disability, we both have a deep interest in the welfare of children. We are on the same team, helping children in our community with a disability or developmental delay to find and receive appropriate services and education."

Community members are grateful for the care they receive through the department. "We really appreciate the patience and commitment of the clinicians," says one recent patient. "The faculty have always provided us with a wealth of knowledge and are extremely supportive. I would recommend this program to anyone with difficulty with speech or language." 



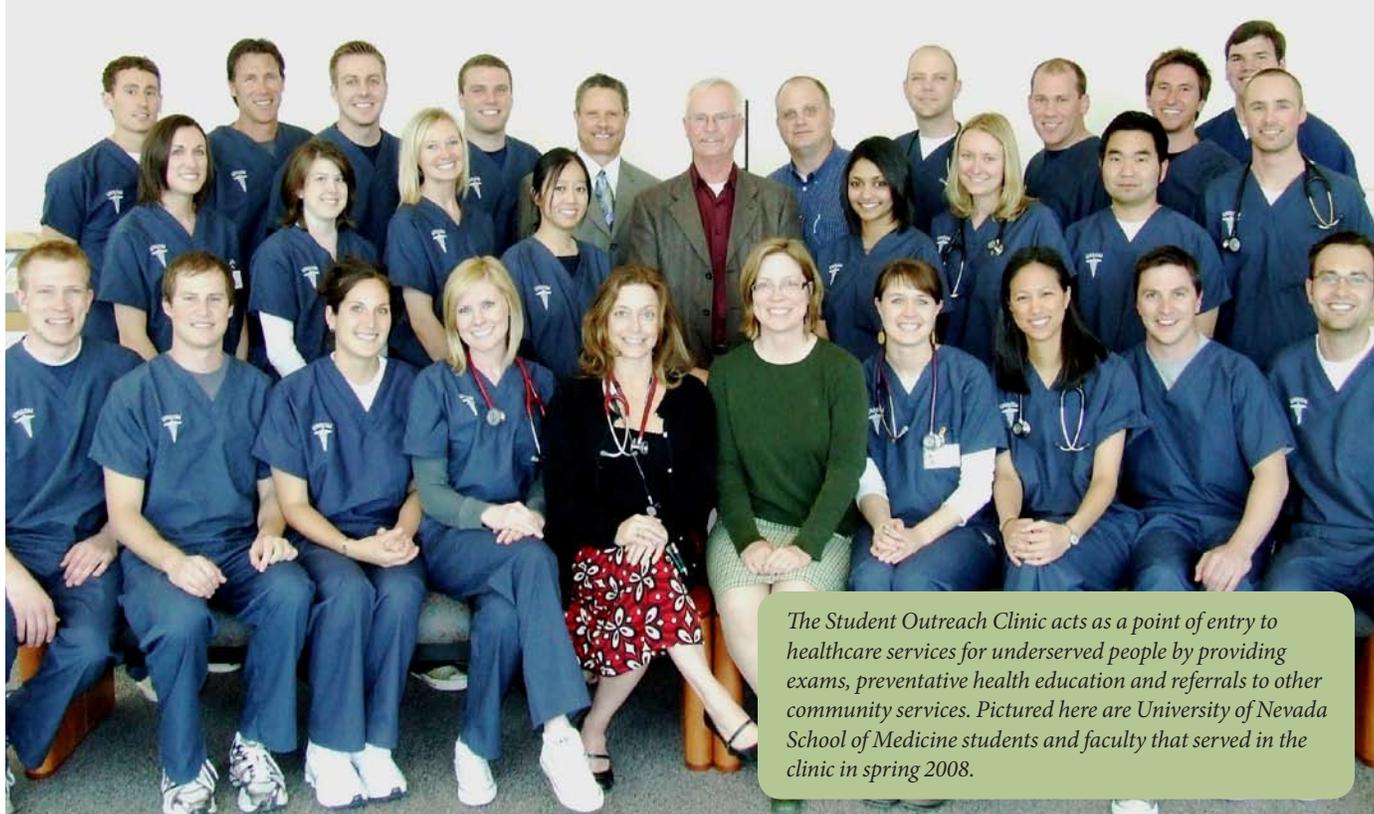


Photo courtesy of the School of Medicine.

## Student-run outreach clinic offers community care and educational opportunity

By Ken Kempcke

The University of Nevada School of Medicine operates a student-run, free medical clinic. The Student Outreach Clinic was founded by students in 1996 and continues to be operated by students under the guidance of licensed physicians.

“Even though faculty preceptors and advisers are necessary, this clinic would not be possible without driven students wanting the clinic to be an excellent asset to the community,” says Daniel Spogen, chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine and medical director of the clinic.

The clinic is operated in cooperation with the Family Medicine Center and made possible by faculty and community physicians who donate their time to oversee the clinic. The clinic is funded entirely by donations and grants.

The purpose of the clinic is to provide free health care to underserved populations who would otherwise not receive the care they need. The benefit to students is that they receive hands-on experience in treating patients from the very first day of medical school.

Under the direct supervision of licensed faculty physicians, medical students offer

monthly clinics that provide free general, children’s and women’s care. No insurance or appointment is necessary for clinic patients, who are seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

Each clinic offers complete physical examinations and referral services. The children’s clinic provides school physicals and physicals for the Head Start program, as well as immunizations. The women’s clinic provides free pap smears, pregnancy testing and sexually transmitted disease counseling.

Services offered by the clinic continue to evolve and grow. “Within a month’s time, which includes one general, one pediatric and one women’s clinic, the clinic cares for approximately 100 patients,” Derek Covington, second-year medical student and public relations chair for the clinic, says. “This past May, the clinic partnered with the Family Medical Interest Group at the School of Medicine to provide free sport physicals to 56 Hug High School students.”

The clinic has grown considerably since the project began more than 10 years ago, Kelsey Worthington, board chair of the clinic, also in her second year of medical school, adds. “The clinic continues to expand with regard to the number of patients seen, student education

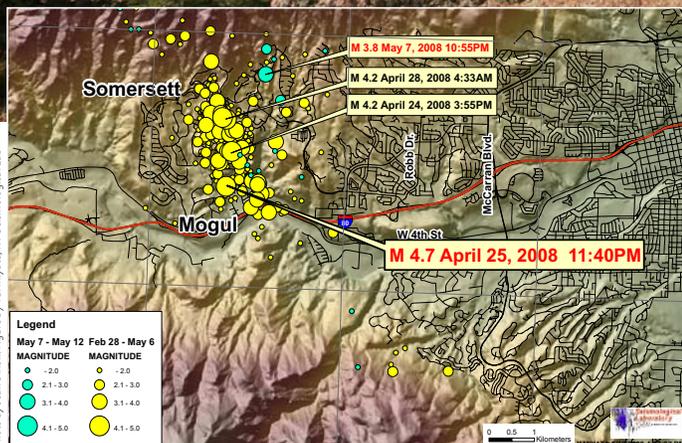
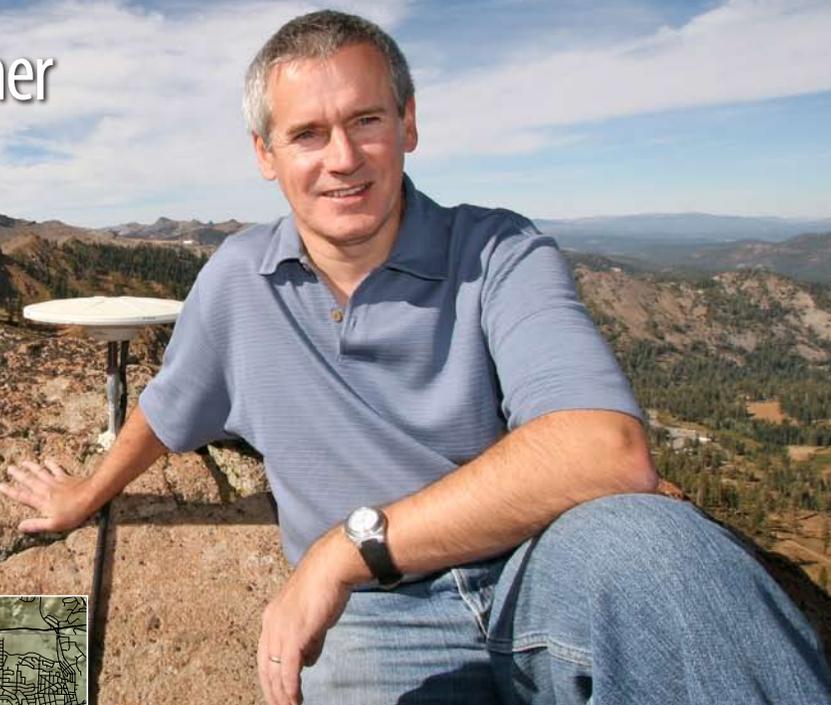
and services offered. We hope to carry on the clinic’s progression in the spirit of our mission, which is to reach medically underserved populations in the area.

“Students have a great opportunity to gain experience with patient interaction as well as in learning how to manage the operational aspect of a medical clinic,” Kelsey says. “I think the patients that we see really appreciate our efforts. It is extremely rewarding to be able to expand my medical education, while volunteering my time toward a community service that I believe to be very beneficial.”

The important community health care services provided by the clinic would not be possible without significant grants and support from private donors. Last year, the Nell J. Redfield Foundation presented the clinic a \$25,000 gift to support clinic operations.

*All monthly clinics are held at University Health System’s Family Medicine Center, located on the University of Nevada, Reno campus just north of Mackay Stadium, off North Virginia Street. For information, directions, or questions, please phone the Student Outreach Clinic at (775) 682-8646 or email soc@unr.edu.*

# University's earthquake community comes together for betterment of state



TOP: Research scientist Geoff Blewitt replaces a GPS antenna atop Ward Peak in Alpine Meadows Ski Area. Blewitt and his research team monitor 60 GPS antennas among 250 sites spanning Nevada and eastern California to detect shifts in the earth's movement. LEFT: A map of the earthquake swarms in west Reno between Feb. 28 and May 12, provided by the University's Nevada Seismological Laboratory.

Four years ago, when he first installed a GPS site on a hill not far from his home in west Reno—overlooking the popular Steamboat Ditch Trail, where he often ran and hiked with his family's two Labrador retrievers—Geoff Blewitt had no idea how valuable the site would become.

"When I put that station in," said Blewitt, a research professor in the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, "I never thought it would get caught up with all of the events we've had since April."

Like many scientists on the University campus, the series of earthquakes that began shaking eastern and western Nevada this winter and spring gave Blewitt a unique opportunity to search for the answers why.

Blewitt's system of eight GPS sites in west and northwest Reno—which recorded important data on a ground-movement phenomenon known as "after slip"—were among the many technological and informational components that illustrated the Univer-

sity's strengths in seismology, geology and geodesy. Such scientific expertise was needed as a magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck the small northeastern Nevada town of Wells Feb. 21, and when a series of "earthquake swarms" in west Reno was highlighted by a 4.7 event on April 25.

"The fact that we live here certainly has helped," Blewitt said. "You really need the instruments and the expertise, and we just happen to have them all here in Reno."

For close to 10 years, research seismologists in the University-based Nevada Seismological Laboratory such as Ken Smith have developed an intricate telemetry network that—from the relative ease of a laptop—can take readings of seismic events on-site and in real time.

Smith's colleagues, such as Craig dePolo, a research geologist with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, have ventured into the communities of the state, educating businesses and homeowners about ways they can make their buildings safer.

And, with the addition of GPS experts such as Blewitt, the impacts of earth-

quakes—was the ground shifting and, if so, how much?—could be almost immediately plotted and noted.

"What we've created," said Smith, an associate research professor and manager of the Seismological Laboratory's seismic network, "is a collective earthquake-monitoring community."

Blewitt, through GPS, found that a 20-square-mile area had shifted eastward about one centimeter, or about half an inch, during the swarm in west Reno. He recorded the creep at a GPS site mounted on a library in northwest Reno. A site near Steamboat Ditch showed movement of about one inch.

"These kinds of swarms are very rare, so this is the first time we've actually been able to measure movement associated with one of these swarms," Blewitt said. "GPS is typically used to only measure magnitude 7, 8 or 9 earthquakes. You have to be lucky enough to have receivers packed together in all of the right places to measure [the movement associated with the magnitude 4.7 event of April 25]. So, to be able to measure a magnitude 5.0 or less earthquake is incredible."

—John Trent '85/'87, '00M.A.



Photos by Jean Dixon

## President Crowley, Hettrick, Pennington lauded at Commencement

More than 1,800 degree candidates were eligible to receive awards May 16 and 17 during Nevada's Spring 2008 Commencement exercises. They were not the only people to be honored though, on two unseasonably hot days on the University Quadrangle.

Joe Crowley, the longest-serving president in the University's history, received the Distinguished Nevadan award during the 118<sup>th</sup> Commencement exercises. Crowley served as University president from 1978 to 2000.

The Board of Regents award recognizes those who have made significant achievements contributing to the cultural, economic, scientific or social advancement of Nevada.

"It's the highest award that the board has to give," Crowley said. "It's very pleasing and humbling. I feel amply awarded. It's wonderful to get that kind of recognition."

An Iowa native, Crowley, 74, joined the University's political science faculty in 1966. He was appointed as interim president in February 1978, and a year later was selected to the post on a permanent basis.

Crowley administered expansion of the campus' School of Medicine into a statewide institution, development of a core curriculum, and the founding of the College of Human

and Community Sciences and the Reynolds School of Journalism. The Joe Crowley Student Union, opened in November 2007, was named for the University's 13<sup>th</sup> president.

Lynn Hettrick, the minority floor leader of the Nevada Assembly from 1997 to 2005, was also recognized during Commencement for being a 2008 Distinguished Nevadan. State voters elected Hettrick to the Assembly in 1992, and he was honored for his leadership of the 1995 session, when he served as co-speaker.

Also at Spring 2008 Commencement, University President Milton Glick presented William Pennington the honorary doctorate of humane letters. Pennington, co-founder of Circus Circus Enterprises, has been a generous supporter of the University's School of Medicine and other campus programs for nearly two decades.

Pennington, recognized along with business partner William Bennett in *Las Vegas Review-Journal* reporter A.D. Hopkins' book, *The First 100 Persons Who Shaped Southern Nevada*, was a gaming icon. Hopkins wrote that Pennington and Bennett, at Circus Circus, "showed Las Vegas how to cater to a middle-American family market, establishing

*TOP: Distinguished Nevadans President Emeritus Joe Crowley and former minority floor leader Lynn Hettrick shake hands at Advanced Commencement. BOTTOM: Jennifer Miceli '09 (health ecology), the 2008 Herz Gold Medal winner, is flanked by University President Milton Glick and ASUN President Eli Reilly. The University's most prestigious academic award has been given to top graduating seniors with the highest grade-point average each year since it was established in 1910 by brothers Richard, Carl and Otto Herz.*

the trend which dominated the casino industry for two decades (the 1970s and 1980s)."

Pennington established the William Pennington Foundation, which has helped fund construction of the University's Pennington Medical Education Building, completed in 2002. The building is home to the Savitt Medical Library, the Office of Medical Education and the Admissions and Student Affairs office. His philanthropy has also helped support the School of Medicine's Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology, as well as University scholarships in medicine, business, engineering and the physical sciences.

—Pat McDonnell

## New provost is on a mission

Marc Johnson describes the University of Nevada, Reno as having a strong reputation for continuing in the storied tradition of land-grant universities. Coming from Johnson, the accolade is especially meaningful.

An economist with a specialty emphasis on national and international food distribution, Johnson, named provost at Nevada in March, has contributed to discussions and advancements in many countries, from Botswana to Honduras. He joined the University faculty June 1.

"I appreciate the opportunity to work in a land-grant university with its special missions to open access for college education for all who are prepared to learn, to provide basic and applied research relevant to real-world issues of people, and to serve as a provider of knowledge directly to the public," said Johnson, who was named Nevada's chief academic officer following a national search.

The Morrill Act of 1862 created a new breed of university, the land-grant university, to provide education in the liberal and practical arts for children of the industrial class. The University was founded as Nevada's land-

grant institution in 1874.

The land-grant mission of public outreach was later expanded to include the application of teaching and research, particularly in agriculture, to improve quality of life. This core tenet is an apt description of Johnson's work.

"My research has dealt with the structure and function of market systems," said Johnson. "This has led to evaluation of transportation regulation, regional economics and the function of international food economies migrating to market-based systems."

He is particularly proud of his work in Sri Lanka, where an effort to privatize the food system involved citizens from within the government bureaucracy to small shop owners. The result was progress toward a more efficient system and lower food prices, and these outcomes contributed to a stronger national economy.

Johnson was formerly dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Colorado State University. He joined CSU in 2003 as vice provost for agriculture and outreach and dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, and then served as interim director of Colorado Cooperative Extension and interim state



Photos by Crista Hecht

forester of Colorado State Forest Service.

Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Emporia State University in Kansas, which named him a Distinguished Alumnus in 1994. His advanced degrees include a master of technology in international development from North Carolina State, as well as both a master of economics and doctorate of agriculture economics from Michigan State.

For the past three years, Johnson has been part of a team working with a state university in Russia. That country's agricultural system produces 50 percent of what it did in 1989, and the university is looking to emulate the land-grant tradition as a means to help family farms and eventually reverse the trend. It has been a mission-affirming project for Johnson, who looks forward to helping apply the University's expertise and resources for the benefit of Nevadans.

—Jane Tors '82

## World War II vet finishes degree 65 years later

What's a few years' wait for a diploma worth? To 86-year-old Robert Baird Jr., of Selma, Calif., patience is golden.

A decorated World War II veteran and Nevada student in the 1940s, Baird deferred his dreams of becoming a college graduate for service in the U.S. Navy. He was one of the Navy's famous "frogmen," and removed land mines from beaches during the 1944 invasion of Saipan and Guam. Baird received the Silver Star for his bravery, but never returned to college.

After writing to the Board of Regents

in 1945 to explain the situation, Baird said he was granted a waiver to the University residency requirement. He's lost track of the letter, explaining he was about 20 credits shy of completing the civil engineering degree program.

Baird's friend Robert Kirchner of Sanger, Calif., brought the matter to the campus administration's attention, and the wartime hero received his bachelor's degree in a March 28 ceremony at the Sanger Rotary Club.

—Pat McDonnell



Photo by Jean Dixon

Paul Neill, vice provost and physics professor, jokes with Robert Baird Jr., right, after Baird received his undergraduate degree 65 years after attending the University. The belated graduation ceremony for the 86-year-old was at the Sanger, Calif., Rotary Club on March 28.

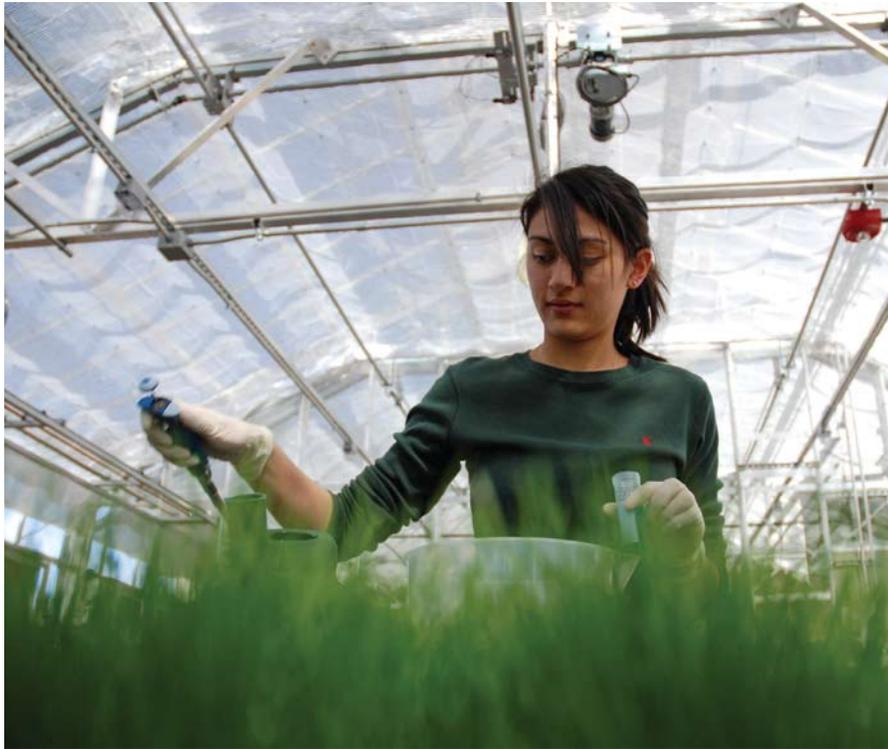


Photo by Robert Moore

## New greenhouse complex drawing attention on I-80

Locals driving the Interstate 80 corridor between Wells and Virginia streets—overlooking the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station’s Valley Road Field Laboratory—have witnessed the construction of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources greenhouse complex, a physical symbol of the college’s commitment to environmental research and education.

“The size and scope of the project is impressive, to say the least,” said Dean David Thawley, referring to the six greenhouses, each 96 feet long and 30 feet wide, which are anchored to a 12,000-square-foot headhouse. “These greenhouses will provide the most up-to-date teaching and research facilities to educate the next generation of plant scientists, molecular biologists, range managers and ecologists.”

The \$6.2 million Nevada Greenhouse Complex is a sub-project to the University’s Davidson Mathematics and Science Center. Officials broke ground in April for the

*CABNR undergraduate Leigh Armijo waters grasses for an experiment evaluating the use of Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility waste water as an effective fertilizer.*

new center at the site of the college’s former greenhouses.

Experiments and research underway within the greenhouses provide insight into the college’s commitment to meeting regional and global environmental challenges.

“These modern facilities are enabling us to address issues like biofuel production, alternative crop development, environmental stress tolerance in plants and mercury contamination,” said Ron Pardini, associate director of the Nevada Agricultural Experiment Station.

The greenhouse complex is also opening the door to further horticultural innovation, as CABNR’s partnership with two commercial companies highlights. NewGardens plans an aeroponic greenhouse adjacent to the complex, while Nevada Naturals will construct up to four hydroponic greenhouses.

More than 150 guests attended CABNR’s April “Open Greenhouse” event, celebrating the grand opening of the complex.

—Mikalee Byerman-Dahle '94, '98M.A.

## Thienhaus takes reins at School of Medicine

Building relationships, growing the School of Medicine and the business of medicine are the goals of Ole Thienhaus, who assumed the position of dean of the University of Nevada School of Medicine on July 1.

Thienhaus, a practicing psychiatrist who plans to continue seeing patients in rural areas while serving as dean, will become more involved in both the Reno and Las Vegas communities to improve the school’s visibility. He plans to strengthen partnerships statewide with other healthcare institutions and organizations.

Thienhaus embraces the concept of the expanded Division of Health Sciences as it strives to integrate several health disciplines and create synergies in education, research and service amongst the major health sciences schools at the University of Nevada, Reno.

“We need to prepare students for the world as it is, and that is a team-based approach to disease management,” Thienhaus said.

Faced with increasingly tight budget constraints from the state, Thienhaus, who earned an MBA at the University of Cincinnati College of Business, knows his business background will help him “speak the language” of the business of medicine, as well as direct the school to a more team-oriented approach with better and more cost-effective outcomes.

Prior to joining the School of Medicine in 1995, Thienhaus was vice chair of psychiatry at the College of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati. He earned his medical degree from the Free University of Berlin. He is board-certified in psychiatry, geriatric psychiatry and administrative psychiatry.

He is a fellow of the American College of Psychiatrists and serves on the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.



Photo by John Byrne

—Anne McMillin

## Nursing student identifies a need, works to fill it in Mexico

Orvis School of Nursing student Danielle Lallement found a chance to integrate her skills as a nurse and a student with her charity work for the Rotary. Lallement's latest accomplishments in a Mexican town have opened up opportunities to expand her nursing experience and provide help for those in need.

Her Rotary project in Loreto and the surrounding area began two years ago when Lallement and other Rotary members were invited by friends to help a community on the eastern side of the Baja Peninsula. They sought assistance and funding to build a dormitory that would house young students in Ligui, a small town near Loreto. Because many students lived in outlying rural areas, it was difficult for them to reach the Loreto schools.

"The students who go to the schools in Loreto live in mountain villages hours away," Lallement said. "The students live in the dorms for the week."



Photo by Crista Hecht

*Danielle Lallement's nursing training and her heart led her to help improve living conditions for the women in Ligui, a rural Mexican town.*

Lallement and colleagues from the Rotary traveled to Ligui to reconstruct the dormitory rooms last October. She also observed the area's health needs.

"I went down with a nursing perspective as well as helped with the dorm," Lallement said.

The group plans to travel back to Loreto and Ligui this October. Lallement is hoping to evaluate basic women's health care, including surveying the need for prenatal care and basic gynecology.

"I'm interested in outlying areas, places that have no health care except for small clinics," she said.

Lallement is inviting a colleague who specializes in gynecology to assist her in the venture, which she hopes will eventually

result in a women's clinic.

As a student in the R.N. to BSN program at the University's nursing school, the project contributes to Lallement's academic career. Deborah Shindell, an assistant professor in the program, praises Lallement's resourcefulness in integrating her knowledge as a student, a nurse and a Rotary member in this ambitious project.

"I think it's a great opportunity for her to use her skills with the Rotary," Shindell said. "She gets to do something not every nurse gets to do. It takes a lot of initiative on her part." The school's online, degree-completion program helps registered nurses garner the bachelor of science in nursing degree.

—Guia Del Prado

## Three graduate programs make top 50 in national rankings

For the first time, *U.S. News & World Report* magazine ranked three University of Nevada, Reno graduate programs in the top 50 of public institutions nationally in its recent 2008 report.

Civil and Environmental Engineering made the rankings for the second time in three years and came in at the 44th spot. Geologic Sciences, which was also previously ranked, placed 45th, and Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology in the University's School of Medicine ranked 46th. It's the first time Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology made the list in the 15-year history of the report.

"The fact that three of our graduate programs ranked in the top 100 for all colleges and universities, both public and private, and in the top 50 ranking of public institutions speaks to the overall quality of graduate education at the University of Nevada, Reno," said Marsha Read, associate vice president for research and associate dean of the Graduate School. "The University grants more than 600 advanced

degrees a year from more than 60 different graduate programs, ranging from fine arts to the humanities, social sciences, and the physical and life sciences.

"We are proud of all of our graduates and know they are integral to Nevada's future."

In addition to the top rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*, the University's part-time master of business administration degree program was recently ranked 17th nationally by *Business Week* magazine.

Its contributions to peer-reviewed research journals also put Nevada in the spotlight in 2007. The doctorate program in ecology, evolution and conservation biology was rated 24th nationally by the *Conservation Biology* journal for its quality and quantity of publications in the field.

—Sue Putnam

## Faces on the Quad

### SARAH RAGSDALE

At the 135th annual Conference of the American Public Health Association in Washington, D.C., Ragsdale received the top award for a student poster presentation of her research on college campus suicide. She was working with Kristen Clements-Nolle, assistant professor of epidemiology in the University's School of Public Health, who described the presentation as a particularly impressive achievement for an undergraduate. Ragsdale served as 2007-08 undergraduate student body president. She received her degree in health ecology in May and will pursue her master of public health at Boston University.



### DAVID SCHACTER

A senior international business major and University Studies Abroad Consortium scholar, Schacter became the first, four-time collegiate boxing national champion in Nevada's 80-plus years of competition in the sport. The 132-pounder defeated Lock Haven's

Addy Pizarro April 12 in the final bout of his collegiate career in the National Collegiate Boxing Championships in Reno. Schacter, who compiled a 29-2 record in four years with the Wolf Pack, studied in Costa Rica and Thailand through the Reno-based Studies Abroad program. A 22-year-old Green Valley High School (Henderson, Nev.) graduate, he hopes to garner a gaming-related internship in the Chinese administrative region of Macau on his next Studies Abroad trip, and is set to graduate in May 2009.

### MICHAEL TANOUE

Tanoue, a 23-year-old from Honolulu, is the Senior Scholar for the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. The May 2009 graduate in biochemistry was a nationally ranked member of the Wolf Pack rifle team during his academic career at the University. Tanoue was selected to the All-American Shooting Team in both air rifle and small bore during the 2005-06 season. He followed his junior year performance by sharing the nation's top two scores in both disciplines with Nevada teammate Meghann Morrill during the 2006-07 regular season. Tanoue compiled a 3.93 grade-point average.



## Measuring 'Vog' from erupting Kilauea volcano

A one-of-a-kind research study by Orvis School of Nursing professor Bernadette Longo may lead efforts to improve the health of adults chronically exposed to air pollution from Hawaii's Kilauea volcano.

"This research provides the first measures of volcanic-associated cardiorespiratory effects related to downwind exposure to volcanic air pollution, locally called 'vog,'" said Longo, a nursing professor at the University since 2006.

Vog is composed of volcanogenic sulphur dioxide and sulfate particles near the Big Island's youngest and southeastern-most volcano. Kilauea began erupting in 1983 and is active today.

The Associated Press, *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* and *Honolulu Advertiser* in Hilo have all reported on Longo's study, "Cardiorespiratory health effects associated with sulphurous volcanic air pollution." The study was also published in *The Journal of the Royal Institute of Public Health*.

To get a sense of vog's impact, Longo studied 335 individuals residing in areas exposed and unexposed to downwind volcanogenic sulfur dioxide pollution on the island.

Longo's research findings support the current hypotheses that air pollution is associated with adverse cardiovascular functioning.

"Volcanogenic sulphur dioxide is an irritant affecting changes in the mechanical functioning of the upper airways, resulting in bronchoconstriction or increased pulmonary resistance," Longo said.

Several groups of people living near Kilauea experience an increased prevalence of cough, phlegm, runny nose, sore/dry throat, sinus congestion, wheezing, eye irritation and bronchitis.

"Based on the results of this study, further investigations to evaluate health effects are vital for the growing populations that reside near active volcanoes," Longo said.

Longo is a nurse epidemiologist specializing in international health with a focus on the health of people in volcanic environments. Her study influenced new health policy legislation to monitor air quality in affected communities around Kilauea. Longo and Wei Yang, a professor in the University's School of Public Health, continue to research cardiorespiratory health effects associated with volcanoes, and they are developing health promotion programs for affected populations.

—Jill Stockton



Nursing professor Bernadette Longo standing at Mt. Kilauea, the Big Island's youngest and southeastern most volcano.

# News Briefs



Photo by Gisela Hecht

## University Inn transformed into residence hall

It's proved once again, history repeats itself—especially at the University.

The University Inn, at North Virginia and 10th streets, shuttered its hotel doors in December 2006. The facility has undergone necessary renovation to provide an additional residence hall option for upper-division University students. The newly named Sierra Hall is slated to open prior to the fall semester. There will be accommodations for 289 students.

The University Inn was originally designed as a residence hall in 1967, and was later converted to the hotel, said Stephen Mischisin, assistant director for planning and design in the University's Facilities Services office. "We have updated the facility to offer students a comfortable living experience."

Sierra Hall will offer wireless data access on the first and second floors, classroom space off the lobby and lounges on the fourth and fifth floors. The former dining commons has been converted into a large multi-purpose room.

Several life-safety upgrades have been installed including new fire alarm and detection systems, a fire pump and a water storage system. A new cooling tower and new mechanical systems have also been installed.

Sierra Hall rooms have private baths and secure, card-reader keylocks, and each room includes two data jacks and cable television access.

—Zanny Marsh

## University teams win, place and show at Governor's Cup

Bio-Grounds LLC, a team of University engineering students, won the \$5,000 Lieutenant Governor's Award top prize for graduate students in the state-wide business plan competition held April 25 in Las Vegas.

The University's GoGreenOutdoors.com team took second in the Governor's Cup graduate student contest and the More Water Company placed third. Among the undergraduate finalists, Wolfpack Works came in second, and Gary Valiere, who helped advise four of the University's teams, received a special award for faculty advisers.

Wolfpack Works and GoGreenOutdoors.com moved on to compete in the inaugural Tri-State Reynolds Cup with teams from Arkansas and Oklahoma in Las Vegas May 14.

A record 10 of 16 teams selected for the finals of this year's Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup were from the University.

—Sue Putnam

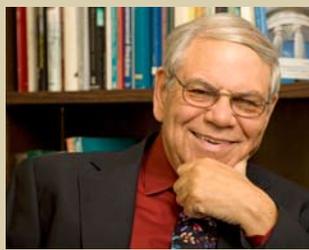


Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

## Cargill wins Regents' Researcher Award

Thomas F. Cargill, economics professor, was awarded the 2008 Regents' Researcher Award. The prestigious award is bestowed upon a Nevada System of Higher Education faculty member with a substantial record of accomplishments, including a significant amount of research and scholarly work with recognition. Clear evidence of the national and/or international stature of research is a requirement for this award. In

the case of grants and contracts, a nominee must have competed on a national or international level. The honoree receives a \$5,000 stipend and a medal.

"I am honored to have a world-class researcher in this college," College of Business Dean Greg Mosier said.

"It is a great honor to be recognized for the work that I have done over the years," Cargill said. "I feel very satisfied and have a strong sense of appreciation for my colleagues, the University and the community. These people have given me the opportunity to do work that I love."

—Jill Stockton



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

## Buxton receives 2008 Outstanding Researcher Award

The University of Nevada, Reno recognized the School of Medicine's Iain Buxton, professor of pharmacology, with its Outstanding Researcher Award in May.

"It is my pleasure to recognize Dr. Buxton for his outstanding research efforts in the areas of premature birth and breast cancer metastasis," Mark Brenner, vice president for research and dean of the graduate school, said.

Buxton's team at the School of Medicine has discovered an altered gene in some mothers who deliver prematurely that may help explain at least some preterm births, as well as offer hope of treatment. Premature birth (delivery before 37 weeks of gestation) is increasing and now accounts for 12 percent of pregnancies in the United States and for 75 percent of all fetal morbidity and mortality.

—Anne McMillin



Photo by Jean Dixon

Barone, Follette and Wesnousky

## Three faculty named 2008 Foundation Professors

The prolific academic careers of University faculty Diane Barone, Victoria Follette and Steve Wesnousky were celebrated as they received recognition as 2008 Foundation Professors at the University's Honor the Best awards in May.

The trio of longtime University professors is being recognized for research and teaching prowess. They will each receive annual awards of \$5,000 for three years for professional work at Nevada.

Barone, an author of several books focusing on student literacy, is the principal investigator of the \$26 million Reading First grant in Nevada. Follette, who chairs the Department of Psychology and is also a former associate dean, has achieved

an international reputation for research in therapy for trauma survivors. Wesnousky, a professor of geology and seismology at the University since 1989, is the 2008 winner of the University's F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teacher award, the campus' top teaching honor. He has published more than 75 research papers.

—Pat McDonnell

### LOOK ONLINE

For a full list of 2008 Honor the Best winners, visit [www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue](http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue)



Photo by Emme Speckler.

### Chefs for Kids Accomplishments

Research assessments show that among second-grade students:

- 76% identified foods correctly from each food group with no errors.
- 18.6% chose three unhealthy snacks before intervention, following the education, only 8% chose three unhealthy snacks.
- 94% listed two activities considered “active”; another 6% listed an activity that would get them moving.
- 72% responded with no steps omitted for hand-washing skills.

## Chefs for Kids: Nutrition education program expands to northern Nevada

With a national focus on childhood obesity, nutrition education must begin early. Chefs for Kids educates first- and second-graders in how to choose healthy foods, develop active lifestyles and use good food safety skills, such as proper hand-washing.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension teamed up with the American Culinary Federation Chefs of Las Vegas to design the educational program, Chefs for Kids. The partnership works to eliminate malnutrition through education and awareness – including breakfasts and classes in high-needs Clark County elementary schools.

“Cooperative Extension has developed a nutrition curriculum for children, tailored to their needs and abilities, enabling them to adopt healthful eating habits,” said Chris-

topher Johns, executive chef at South Point Hotel/Casino and a federation member.

Participating chefs donate 500 hours yearly, preparing much needed breakfasts for the students with food donated by local properties and purveyors. “It’s so rewarding to see the faces of these children light up when they see the breakfast we prepared for them,” Johns added.

Susan Lednický, Cooperative Extension program coordinator, reports that Chefs for Kids has reached more than 26,400 students since its inception 18 years ago. This year, however, the program expanded its education to reach youth outside Clark County.

“Expanding to Washoe County has brought Chefs for Kids close to statewide,” Lednický explained. “The teachers at Desert Heights and Sun Valley Elementary Schools were very

*Cooperative Extension nutrition educator Robin Collins explains the nutritional value of nuts and beans to second-grade youth at Cortez Elementary School in North Las Vegas.*

interested in bringing this nutrition education to their children.”

Each year, a gourmet dinner and auction is held to fund teaching positions for Chefs for Kids. This year’s event, held at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, was attended by nearly 600 people and raised more than \$130,000. This event has generated more than \$855,000 since 1991.

For more information about Chefs for Kids, contact Susan Lednický, at (702) 257-5548, or lednickys@unce.unr.edu.

—Marilyn Ming is Cooperative Extension’s Las Vegas marketing and public relations specialist.

# Coalition takes the lead in researching Latino needs

In response to the state's growing population of Latinos, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension partnered with Nevada's Latino Research Center to conduct the first statewide Latino program needs assessment.

"This study will provide a baseline for Nevada," said JoAnne Skelly, Carson City/Storey County extension educator. Skelly and Loretta Singletary, Lyon County extension educator, conceived the idea during a Spanish Immersion Institute held in summer 2007.

Only two other states have published extension program needs assessments focusing on the Latino population, putting Nevada at the national forefront of this research.

"We started this project because no primary data exist, and yet our Latino population is a growing and important audience when it comes to outreach programs in Nevada," Singletary said. In 2006, Latinos comprised 23.5 percent of Nevada's population.

Skelly and Singletary in turn partnered with Emma Sepúlveda-Pulvirenti, Latino Research Center director and professor of foreign languages and literatures, and Cooperative Extension research assistant Jessica Angle, who is bilingual. The team developed an assessment instrument that was distributed at public meetings in 10 Nevada counties by Angle and community volunteers. Research indicates that face-to-face meetings with a native Spanish speaker are more effective in gathering information from Latinos than conducting surveys via mail or telephone.

The research team selected the counties based on the percentage of Latinos living there, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data. The meetings provided a geo-



Volunteer Carmen Caldera, community-based instructor Zoraida Caldera and Nevada research assistant Jessica Angle staff the Cooperative Extension Latino booth at the Women's and Family Fair in Las Vegas in March 2008.

graphic cross-section of both rural and urban communities. The survey did not collect any sensitive or confidential information, nor does it attempt to contact individual participants.

Cooperative Extension will publish the survey results in summer 2008 and distribute them statewide to the public. This information will be valuable to the Latino population, Nevada communities and public assistance agencies wishing to better target their services. Cooperative Extension educators will also use the results to create outreach educational programs to address documented needs.

For more information, contact JoAnne Skelly, at skellyj@unce.unr.edu, Loretta Singletary, at singletaryl@unce.unr.edu, or Emma Sepúlveda-Pulvirenti, at emmas@unr.edu.

## Reaching out to Latino youth

To increase outreach to Latino youth in Carson City, JoAnne Skelly piloted a program for Latino teen girls, Alliance of Latinas in Teen Action and Solidarity,

## Results of ALITAS Program

- Parents of participants report an improvement in their daughters' success in school.
- Participants say their relationships with their mothers have improved.
- Participants are more involved in community service activities.
- Teen graduates liked the program so much they asked to serve as mentors for younger girls.
- Cooperative Extension has started a similar program for Latino teen boys.

(ALITAS) in January 2007.

Bilingual community-based instructor Leticia Servin held weekly programs after school and on Saturdays at Carson Middle School and Eagle Valley Middle School.

The program, based on a nationally recognized curriculum, focused on helping participants improve their grades, communicate better, build self-esteem and learn team-building skills. About 35 girls participated at each school.

—Susan Schmidt '08, journalism intern with Cooperative Extension, and Claudene Wharton '86, '99M.A., a Cooperative Extension public information officer, co-authored this article.

Photo by Vincent Angle.

# Coalition of University faculty helps create eXtension

*Free, online resource brings credible information to your fingertips*

Have you ever thought about starting your own business? Maybe you just added a new member to your family and need a little parenting advice, or you want tips for easing credit card debt. Not to worry. eXtension—a new, research-based web site provides you with answers to these issues and many others.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension partnered with more than 70 land-grant universities to create eXtension, an exciting and dynamic process that brings together the collective expertise of many professionals.

The Nevada extension faculty who worked on the site's resource areas, "Communities of Practice," are: Buddy Borden, economist; Tom Harris, economist and professor in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources; Jeanne Hilton, aging specialist and professor of Human Development and Family Studies; Sally Martin, family specialist and professor of Human Development and Family Studies; horticulturist Angela O'Callaghan; and Jackie Reilly, youth development specialist.

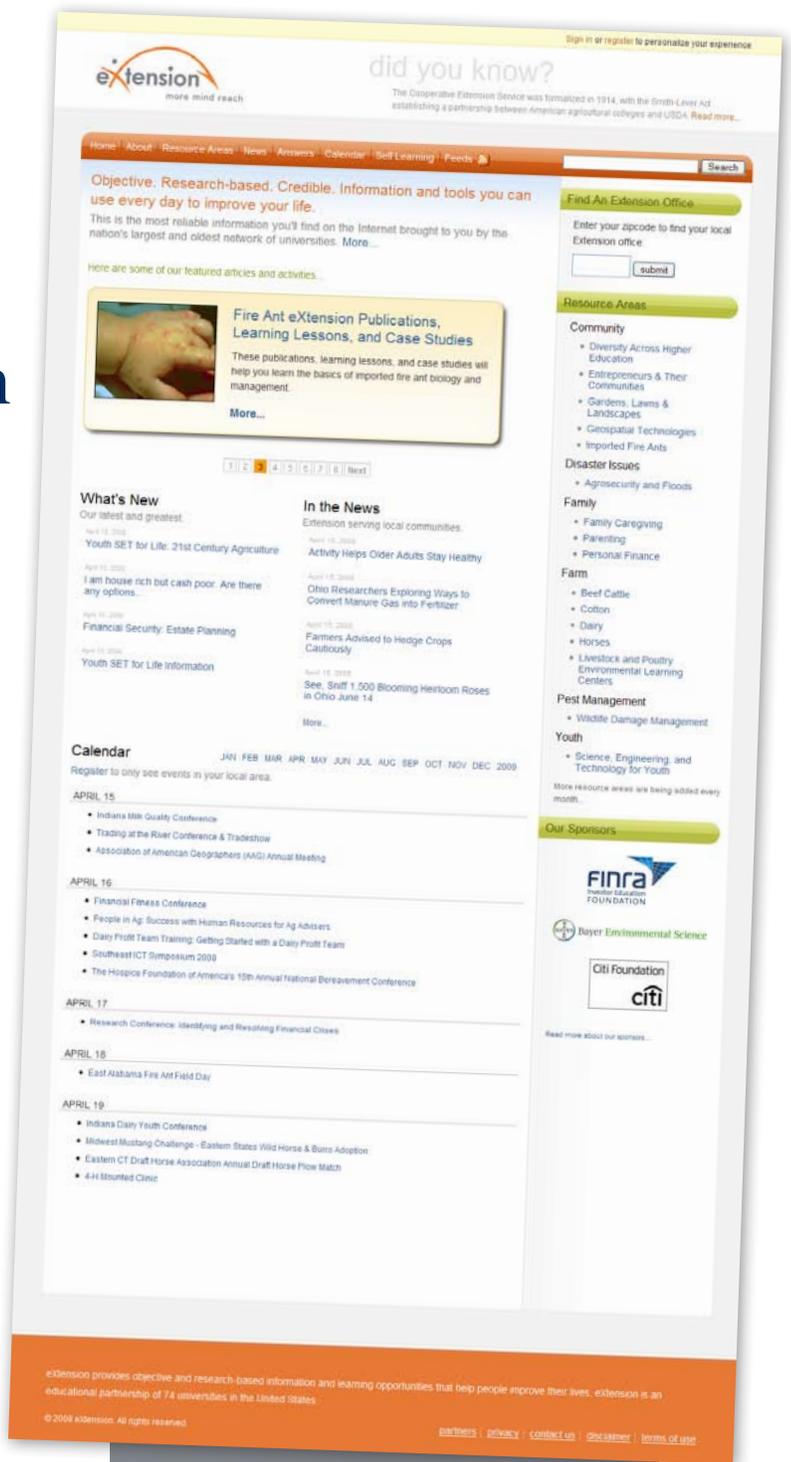
Debuting in early 2008, eXtension contains articles, news items and Frequently Asked Questions on a variety of topics, including entrepreneurship, finances, wildlife management, horticulture, horses and much more.

eXtension is an interactive learning environment where you can use the Ask an Expert option to get personalized advice from an eXtension expert. The professionals know their subject matter inside and out, and can help you find the answers you need.

"This is only the beginning," said Cooperative Extension Dean Karen Hinton, a member of the website's governing committee since its inception. "This is not a static site. As eXtension continues to develop, so will the content and areas of expertise. Faculty from across the country will continue to add information and respond to the information needs of the user."

With new topics and information added on a continual basis, make eXtension your reliable, one-stop information resource on the web.

—Susan Schmidt '08 wrote this article as a journalism intern with Cooperative Extension. She graduated from Nevada in May.



To visit the eXtension website, go to [www.unce.unr.edu](http://www.unce.unr.edu) and click on the eXtension logo in the lower left-hand corner. eXtension can also be found at [www.eXtension.org](http://www.eXtension.org)

# Check Out <sup>the</sup> new Wolf Pack <sup>Line of</sup> Gear



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Photo by Erich Daithe



Photo by Tony Valentino



Photo by Erich Daithe

## *Six exciting games in store for* **Wolf Pack Football in 2008**

**T**he “Number One Band in the Land,” the first Big 12 Conference school to visit Reno and more fan- and family-friendly enhancements are just some of the highlights that will greet Wolf Pack football fans in 2008. This season will feature six exciting home games at Mackay Stadium as Nevada looks to compete for a Western Athletic Conference championship and make its fourth consecutive bowl appearance.

The 2008 season kicks off with a bang as the Wolf Pack plays host to the Grambling State Tigers on Saturday, Aug. 30, at Mackay Stadium. It will be Fan Appreciation Day as fans will benefit from special group prices and giveaways at the stadium gates. Fans will also be treated with a special halftime show as the world famous Grambling State Tiger

Marching Band will perform at Mackay Stadium. Hailed as the “Number One Band in the Land,” the Tiger Marching Band has performed at numerous Super Bowls and electrified audiences around the world.

On Sept. 6, Texas Tech University heads to Reno as the first Big 12 Conference team to visit Mackay Stadium, while Nevada will play host to its WAC home opener against New Mexico State on Oct. 11. The contest against the Aggies will be Youth Day at Mackay Stadium as young Wolf Pack fans will have the chance to run on the field. The following week is Homecoming for the Wolf Pack as Utah State heads to Mackay Stadium on Oct. 18. In addition to its Homecoming festivities, Nevada will induct a deserving class of former student-athletes into its

Athletics Hall of Fame at halftime.

In November, Nevada will wrap up its home slate with games against San Jose State on Nov. 15 and Boise State on Nov. 22. The San Jose State game will be Military Day at Mackay Stadium and will include a flyover during the game and discounted tickets for military personnel. Nevada will honor its senior-athletes prior to the Boise State game in the regular-season home finale.

New for 2008 is a Family Section at Mackay Stadium designed exclusively for parents and kids. Located in Section A, where the Wolf Pack team runs out onto the field, the Family Section will be alcohol-free. Nevada will also increase efforts to promote positive and responsible fan behavior in the stadium. Back this year is the popular Wolf Pack

# 2008 Nevada Fall Schedules



Photo by Tyler Kéck

Linebacker Joshua Mauga and quarterback Colin Kaepernick headline a talented group of returners for the Wolf Pack in 2008, while a performance from the world famous Grambling State Marching Band and Wolf Pack Alley mark two of the family-friendly attractions in store for Mackay Stadium this season.

Alley, located in the parking lot just north of Mackay Stadium. Free and open to the public three hours before each home game, Wolf Pack Alley features live entertainment, food and souvenir vendors, interactive displays and games for Wolf Pack fans of all ages.

Season tickets are on sale now and range in price from \$95 to \$125. Other packages and Pup Club memberships are also available. To purchase tickets, visit or call the Wolf Pack Ticket Office at Legacy Hall at (775) 348-PACK (7225).

—Rhonda Lundin is the director of the Athletics Media Services Department

## Nevada Football Schedule

<b>Aug. 30</b>	<b>Grambling State</b>
<b>Sept. 6</b>	<b>Texas Tech</b>
Sept. 13	at Missouri
Sept. 27	at UNLV
Oct. 4	at Idaho
<b>Oct. 11</b>	<b>New Mexico State</b>
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>Utah State</b>
<b>Oct. 25</b>	at Hawai'i
Nov. 7	at Fresno State
<b>Nov. 15</b>	<b>San Jose State</b>
<b>Nov. 22</b>	<b>Boise State</b>
Nov. 29	at Louisiana Tech



Patrice Godwin



Allison Hernandez

Photo by Erich Daitle

## Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 29-31	at Notre Dame Tournament
Aug. 29	vs. Valparaiso
Aug. 30	at Notre Dame
<b>Sept. 5-7</b>	<b>Nevada Tournament</b>
<b>Sept. 5</b>	<b>UCLA</b>
<b>Sept. 7</b>	<b>Seattle</b>
<b>Sept. 12-13</b>	<b>AT&amp;T INVITATIONAL</b>
<b>Sept. 12</b>	<b>Missouri</b>
<b>Sept. 13</b>	<b>UC-Davis</b>
<b>Sept. 13</b>	<b>Pepperdine</b>
Sept. 18	at Louisiana Tech
Sept. 20	at New Mexico State
<b>Sept. 25</b>	<b>San Jose State</b>
Sept. 27	at Utah State
Sept. 28	at UNLV
<b>Oct. 2</b>	<b>Idaho</b>
<b>Oct. 4</b>	<b>Boise State</b>
<b>Oct. 7</b>	<b>Sacramento State</b>
Oct. 11	at Fresno State
<b>Oct. 16</b>	<b>Fresno State</b>
<b>Oct. 18</b>	<b>Hawai'i</b>
<b>Oct. 23</b>	<b>Louisiana Tech</b>
<b>Oct. 25</b>	<b>Utah State</b>
Oct. 31	at Hawai'i
<b>Nov. 6</b>	<b>New Mexico State</b>
Nov. 8	at San Jose State
Nov. 13	at Idaho
Nov. 15	at Boise State
Nov. 20-22	WAC Tournament

(Home Games in Bold)

## Women's Soccer Schedule

<b>Aug. 22</b>	<b>UC Santa Barbara</b>
Aug. 29	vs. Pacific (Las Vegas)
Aug. 31	at UNLV
Sept. 5	at San Francisco
<b>Sept. 7</b>	<b>Portland State</b>
<b>Sept. 12</b>	<b>Minnesota</b>
Sept. 19	at Wisconsin-Green Bay
Sept. 21	at Wisconsin
<b>Sept. 28</b>	<b>UC Davis</b>
Oct. 3	at Sacramento State
<b>Oct. 5</b>	<b>Saint Mary's</b>
<b>Oct. 10</b>	<b>Hawai'i</b>
<b>Oct. 12</b>	<b>San Jose State</b>
Oct. 17	at Utah State
Oct. 19	at Louisiana Tech
<b>Oct. 24</b>	<b>Idaho</b>
<b>Oct. 26</b>	<b>Boise State</b>
Nov. 2	at Fresno State
Nov. 6-9	WAC Tournament

Visit [www.nevadawolfpack.com](http://www.nevadawolfpack.com) for more info.

# Pack picks top coaches

**T**wo of the newest coaches to join the University of Nevada Wolf Pack family both have ties to the Lone Star State.

While first-year women's soccer coach Jaime Frias is a newcomer to the Wolf Pack family, coming to Reno from Stephen F. Austin University, Nevada fans will recognize Mike Richmond, who was named the head coach of the women's swimming and diving team this spring after spending the last nine years with the team.

## Mike Richmond: Women's Swimming and Diving Head Coach



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Mike Richmond '03 (general studies) was named the head coach of the Wolf Pack women's swimming and diving team in March after spending the last nine years with the program, including eight as an assistant coach and the 2007-08 season as the team's interim coach.

After leading the Wolf Pack to its second consecutive Western Athletic Conference championship and being named the WAC Coach of the Year this season, Richmond earned the permanent job following a national search. Under his direction this year, the team produced the WAC Swimmer of the Year and Freshman of the Year, while three members of the squad earned spots at the 2008 NCAA Championships.

"My time at Nevada has been the most rewarding years of my coaching career," Richmond said. "We truly have the foundations of a great program in place, and I'm honored to continue to be a part of the Wolf Pack family."

Richmond first got into coaching when he was 18, but never planned to make a career of it. "Finally, coaching kind of stuck with me," he said.

A native of west Texas, he grew up in Amarillo and started his coaching career at Permian High School in Odessa. Prior to coming to Nevada, he was the longtime head coach of the Lubbock Swim Club in Lubbock, Texas, widely regarded as one of the top programs in the state in the 11 years he coached. Richmond was a seven-time Texas All-Star coach as well as the west Texas state committee chairman. He has also gained renown as one of the nation's foremost stroke technique coaches and has written a book on strength and conditioning, technique and motivation in the sport of swimming.

Richmond tabs the coaches and swimmers he has worked with as some of the biggest influences in his life, including Doug Russell, a 1968 Olympic gold medalist who coached Richmond for three years. As an athlete himself, Richmond was an all-star nominee in baseball and a Junior Olympic qualifier in swimming.

"Doug gave me a lot of passion for the sport," Richmond said. "My big influences have also come from the athletes I've coached over the years." He also credits his parents, Joe and Jean, and his upbringing for much of what he has learned in life and the philosophy he brings to coaching.

"Growing up in west Texas, you learn a simple way of life and a lot of simple values like commitment, dedication, hard work and honesty," Richmond said. "If athletes know you care more about them as people, more than just as athletes, you'll get a lot more out of them and the relationship. I've always believed that if you have a strong relationship

Photo courtesy WolfPack Athletics



*Nevada swimming coach Mike Richmond (shown with junior Summer Halwas-Morgan) led the Wolf Pack to its second consecutive Western Athletic Conference title in 2008.*

with an athlete, you can have an impact in their lives, not only with what they do as a competitor but in the game of life as well."

According to Richmond, people make the University a special place. "Reno is a fantastic community and the University of Nevada is a dynamic institution. That comes first and foremost from our leadership. Cary Groth and Cindy Fox (Nevada's athletics director and executive associate athletics directors) are outstanding people," Richmond said.

## Jaime Frias: Women's Soccer Head Coach



Photo courtesy WolfPack Athletics

Frias became the fourth head coach in the history of the Nevada women's soccer program in January. He joined the Wolf Pack after spending the last six seasons at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, including the last three years as the Ladyjacks' head coach. During his tenure as SFA's head coach, Frias led the Ladyjacks to a pair of Southland Conference regular-season championships and a Southland Conference tournament title and NCAA Championship appearance in 2007.

He said the possibilities at Nevada are what set the school apart and drew him to the Wolf Pack.

"I got this opportunity at Nevada and took it because of all that the school has to offer to the student-athlete. You have the possibility of winning conference championships,

participating in the NCAA Tournament and getting deep into the tournament. We give all of our student-athletes the necessary tools to be champions on the field, in the classroom and in life. This is a truly a unique place, and all of those things made this a very good opportunity for me.”

Frias was born in Mexico and came to the United States when he was eight years old, settling in Houston, Texas. He spent a year in 1995-96 playing semi-professional soccer in Mexico City for Club Deportivo Guadalajara, the U-18 Premier Youth Squad. During that year, Frias said he gained an even greater appreciation for the American way of life.

“I was born in Monterrey, Mexico and lived there through my early childhood. Living and training in Mexico City was a unique experience for me. There’s a great deal of poverty, corruption and lack of clean water throughout

the city. Things as simple as running water and three meals a day were an issue while I was there,” he said. “I became very appreciative of what I had in the United States, for the things we take for granted. I really matured a lot as a person in my time there.”

After an injury, Frias returned to the United States and enrolled at Centenary College in Shreveport, La. He was a scholarship soccer player at Centenary from 1996-2000 and served as a team captain during the 1998 and 1999 seasons. Frias earned his bachelor’s degree in health and physical education in 2000, and after his playing career was done, his college coach and mentor, Jed Jones, offered Frias a position as an assistant coach at Centenary, his break into Division I college coaching.

Frias served as an assistant at Centenary for two years before joining head coach Nicole

Nelson’s staff at Stephen F. Austin University. After three years as an assistant coach for the Ladyjacks, Frias got his first opportunity to be a head coach when Nelson left for another coaching position.

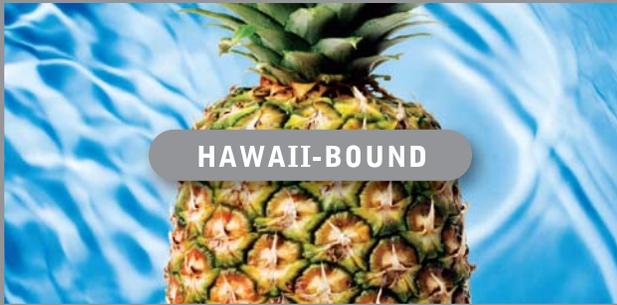
According to Frias, Jones and Nelson had a lot of influence on the coach he is today.

“From Jed, I took the organizational part of being a head coach. He really taught me the ins and outs of planning team travel, recruiting and setting up camps. The way I function administratively today reflects that,” Frias said. “Nicole is the hardest worker I’ve ever worked with and that really rubbed off on me. She taught me that hard work and preparation can overshadow some of your deficiencies as a coach.” 

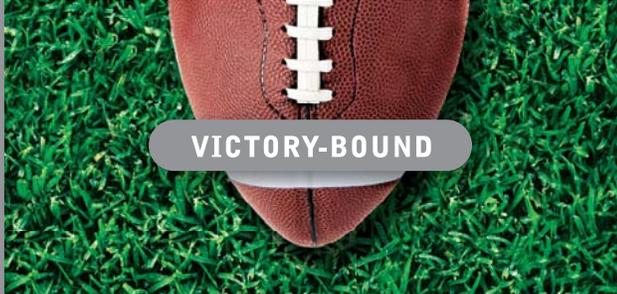
—Rhonda Lundin is the director of the Athletics Media Services Department



**VEGAS-BOUND**



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## HIT THE ROAD

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**OCTOBER 25**

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TIKI'S GRILL & BAR POOL DECK  
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For more information, contact Mike Dillon '94 at [mikedillonjr@yahoo.com](mailto:mikedillonjr@yahoo.com) or 775.560.7006.



# Junk Clutter Obsession

When you can't let go: Alumna helps compulsive hoarders

Christiana Bratiotis '95 (psychology), '99MSW stands in front of the packed and hushed auditorium at Renown Regional Medical Center in Reno, her hometown where she received a master's in social work at the University before moving on to a fellowship at Yale and her current position working on her doctorate at Boston University.

She presses a button and a picture flashes on the screen: the inside of a woman's home. The kitchen is littered with papers. Some are strewn across the stove—a serious fire hazard. Others inhabit cabinets while still more occupy chairs. One chair is conspicuously bare.

"This is the one chair she uses to eat," Bratiotis says.

Another room, the dining room, holds mountains of clothes that reach up and encompass the chandelier, while vast towers of newspapers populate a spare bedroom, and 10 years worth of undelivered gifts, in lines like unkempt soldiers, spill into a hallway after completely congesting a bedroom. This is compulsive hoarding, a disorder characterized by extreme

hoarding—often of items that are apparently of little value—to such an extent that a person's ability to function normally is impaired. Once thought to be a symptom of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder because the patients exhibit

*Josh Culpepper, Class of 2009, is an English literature major and a student intern with Nevada Silver & Blue*



similar symptoms, new research suggests compulsive hoarding deviates significantly from OCD though it does not yet appear in the Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of Mental Disorders on its own.

The auditorium, bustling a few minutes prior, now remains silent. The light chatter that mixed with the clank and movement of seats has quieted.

Bratiotis walks to the podium in a black suit, smiling. She has straight red hair that meets her shoulders and frames her face. A sense of trustworthiness radiates from her, which undoubtedly aids her efforts as a social worker. "Hello," she says.

The pictures, she says, are merely one example of the life of someone with the disorder. It is impossible to determine if anyone in the audience suffers from this and is currently reading the blue flyers that were passed around before the lecture saying, "Stop hoarding your

time! Give it to a child instead," and "Stop hoarding your clothes! Donate them instead."

The truth is this is a much more common ailment than previously thought, and it is nothing new. A recent study with a random sampling of the American public shows that about 3 to 5 percent of Americans have this disorder. This means that nearly 15 million Americans suffer from compulsive hoarding.

Bratiotis intends to help as many people with this disorder as she can and she goes to great lengths to do so. She is a therapist to many, working with some patients for years. She recalls meeting with a patient one morning before sunrise.

In an affluent Boston neighborhood, Bratiotis met with the man for what she calls, "a non-shopping, shopping trip." The patient had already completed about four months of therapy and had stopped "acquiring" objects for the most part, but his "last hold out of acquiring"



Photos courtesy of the Fairfax County Hoarding Task Force, Virginia

*Compulsive hoarders pack their homes so full of items that they become almost uninhabitable.*

was in this neighborhood on trash day, a neighborhood in which he did not live. She stepped into her patient's car and they drove slowly in the cold, dark morning.

"He was after larger items like furniture, art and pieces of glass," she says.

An object entered his peripheral vision and he stopped the car; without turning the engine off, he got out and inspected a would-be find. When he realized it was nothing, he got back in the car and they continued on.

Suddenly, excitement built within him. He murmured to himself, "Look, there's a bookshelf." This was where Bratiotis began therapy. She attempted to talk to him on a rational level.

"I try to slow down the urge to acquire," she says. "That is my job as a therapist."

She asked him questions such as, "Don't you already have a bookshelf?" and other questions along these lines to make him realize that he does not need this particular item. But, his excitement over this acquisition had overtaken him and he stopped the car and walked over to examine the bookshelf. The bookshelf was damaged. It had merely two shelves—not a fantastic find and not the treasure he was expecting. His disappointment was obvious. Bratiotis listened as he continued talking about the bookshelf as they drove slowly down the street, the tires audible against the asphalt.

He expressed his excitement by muttering to



*Bratiotis*

himself. He saw a piece of art: a framed picture. But again, he was met with disappointment. The picture had a slash through it. He returned to the car, obsessing over what he might have had, as Bratiotis talked to him, trying to help him understand that his disorder was influencing his thinking.

A water hose came into sight. It was cracked and brittle, a withered snakeskin shed in wide loops on the sidewalk. A spigot attached itself to one end of the hose. He placed it in his pocket and returned to the car. He laughed.

Bratiotis recalls him saying, "See, this is so small it hardly counts as anything at all."

Bratiotis returns to the picture she showed initially, but now with one drastic difference. The woman now has a tidy living space that Bratiotis helped her attain through behavioral therapy. The room filled with newspapers now has a visible couch with speakers on either side. On top of each speaker is a small, green plant and a table in front of the couch holds a plant, as well. The gifts are gone from the hall. The dining room now has a soft-blue tablecloth covering the table instead of mountains of clothes. The chandelier is now exposed and shining above the table onto white and blue China plates that she can finally display.

"She has been entertaining guests for the first time in years," Bratiotis says.

The last picture to appear on the screen is the kitchen. She showed this picture first

when it was overflowing with papers. Now, the counters are clean. The stove is free of combustibles. She has more than one chair available for seating.

However, between the refrigerator and the kitchen counter is a small cache. Papers and other objects are packed into the tiny crevice. The objects rest without spilling onto the floor, but the space remains as a comfort zone for the woman, Bratiotis explains. She keeps this small part of the mess to know that she still possesses some of her past life.

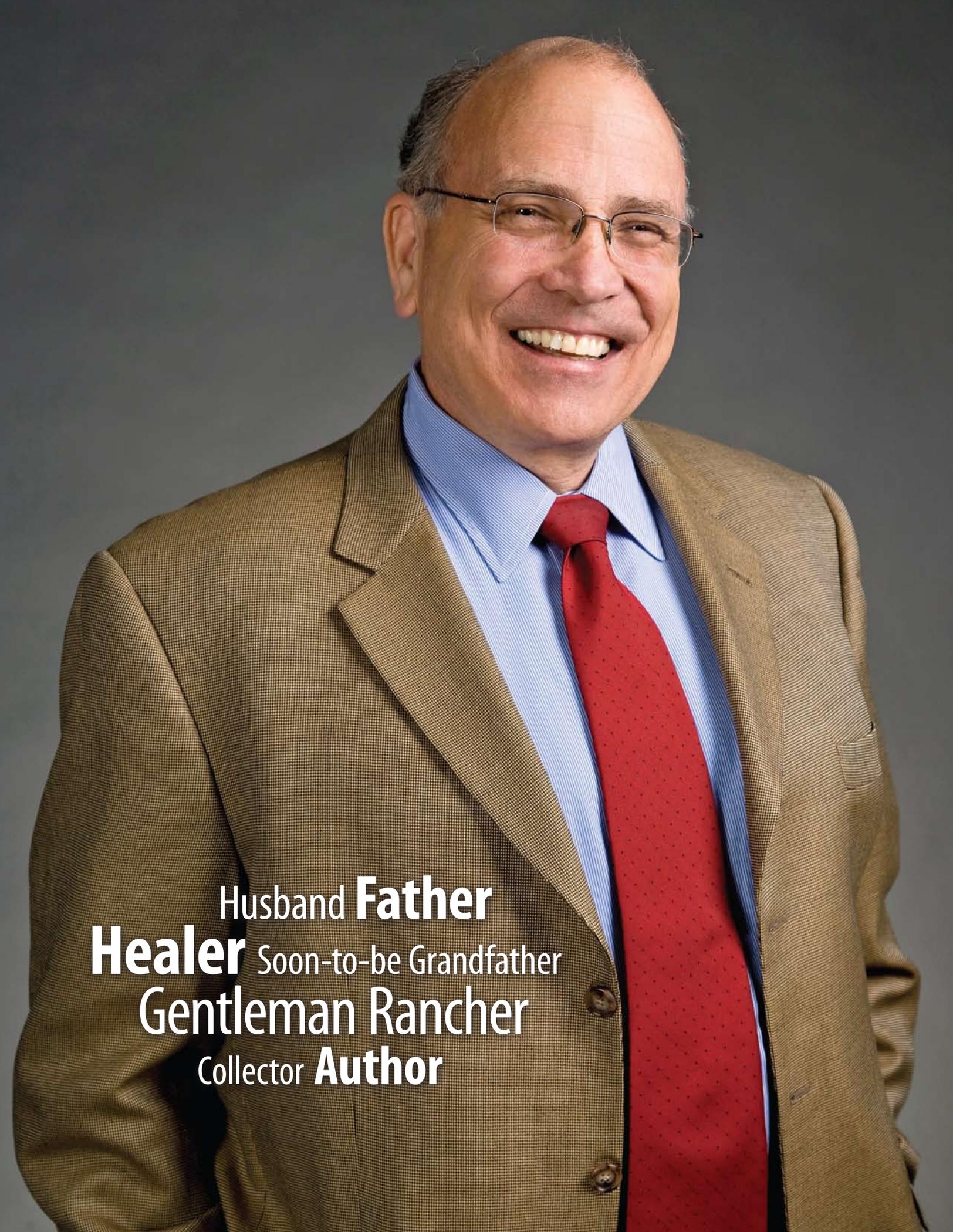
This is typical of compulsive hoarders, but with Bratiotis' help many more will attain this new standard of living. She truly cares about the people suffering from this disorder.

Susan Chandler, professor of social work and Bratiotis' former mentor at Nevada, reinforces how much she cares about her patients. At the mention of Bratiotis, Chandler cannot help but smile.

"We are so proud of what Christiana is doing," she says. "She has a heart that just doesn't quit." **N**

## Compulsive Hoarding

If you or someone you know may be a compulsive hoarder, you can seek help by visiting the Obsessive Compulsive Foundation website: [ocfoundation.org](http://ocfoundation.org). It provides many resources to help find treatment.



Husband **Father**  
**Healer** Soon-to-be Grandfather  
Gentleman Rancher  
Collector **Author**

# Malin Prupas

'71 (premed), '73M.D.

I moved to the Nevada side of south Lake Tahoe as a young boy. Growing up at the lake taught me about the outdoors. The mountains, the lake, the snow!

We were fortunate at Tahoe, but we still had to work. My parents had a great work ethic. My wife and I like to think we passed it on to our kids. You aren't born with a work ethic. You learn it. Then you teach it.

My dad was a big fan of the "Donkey and the Carrot" fable. There's always one more thing you can do. An A minus in school made me try a little harder. My youngest son is starting his career and I just emailed him and asked, "Did you make one extra phone call today?"

In the early part of our marriage, my wife, Barbara, was there for me when I was in school. As I became established in my career, she wanted to go back and grow hers. She got her doctorate in psychology recently. Now I get dinner ready since she has long days at the hospital. I couldn't have done it without her emotional and physical support. I don't think most people can do it all alone.

When I went through my medical training, I wasn't the top student in my class. I got through because of hard work. When it was

time to go into medical practice, I wanted to know one area particularly well. I didn't want to be a generalist. So for me the best thing was to master one area. It fit my personality and needs better. In retrospect, it was a good decision and I'm really happy that I became a rheumatologist.

It's important to start off on the right foot. My wife and I think we're good role models. We set standards. I think continuing to be a father to my daughter (who is about to have my first grandchild) will be the best way I can help her be a better mother.

I want to teach my granddaughter to be a good citizen. I want her to want to learn as much as she can and be close to her family. Sometimes I harp on my kids. I often end phone conversations with, "Have you talked to your brother and/or sister?" I hope my granddaughter communicates well and keeps family close.

I learned that there are different ways to give your wife presents. When my children were young, I had the idea to wake my wife up and surprise her with a lamb on Mother's Day. She wasn't too thrilled at first, but for years after, we enjoyed raising sheep as a family.

Living in the county, my kids were busy and

it kept them out of trouble. Seeing lambs born and then having the responsibility of caring for them and later letting let them go... those are important lessons.

Working hard isn't the most important thing. There's more to life than work. There has to be a happy balance. I do believe that more as I get older, especially after I have had my own medical illnesses. You have to stop and enjoy the little things.

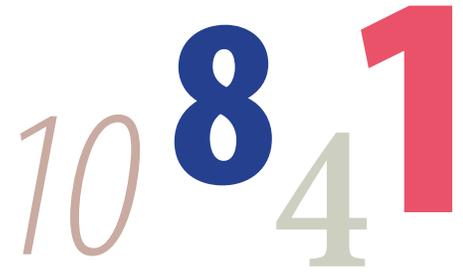
I think it's a necessity to give back for the education you obtain. I never thought I would be in a position to give back. Now that I am, it is important. I owe a lot of my success to my education at the University.

It was hard for me to understand why Barbara wanted to get her doctorate later in life. Now I see that it's so rewarding and exciting for her and in turn, for me. We both continue to love to learn.

I don't think, aside from our faith, that there is anything more important in our community than the University. If we didn't have the University, Reno wouldn't be as exciting and northern Nevada's future wouldn't be as bright. Education is what makes life better for all of us.

*From a conversation with Elizabeth Welsh '99 (health education) in May 2008. Prupas, 59, graduated from the School of Medicine in 1973 and was a member of the charter class. He is currently a rheumatology consultant at the Arthritis Center of Reno, which he opened in 2001. He has authored two books on arthritis, Learn about your Arthritis and Arthritis Made Simple. Barbara Prupas earned her master's in counseling and guidance at Nevada in 1986.*

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas



# Numbers, numbers everywhere

*Scientific literacy in today's world must come together with numerical literacy*

John Paulos, in his book *Innumeracy, Mathematical Illiteracy and Its Consequences*, asks, “How many pizzas are consumed each year in the United States? How many words have you spoken in your life? How many different people’s names appear in the *New York Times* each year? How many watermelons would fit inside the U.S. Capitol building? What is the volume of all the human blood in the world?” While

perhaps these questions are more entertaining than essential, the point is clear that numbers and their magnitudes are everywhere.

For something close to Nevadans, take for example some amazing numbers from our state’s mining industry:

did you know that Nevada mines produced 6.3 million troy ounces of gold in 2006, 81 percent of all the gold mined in the USA and 8 percent of all the gold mined in the world, and this placed the USA fourth behind South Africa, China and Australia? Did you know that the technology currently employed in the mining industry by companies like Newmont at the Twin Creeks’ mine near Winnemucca involves processing more than 1 ton of ore for each troy ounce of gold extracted, and that this can be done with a solid margin of profit? Did you know how important gold is for virtually all the electronics we use today? The point here is that science and math are all around us in incredibly vital and important ways.

With the help of the Washoe County Education Collaborative, local businesses, and the Colleges of Science and Education, the Gateway Curriculum is in place for the Washoe County high school class of 2010. This “Gateway to the Future” mandates three years of science and four years of math, up from two

and three years, respectively. In addition, with Washoe County’s leadership, a similar set of requirements was adopted statewide during the 2007 legislative session. So the climate is ripe for a scientifically and mathematically literate citizenry and workforce to embrace Nevada’s future.

It is a uniquely human trait to question and investigate our world, and Gateway is for those who must learn the precise numerical score to the issues and challenges we all will face in the years ahead. Gateway is also for students who might otherwise decide that science and math are something other people do. Additionally, Gateway is for those who assume that technological advances are not for them.

From the lowest grades onward, the biggest gift that an education in science and math can give is a deep appreciation for the beautiful complexity of our world and the need for us to think logically and with quantitative precision when we analyze it. Of course this means mastering the skills of computation, estimation and conceptual understanding in arithmetic, algebra, geometry, discrete math and statistics. However, to be effective, engaging and lasting, the work that is done with mathematics must be relevant to our daily lives.

The Washoe County Gateway math curriculum calls for all students to attain a minimum of a second year of algebra by the time they graduate. Now with four years of math, many will go one year beyond this. But algebraic thinking and calculation is only the beginning—like doing scales before you can play a song on the piano or calisthenics before you are strong enough to play football. For example, why not consider the algebra behind the bar codes on everything we buy and scan these days? What about the modular arithmetic behind the cryptography of safely encoding credit card numbers on the Internet? Instead of using logarithms and exponentials to solve

for  $x$  and check your answer in the back of the book, why not use them to navigate real estate or stock markets or develop an understanding of therapeutic levels for medications and the dangerous consequences of illegal drugs or multi-drug interactions? The possibilities are endless. It is up to anyone who uses math or science to help our teachers to explain it to the minds which hold our future. We cannot teach students every application but we can teach enough of them to instill awe, excitement and a deep appreciation for man’s quest for knowledge and the role of numeracy within it.

We must do all we can to get even the youngest of students to the frontiers of science as quickly as possible. This is a challenge like no other—for scientists to communicate and for teachers to embrace new adventures in their teaching and their own learning. Parents and counselors should not be telling their kids, “I was never good at math and I haven’t needed it in my career.” They should be saying, “I wish I knew more math and science, for the world of today is so different than when I was a kid!”

## University outreach

Faculty from the colleges of Science, Education and Engineering, as well as many other great faculty and researchers across the campus and at the Desert Research Institute, should be commended for their outreach to the education of Nevada’s future adults.

Thanks to Department of Physics faculty and students, the University’s College of Education and the Nevada Terawatt Facility produced a colorful and educational portfolio on high energy density physics. The Terawatt Facility’s amazing high energy plasma studies use incredible amounts of energy exerted over extremely small time spans. The brochure’s colorful and accurate depictions of these amazingly short and powerful processes have captured the imaginations of many young minds. Yet to even

Edward Keppelmann is an associate professor of mathematics and the K-12 outreach coordinator for the College of Science.

16<sup>3</sup>9<sup>2</sup>7<sup>15</sup>23<sup>6</sup>5<sup>4</sup>2<sup>0</sup>

partially simulate these reactions, which take far less than a trillionth of a second to complete, requires weeks of supercomputer time. Cracking the key to these interactions may eventually lead to unlimited supplies of energy through nuclear fusion and the development of lasers that can focus so precisely they can destroy previously inoperable cancerous tissue without touching the healthy tissue that surrounds it.

When I was an undergraduate in the early 1980s, research was something faculty rarely discussed with their students and certainly no one who didn't already have or was about to

get a doctorate actually did research. Today, however, the University is among the most forward-thinking of institutions, and has its own Office of Undergraduate Research led by M. Saiid Saiidi, professor of civil engineering. The support of the University, which includes grants and faculty mentors, is making undergraduate research—complete with the possibility of profound and influential discoveries—quite attainable. I believe that the next step in this evolution is to make these discoveries and challenges more and more accessible and exciting to our K-12 minds.

On April 7, the University of Nevada Reno, Truckee Meadows Community College, Western Nevada College, and the Washoe County Education Collaborative co-sponsored an inaugural outreach conference. This event brought together researchers of all types, as well as educators and administrators from K-12 and beyond to celebrate what has been done and to brainstorm what could be possible. I hope this can be an annual event.

The future Einsteins in a multitude of disciplines are a gigantic responsibility for all of us. 

University of Nevada, Reno | 2008-09

## Performing Arts Series

Presented by the University of Nevada, Reno, the Performing Arts Series brings some of the world's finest performers to the University's Nightingale Concert Hall.

- **Matt Wilson's Arts and Crafts Quartet**  
Thursday, September 18, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.
- **Alison Brown with Joe Craven**  
Thursday, October 16, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.
- **Midori**  
*Made possible by a generous grant from Partners in Performance*  
Saturday, November 15, 2008 • 7:30 p.m.
- **The Second City**  
Thursday, January 29, 2009 • 7:30 p.m.
- **MG3: Montréal Guitare Trio**  
Thursday, March 5, 2009 • 7:30 p.m.

### Pre-season discount through July 31!

The 2008-09 Performing Arts Series is offering pre-season ticket discounts for all five performances, for savings of as much as 20 percent! Season tickets may be purchased by calling (775) 784-4ART.



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Midori



## Whittemore family invests in neuro-immune institute

By Ken Kempcke

Annette '74 (elementary education/special education) and Harvey '74 (prelegal) Whittemore recently delivered \$1 million to President Milton Glick as part of a \$5 million pledge to augment the funding of construction of the Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease within the University of Nevada School of Medicine's Center for Molecular Medicine. This institute is the first of its kind to combine basic research with evidenced-based patient care in a fully translational program.

The institute was first conceived when a group of dedicated citizens and clinicians proposed the concept of a medical institute in Nevada for the millions of patients in the United States suffering from neuro-immune diseases such as myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, atypical multiple sclerosis, autism and other related illnesses.

Although the number of Americans suffering from these disorders is growing, federally funded research has been sparse. Despite the seriousness of these illnesses, there are still no FDA-approved treatments or diagnostic tools that bring significant relief to patients. Scientists and clinicians at the Whittemore Peterson Institute hope to change that by building a bridge from the patient to the science, and back to the patient.

Dr. Daniel Peterson, medical director of the institute, is a pioneer in chronic fatigue syndrome research and a leading chronic fatigue syndrome clinician from Sierra Internal Medicine in Incline Village. He was one of the first doctors to recognize the illness in the United States, treating the famous Lake Tahoe cases of ME/chronic fatigue syndrome in the early 1980s. His paper on the Lake Tahoe outbreak has become a landmark in the understanding of these chronic and debilitating diseases. He is at the forefront of continued research

*Annette Whittemore '74 with cancer researcher William Murphy in his lab with cellular and molecular biology grad students Danice Wilkins, Kory Alderson and Mark Hubbard.*

seeking an understanding of the underlying causes of these diseases, while also educating the public about their serious nature.

"The fast growing numbers of individuals impacted by neuro-immune diseases and the lack of answers in this field of medicine make it imperative that we work together to support medical research and education," Peterson says. "I believe the University of Nevada, Reno and the Whittemore Peterson Institute have a unique opportunity to become leaders in the field of neuro-immunology through this and other key partnerships."

Annette Whittemore, founding director of the institute, praises Dr. Judy Mikovitz, the newly hired research director, who moved to Reno after years of working at the National Institutes of Health as a virologist studying the relationship of viruses to cancer: "Dr. Mikovitz is a world-class researcher. She immediately recognized the value of collaboration with the University's much larger

research community in finding answers for these chronic diseases.”

In addition to their support for the construction of the Whittemore Peterson Institute, the Reno-based Whittemore Family Foundation recently provided a \$100,000 gift to support the work of William Murphy, chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine. Murphy is a nationally recognized cancer researcher whose research is focused on examining issues in bone marrow transplantation and using the body’s immune system to “seek out and destroy—like a guided missile—pockets of cancer,” Murphy explains.

Mikovitz notes: “Many of the issues surrounding cancer and transplant science also apply to chronic inflammatory conditions like myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome, which are driven by a dysfunctional immune system. We believe someone with Dr. Murphy’s talent is critical to the success of our work at the Whittemore Peterson Institute.”

Murphy also leads the School of Medicine’s Laboratory of Cancer Immunology. Prior to coming to Nevada in 2002, he worked at the National Institutes of Health for 12 years, and became the director of basic research at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Md.

The Laboratory of Cancer Immunology employs 16 people: undergraduates, graduate students, research assistant professors and technicians. They conduct pre-clinical research and then collaborate with cancer centers around the country that work directly

with patients to evaluate drugs in clinical trials.

Murphy says that local, private funding is critical because the National Institutes of Health budget has flat-lined or decreased in recent years. “This has created a crisis in the research community and hurt our ability to maintain the pace of discovery,” he says.

Discoveries can be dramatic. “There are some molecular targeting agents that are truly remarkable in the remissions they cause in cancer and these agents only came about after years and years of research,” Murphy says. “When you realize these drugs not only work on remission rates, but actually reduce suffering and improve quality of life, it’s really incredible what you get on the return for investment in biomedical research.”

“Within Nevada, when you have private, non-profit research centers like the Whittemore Peterson Institute, you see a natural connection with higher education,” Murphy notes. “Our collaboration will help bring resources that the University could not provide, and create true synergy. The departments within the medical school will be tremendously strengthened. Already the Whittemore Peterson Institute has purchased state-of-the-art equipment that we didn’t have before in Nevada. That’s particularly important because it makes us more competitive when we apply for grants.”

“We cannot afford to be islands,” Murphy adds. “With limited resources, we have to mobilize the community. What

we’re doing here has tremendous ramifications not just for Nevada citizens, but for anybody afflicted.”

Murphy says that dedicated citizens like Annette and Harvey Whittemore are critical to the University’s advancement. “Without private support, people take research for granted, and if you take research for granted, it goes away. I cannot compete at a national level unless we have the type of environment that encourages cutting-edge research.”

While the Whittemore Family Foundation plays a leading role in elevating education and biomedical research in Nevada, Murphy knows that investment decisions can be difficult.

“Research is not something where you get an immediate bang for your buck—you have to be patient. But construction of the Whittemore Peterson Institute and funding for cancer research are not only investments that fight disease, they’re investments that help the community because of their educational potential. Annette and Harvey have really stepped up to the plate to provide not only resources but also, importantly, a voice that makes our jobs as researchers a lot easier and new medical breakthroughs possible.” ■

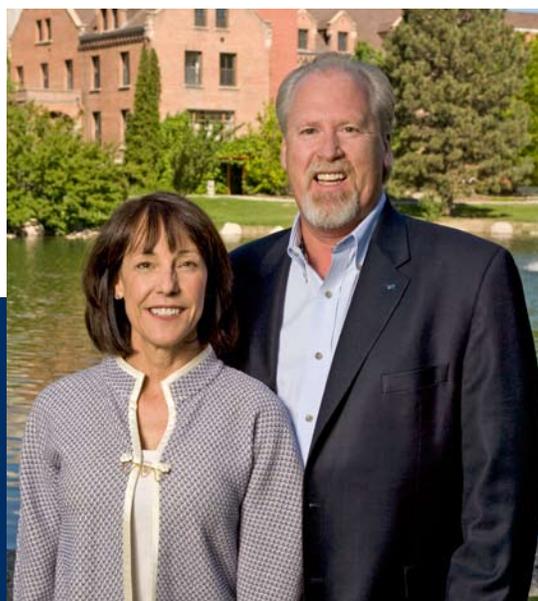


Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

## Whittemores give back to Nevada

Alumni Harvey '74 (prelegal) and Annette '74 (elementary education/special education) Whittemore are distinguished and loyal benefactors of the University of Nevada, Reno. In addition to their gift to the Whittemore Peterson Institute and William Murphy's research, they have given generously to support numerous University facilities and programs including the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, the Foundation Annual Banquet, the Robert G. and Leslie H. Whittemore Scholarship Endowment, the Silver & Blue Society, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Education and Wolf Pack Athletics.



Photos by Lynsey Nelson

## Annual President's Celebration of the Arts 2008

*College of Liberal Arts, School of the Arts, Sat., May 3*

The Nevada Repertory Company celebrated its 35th season during the President's Celebration of the Arts with a presentation of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Celebrants could also choose to attend the president's concert, featuring faculty members from the Department of Music and Dance including performances by favorites such as the Collective and Argenta, to name a few. In addition to the performances, attendees took in fine art exhibits on display in the Sheppard Gallery, McNamara Gallery and Front Door Gallery in the Church Fine Arts Building.

The College of Liberal Arts had 3,781 students enrolled for the 2007-2008 academic year, and 232 academic and administrative faculty. To learn more about the School of the Arts in the College of Liberal Arts, contact Robyn Powers, director of development at (775) 784-6873 or [rpowers@unr.edu](mailto:rpowers@unr.edu).

- (1) Friends, Gail Bradley and Lisa Parkinson, take in the School of the Arts annual tradition of the spring concert/theatrical production. The College of Liberal Arts is the University's largest college, and in past three years the number of undergraduate majors has grown by nearly 4 percent a year.
- (2) College of Education faculty member Stephen Rock, and his wife, Janice, with Susan and William Sparkman, dean of the College of Education.
- (3) Bringing people together as a University community was reason enough to celebrate 35 years of the Nevada Repertory Theater. Nicole Luchetti '02, Kevin Ford '98 (finance), Lucinda Alipio '05 (theatre) and Tyler Dean were happy to continue the festivities.

## College of Liberal Arts Forum For Excellence An Evening with F.W. de Klerk

*The Challenge of Change: Lessons from South Africa, Nightingale Concert Hall, Wed., April 2*

F.W. de Klerk played a central role in ending apartheid in his country and shared the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize with Nelson Mandela, whom he freed. He spoke to an audience of 300 as part of the University's 2008 Forum for Excellence.

"We are all interrelated," de Klerk began, "despite ethnicity, class or culture." When he became president of South Africa in 1989, he said, the country was in desperate need of change. "Change is excellent," de Klerk said. "It is also unpredictable."

Under his presidency, South Africa ended apartheid, that country's racial segregation policy. Democracy was adopted, and each citizen was given the power of the vote. F.W. de Klerk spoke at length about what his country and the world have learned since those volatile days, and then took questions from the audience. Proceeds benefitted the Fund for Excellence, designed to strengthen academic programs within the College of Liberal Arts.



Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglas

- (4) At a reception after the lecture, F.W. de Klerk continued discussions regarding South Africa with Charles Tshimanga-Kashama, associate professor of history, Emma Makoba, and Johnson Makoba, associate professor of sociology.

## Celebrating 100 years of Mackay

*College of Science, Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, April 20-26*

Nearly 100 years ago, the public flocked to the University of Nevada campus on a June day to commemorate the creation of what has since become one of the state's most enduring and historic academic enterprises. The Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering was born on June 10, 1908, with the official dedication of the Mackay School of Mines building on the historic University Quadrangle.

The Mackay School commemorated this anniversary with a series of events that rekindled the fanfare and festivities of when it first opened its doors. A few of the celebration festivities included the annual Mackay Madness Lunch with the Mackay Mustache Competition, Professor Hans-Peter Plag's Earth Day lecture about sustainability in the global climate, a faculty reception at the W.M. Keck Museum and the Mackay Gala at the Grand Sierra Resort.

- (5) *Hans-Peter Plag is an expert on solid earth geophysics, as well as sea level and global climate change. As part of Mackay Week and Earth Day, he spoke about sustainability and related this to research conducted at the Mackay School.*
- (6) *Faculty and staff sipped on Mack-tinis during the faculty and staff reception held at the W.M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum.*
- (7) *Michael Mackay, great-grandson of John Mackay, spoke to the crowd about his family's legacy. Michael Mackay with Milton Glick.*
- (8) *Maurice Fuerstenau, chair of chemical and metallurgical engineering, Bill Pennell, and Curtis Clarkson catch up while viewing the Mackay silver that was on display. The large silver pieces, commissioned by John Mackay as a gift to his wife, were later donated to the University and can be seen in the W.M. Keck Museum.*
- (9) *Small class size at the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering allows students to become a tight-knit community of scholars. The school is fortunate to have over \$13 million in endowments, a portion of which supports almost 300 undergraduate students each year.*
- (10) *Kevin McArthur '79 (mining engineering), Gene McClelland '71 (chemistry) and Dan Rovig take the stage to announce Goldcorp's gift, which will provide an endowed chair in the Mackay School.*
- (11) *Lance Taylor, president of Geotemps and advisory board member, was the winner of the bronze miner statue during the live auction, which raised \$10,200 for the W.M. Keck Earth Science and Mineral Engineering Museum.*



5

Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas



6



7



8



9



11



10



# Vintage Nevada

## 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WINE FESTIVAL & AUCTION

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Photo by Jean Dixon

Dear Nevada Alumni,

In May, the Nevada Alumni Association was honored to welcome the Class of 1958 back to campus for their Golden Reunion. Class members enjoyed a weekend of reunion activities designed to recognize this exciting milestone. Attendees enjoyed reminiscing about their days at Nevada and catching up on the last 50 years.



The same weekend, the Association added more than 1,800 new alumni to our family from the graduating class of 2008. Mike Dillon, Alumni Council treasurer/president-elect, and I were honored to congratulate graduates and present Alumni Association lapel pins.

July 9th through August 13th, I invite you to campus each Wednesday to enjoy Pack Picnics on the Quad from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (see ad on page 48). Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy music, free bounce houses, face painting, games and much more. This is a wonderful event for alumni of all ages, as well as their families and friends, and is co-sponsored by Summer Session, COBAAA, Friends and Alumni of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources and the Young Alumni Chapter.

Finally, don't forget that Homecoming 2008 is set for Oct. 15 through Oct. 18. Please plan on returning to campus to see the exciting changes and reconnect with friends and faculty. There will be many events for all to enjoy.

For more information on all Nevada Alumni Association activities, please visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni).

Sincerely,

Cindy Buchanan '95

President, Nevada Alumni Council

**Nevada Alumni Council  
Executive Committee**

- Cindy Buchanan '95  
President
- Randy Brown CPA '89  
Past President
- Mike Dillon '94  
Treasurer/President-Elect
- Lauren Sankovich '98  
VP for Community Outreach
- Michael Pennington '95  
VP for Student Involvement
- Roberta Bibee '83  
VP for Volunteer Involvement
- Kerri Garcia '92  
VP for Marketing and Membership

**Board Members**

- Chad Blanchard '93
- Kelly Bland '91
- Todd Cabral '91
- Jim Conkey '83
- Roger Deidrichsen '71
- Larry Digesti '72
- Seema Donahoe '02
- Jason Frierson '96
- Stephanie Clemo Hanna '96
- Mary Harmon '93, '97
- Sam Hudson '94
- Carlos Ledon '01
- Judy Machabee '91
- P.J. Miller (SAA Rep)
- Patrick Martinez '95
- Marlene Olsen '74
- Mercedes Parsons '84
- Eli Reilly (ASUN President)
- Jeff Pickett '89
- Julie Rowe '94
- Chris Vargas '95
- Charlie Walsh '86
- Cary Groth  
Director, Intercollegiate Athletics

**Staff Members**

- John K. Carothers  
Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations
- Bruce Mack  
Associate Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations
- Amy J. Carothers '01  
Director, Alumni Relations
- Juliane Di Meo  
Alumni Program Manager
- Christy Jerz '97  
Alumni Program Manager
- Lindsey Harmon '06  
Alumni Program Coordinator
- Hope Hepner  
Administrative Assistant II



**CLASS CHAT DEADLINES**

Fall issue: July 25

Winter issue: Oct. 24

email: [chatter@unr.edu](mailto:chatter@unr.edu)

**'60s**

**Col. (Ret.) Tyrus Cobb '62** (political science) has been inducted into the University of Nevada Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Hall of Fame. This award recognizes alumni of the ROTC program who have contributed greatly to society and the United States Army.

**James R. Colgan '63** (premedical) has been named by Governor Jim Gibbons '73M.S. (geology) to a special healthcare issues advisory panel. James is a Carson City urologist and medical director of Physician Select Management in Carson City.

**'70s**

**Patricia Gehr '64** (psychology), '78M.A. (counseling and guidance), '78M.Ed. (special education) is now a retired teacher and counselor and has fond memories of her time at the University.

**Harold Cook '73** (psychology), '81Ph.D (psychology) has been appointed as the state administrator of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services. The division administrator is appointed by Governor Jim Gibbons '73M.S. (geology), who receives recommendations from the Nevada Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services.



Emma Sepúlveda-Pulvirenti '76, '78M.A.



Steve Ranson '80M.Ed



Diane (James) Prendergast '82



Donald A. Bernard II '85



Jackie (Ruiz) Shelton '87



Joe Hansen '85

**Emma Sepúlveda-Pulvirenti '76** (Spanish), '78M.A. (Spanish), a foreign language professor at the University of Nevada, Reno and columnist for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* and *Ahora Newspaper*, has written a book, *Do You Hear My Accent When I Write? The Voice of a Latina Immigrant*.

**Lance Broadbent '79** (geology) has recently accepted a position as check airman with American Airlines. He has been employed with American Airlines for 21 years. Lance lives with his wife and three children in Woodbury, Minn.

## '80s

**Gary Duhon '80** (accounting) has been appointed senior vice president at Trammell Crow Company. In this role, Gary is responsible for managing the company's development, investment and construction divisions.

**Steve Ranson '80M.Ed** (educational administration) has been named editor for the *Lahontan Valley News* and *Fallon Eagle Standard*. Steve served as the sports editor for four years. He has served in the Nevada Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve for 27 years, working in a variety of journalistic and public affairs positions in the United States and Panama. Steve has two sons, Thomas, 22, and David, 20, as well as a daughter, Stephanie, 16.

**Kathilynn Carpenter '81** (journalism) is chair of Sacramento Community Policy Planning Commission and executive director of Sunrise Marketplace—Business Improvement District. Kathilynn enjoys spending time with her daughter, Hannah, 12, and her numerous Great Danes.

**Diane (James) Prendergast '82** (health education) has joined the certified public accounting firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. as learning director. In her new role, she will develop and implement a learning program throughout the firm by coordinating, designing and delivering a staff curriculum. She will also monitor training plans and maintain staff continuing education records.

**Donald A. Bernard II '85** (speech communications) has been named to the Managing Wachovia Securities, LLC Premier Advisors Program. Donald will attend an advanced investment seminar in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he will be presented with this award, which is given to the top 2 percent of the firms' 11,000 stockbrokers. Donald has been with Wachovia Securities since 1988. He currently lives in Reno with his wife, Sallie, and their three children, Brooke, Donald and Collin.

**Deidre (Roberts) Smith '86** (music) teaches at Truckee Meadows Community College and continues to work as director of the Keyboard Arts Academy. Deidre was married to Michael Smith in 2002.

**Jackie (Ruiz) Shelton '87** (journalism) and **Joe Hansen '85** (business administration), partners in Realife Publishing, LLC, launched *Family Pulse*, a monthly family magazine, in March 2008. Realife also publishes *RLife* magazine.

**Lyle Kokkonen '89** (physical education) was recently promoted to classification staff representative with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Lyle is currently the classification staff trainer, traveling throughout California, visiting each of its 33 prisons. Lyle has been married for 20 years to Mary and is blessed with a daughter, Kayla, 18, who currently attends the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Steven J. Madison '89** (nursing) has been promoted to director of surgical services for Northern Nevada Medical Center. Steven is responsible for all inpatient- and outpatient-surgery and related care. He brings 19 years of nursing experience to his new role.

## '90s

**Victor Aguilar '92** (mathematics) maintains a website at [www.axiomaticeconomics.com](http://www.axiomaticeconomics.com). He is the author of *Axiomatic Theory of Economics*.

**Sylvia (Sylva) Ontaneda-Bernales '93** (journalism) was named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women. The honor, bestowed by Maryland's



Jonathon Aunger '96



Tony Illia '96M.A.



Mark Demuth '98M.S.

business and legal daily newspaper, *The Daily Record*, recognizes those women who demonstrate a high level of achievement through professional accomplishment, community service, leadership and mentoring. Sylvia is currently an attorney at Ober/Kaler.

**Tad Loren '95** (marketing) has been named an associate for Grubb & Ellis|NCG. Tad's responsibilities include providing real estate advisory services on a local, regional and national basis to a growing customer base in northern Nevada.

**Eric Statt '95** (physical education), '99M.S. (physical education) has been accepted at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Mich. to pursue his doctorate in biological sciences, with a specialization in sports biomechanics. Eric and his wife, Holly, have lived in

the Minneapolis area since his graduation from the University. Both are looking forward to the beauty of the upper peninsula of Michigan and spending long winters in the abundant snowfall.

**Jonathon Aunger '96** (health science) is a major in the United States Army and will attend the United States Army Command and General Staff College in August 2008.

**Tony Illia '96M.A.** (English) recently won two Bronze Quill Awards from the International Association of Business Communicators. He received one award as managing editor of *Nevada Contractor* in the publications category, and a second award as editor and co-publisher of *Southern Nevada Real Estate Monthly* in the newsletter category. Tony writes a weekly column for the *Las Vegas Business Press*, and he

is a regular contributor to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, *Architectural Record*, *944 Magazine*, and *Engineering News-Record*, among other publications.

**Anjeanette (Coles) Damon '98** (journalism) earned a master's in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in June 2007.

**Mark Demuth '98M.S.** (environmental and natural resource science) has left his consulting business, MADCON, to become a principal with CDM, a consulting, engineering, construction and operations firm. Mark is currently working on an additional graduate degree in land use planning, as well as teaching as a member of the University of Nevada, Reno's adjunct faculty. He served as a ReTRAC consultant for 12 years, until the project's completion.

## Do you know someone who **BLEEDS SILVER & BLUE?**

THE NEVADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS NOW ACCEPTING ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINATIONS

**Deadline: August 1, 2008**

The council meets four times a year and is the governing body of the Alumni Association. Call Amy Carothers at (775) 784-6620 or email [acarothers@unr.edu](mailto:acarothers@unr.edu) for more information. Please use a separate sheet for additional nominations.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Alumni Association  
Morrill Hall Alumni Center / 164  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, Nevada 89557-0005



Bryan Smith '98



Sheri Russell '00



Brian Fitzgerald '06

**Bryan Smith '98** (English literature) was promoted to the position of senior news editor at RISI, a business news and information company headquartered in Boston with bureaus worldwide. A longtime journalist who wrote for the *Reno Gazette-Journal* while attending the University, Bryan has covered global commodities for RISI's websites, newsletters, magazines and books out of its San Francisco office for seven years.

**William Alexander '99** (psychology) has received a doctorate in psychology and cognitive science at Indiana University, Bloomington. William also spent six months in Okinawa City, Japan as a researcher for the Neural Computation Unit at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology. He is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Brain and Psychological Sciences at Indiana University.

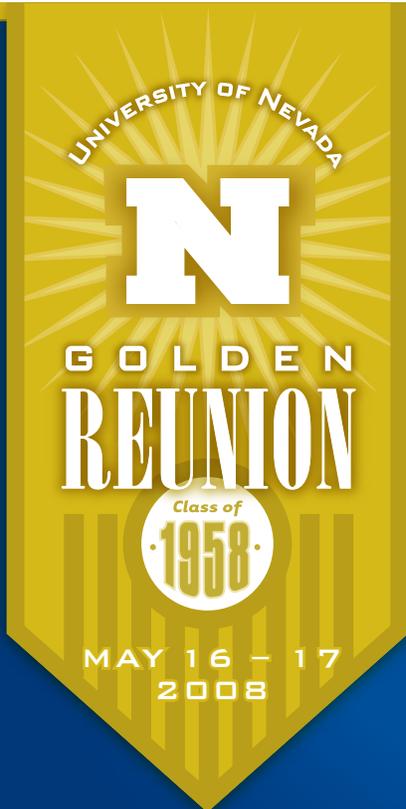
'00s

**Sheri Russell '00** (accounting) has been promoted to senior manager at the certified public accounting firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. Sheri joined the firm more than eight years ago. In her new role, Sheri will be responsible for new business development, tax preparation, staff training and managing several audit engagements concurrently. Her areas of expertise are government and benefit plan engagements.

**Kent Choma '01M.S.** (electrical engineering) has accepted the position of director of facilities management at Saint Mary's Hospital in Reno. Kent has more than 18 years of engineering, technical instruction and project and personnel management experience.

**Christina Sherk '03** (biology) has joined Clear Creek Dental, the Carson City dental practice of Dr. Jack Harrington, as an associate dentist. Christina also works as an associate in the Reno practice of Dr. Roland Postlewait. She is a graduate of the Oregon Health Science University School of Dentistry.

**Brian Fitzgerald '06** (civil engineering), a PBS&J employee, has passed the professional engineer exam and will apply for licensing in 2011. Brian is responsible for services for numerous clients, including the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, Truckee Airport, and Carson City Airport. Brian is an associate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and an avid supporter of the University of Nevada, Reno Concrete Canoe Team.



ONCE NEVADA. ALWAYS NEVADA.

IT WAS A CELEBRATION 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING.



THANK YOU CLASS OF 1958, ALUMNI AND GUESTS FOR A MEMORABLE GOLDEN REUNION.



Wolfcubs



Ryan Dixon '98 (civil engineering), '02M.S. (civil engineering) and Yvonne (Lum) Dixon '96 (speech pathology), '98M.S. (speech pathology) are proud to announce the birth of their fourth child, Alyssa Yvonne, on Feb. 16.



Lucas Leavitt '00 (geological engineering) and Linda (Dickie) Leavitt '00 (marketing) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Elle Mary, on Dec. 17 in Las Vegas.



William Woolsey '02 (computer science) and Rebekah (Newman) Woolsey '03 (biochemistry) welcomed Robert William to their family Dec. 19.



Maureen (Tinker) Dewey '99 (nursing) and Bill Dewey welcomed twin boys on Nov. 13.



Chris Maas '01 (logistics management) and Ashley Maas are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Jordan Christopher, on Sept. 24.



Lori (Champagne) Sandoval '03 (human development and family studies), '07M.Ed (special education) and Robert Sandoval announce the birth of their son, Thomas Robert on Feb. 26.



Chad Waters '99 (marketing), '06MBA and Amy (Jentarra) Waters '01 (secondary education) announce the birth of their first child, Evan Joseph Douglas, born on Dec. 30.



Daniel Wallace '01 (marketing), '05MBA and Erin (Schaffer) Wallace '02 (political science) announce the birth of their son, Riley Daniel, on March 25.



Summer Session 2008 presents

## Summer Concerts and Watermelon on the Quad!

Voted one of *Reno Gazette-Journal's* "Best Family Outings" — free Watermelon Wednesday concerts on the Quad are fun for all ages. Bring a blanket and join us from 6-8 p.m. on these Wednesdays:

- July 9: Bongo Love
- July 16: John Philip Sousa (Reno Municipal Band)
- July 23: Disney (Reno Municipal Band)
- July 30: Guitar Woody and the Boilers
- August 6: Sol'Jibe
- August 13: Brant

### Shine with us this summer!



Concerts are presented by Summer Session in partnership with the Nevada Alumni Association. Picnics sponsored in part by the Young Alumni Chapter, COBAAA, and Friends and Alumni of CABNR.

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Extended Studies  
University of Nevada, Reno



Kara Bymers '07

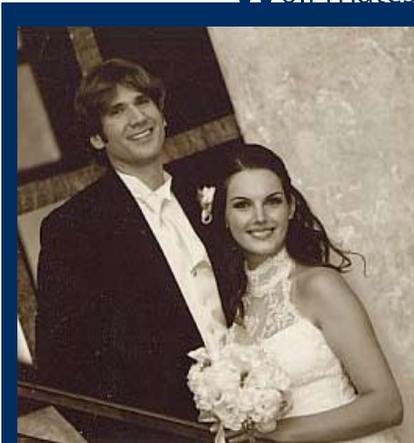


Rebecca Wikler '07

**Kara Bymers '07** (civil engineering) has passed the professional engineer exam. Kara is employed by PBS&J, an architecture-engineering-construction services and program management consulting firm, where she assists with planning, design, bidding, and construction services. Kara is a member liaison for the University of Nevada, Reno Society of Women Engineers and a member of the Truckee-Meadows Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

**Rebecca Wikler '07** (journalism) was hired by Olsen & Associates as a project coordinator. She had been an intern and a project assistant since February 2007. Rebecca assists with many Olsen & Associates accounts and handles logistics management for The Great Reno Balloon Race. **N**

## Wolf mates



**John Sutherland '05** (biology) and **Kerry Colburn '07** (French/journalism) were married on Dec. 22, 2007 at Montréux Country Club in Reno. The couple met while attending the University of Nevada, Reno, as both were involved in the Greek system. John is currently a student at the University of Nevada School of Medicine and will earn his doctorate in 2010. Kerry is working at MassMedia Corporate Communications.



## LoRé and team train counter-terror unit in Yemen

**Major Darren LoRé '95** (general studies) along with a group of six Army soldiers spent six months in Yemen, beginning in October 2005, training that country's counter-terror unit.

"It was the coolest mission I've ever had in my career," LoRé says.

Yemen is located directly south of Saudi Arabia and flanks a strategic water passage linking the Arabian and Red Seas. LoRé and his team's work was a part of a regional strategy to help countries combat extremism on their soil, on their own accord.

LoRé became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army after his participation in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) while at Nevada.

His career as an infantry officer includes serving with the 82nd Airborne, as well as completion in the Army's Ranger school. He was a company commander in the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks on Oahu. During his most recent tour on Guam, he led the training of more than 6,000 soldiers prior to their deployment to the Middle East and Africa.

While going overseas is never easy for soldiers or their families, LoRé's was optimistic about his upcoming experience in Yemen.

"I was very excited because it's not every day you get a mission where you're free to make your own plans and you live in

*Darren LoRé (third from right wearing sunglasses) poses with his counter-terrorism unit and local interpreters (far right and left) in front of a Yemenese cityscape.*

your own safe house," he says. "It's not common to have that kind of job. It was a very exciting opportunity and I was happy to get it."

LoRé and his team trained for two months learning about the culture and customs of Yemen before being stationed in the capital, Sanaa.

He was delighted to live amongst an ancient culture where people still wear traditional garments. With no institutional obstacles in place, socialization with local members of the population came easy and friendships were built. LoRé and his unit took pains to blend in: They wore civilian clothing, their weapons were concealed, and LoRé even sported a beard. He learned something about humanity in those six months.

"People think they are so foreign, but people are people and there are universal values we all share," LoRé says.

Since last summer LoRé has been in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas studying at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, which educates and develops leaders for full spectrum joint, interagency and multinational operations. In August he will begin a one-year deployment to Iraq. He is married to Cammy Elquist LoRé '95 (journalism) '95 (anthropology). Their son, Sendoa, was born this past August.

—Hae Mee Mun '08



Photo by Jean Dixon.

## Morrill Hall gets a lift from Class of 1924 alumna

A much needed renovation to the porch and balcony of the Morrill Hall Alumni Center was recently completed. Overlooking the historic Quadrangle, the first-floor porch and second-floor balcony of the 122-year-old building were found to be structurally unstable. Work on the structural renovation was started in February and was completed in time for Commencement. Last year the entire roof was replaced. The last major renovation of Morrill Hall was undertaken in the 1970s.

The Main Building, which later became Morrill Hall, was the first building erected on the University campus. The site was chosen by the Board of Regents and built by Reno contractors the Burke Brothers with M.J. Curtis the appointed architect. Ground was broken on Aug. 2, 1885 with the building ready for occupancy on Feb. 15, 1886. Classes began in Morrill Hall on March 31, 1886 with 56 students and two faculty members.

As with many of the University's projects, funding for the renovation came from both public dollars and private philanthropy. More than \$50,000 in proceeds from the Bertha M. Standfast Morrill Hall Endowment was used for the renovation. The Nevada Alumni Association helps administer the Bertha M. Standfast Morrill Hall Endowment and voted to use funds from the Standfast Endowment for the balcony and porch renovation.

Established in 1997 with a gift from the estate of Bertha Rae Standfast '24 (arts and science), the endowment provides for the preservation or maintenance of Morrill Hall. While at Nevada, Standfast was an honor student and received the Alumni Scholarship. She was president of Manzanita Hall and a member of Delta Delta Delta, the *Sagebrush* staff and Campus Players, where she appeared in several productions. Standfast went on to a career in education as an English

*Since classes began in Morrill Hall on March 31, 1886 with 56 students and two faculty members, the building has served as a timeless icon for the University. Morrill Hall's preservation is made possible by endowed funds from Bertha M. Standfast '24 (arts and science).*

teacher and later vice principal at Hollywood High School in Los Angeles. Standfast shared her very fond memories of Morrill Hall and her wish for its preservation with the executor of her estate before she passed away in 1984.

Nevada Alumni Association President Cindy Buchanan '95 (finance) says of Standfast's generosity, "It is remarkable to imagine that a Nevada alumna from the Class of 1924 would so fondly remember her days in Morrill Hall to provide for its preservation more than 60 years later. The balcony and porch are iconic and certainly were in dire need of renovation. We are honored to be able to fulfill Bertha's wishes."

—Keiko Weil '87



# HAVE A BALL.

*Whether big or small.*

## "WILD ABOUT NEVADA"

### Dinner & Bowling Party

**When:** Friday, September 5, 2008

**Time:** 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**Where:** Coconut Bowl  
 Inside Wild Island Family Adventure Park  
 250 Wild Island Ct., Sparks, NV

**Lifetime Members:** FREE

**Annual Members:** \$5

**Non-Members:** \$10

**Children 12 and under:** \$5

To register, visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) or call 775.784.6620. RSVP by September 2nd.

**JOIN THE NEVADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOR DINNER, BOWLING, MINIATURE GOLF AND HIGH BALLOCITY! IT'S GONNA BE WILD!**

Sponsored by **GEICO**



## Chapter Updates



"The Geriatric Band" (aka Alumni Band) attends Homecoming 2007.

### Alumni Band

Kiara (Donohue) Wolf '92, '97, [unrbandalum@hotmail.com](mailto:unrbandalum@hotmail.com)

Do your college memories involve polyester jumpers and plumed hats? Were you seen by thousands wearing fringe? Do you find yourself humming the pep band arrangement of elevator music? Then chances are, you are one of us. If you marched at least one semester for the Wolf Pack Marching Band, please send us an email. You will receive a monthly newsletter, which includes member updates, news about the John Montgomery Memorial Scholarship fund and information on Alumni Band and University events. No hats, ties or overlays required. Not even special shoes!

### Friends & Alumni of CABNR

Susan Casey '02, [scasey@cabnr.unr.edu](mailto:scasey@cabnr.unr.edu)

Friends & Alumni of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR) held its sixth Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner April 24. The historic Santa Fe in downtown Reno was the setting for the gathering of more than 60 guests, who joined to elect the Board of Directors and celebrate the accomplishments of the evening's two honorees: Bob Wilson received the Dale Bohmont Agriculturalist Award and Dr. William O. Champney was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

A few days earlier, Friends & Alumni of CABNR and Fallon Alumni chapters tailgated, then watched the nationally ranked Wolf Pack softball team complete its series sweep over nationally ranked Hawaii. About 50 friends and fans braved the frigid temperatures, as they enjoyed drinks and hot dogs (expertly grilled by Regent Jason Geddes).

If you are interested in joining Friends & Alumni of CABNR, please contact Susan Casey.

### COBAAA

Ro Lazzarone '03, [Ro@TheLazzaroneGroup.com](mailto:Ro@TheLazzaroneGroup.com)

COBAAA recently partnered with College of Business Professor of Marketing, Judy Strauss, and her Advanced Marketing Management class on a membership drive project. The project format was modeled after Donald Trump's popular television reality show, "The Apprentice." As a result of the membership drive, the class signed up over 300 new members – raising almost \$4,000 in membership dues, which will be used in support of scholarships, student organizations, endowments and other programs at the College. Thank you to Judy and her students for their creativity and all of their efforts! We would also like to thank all of the sponsors of our annual COBAAA golf tournament, which was held on May 15th. Finally, please mark your calendars for July 23rd, as COBAAA will once again sponsor the Disney-themed Pack Picnic on the Quad. Hope to see you there!

### Fallon Alumni Chapter

Tina Dakin '71, '84, [jtdakin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jtdakin@sbcglobal.net)

April 20: Alumni and friends took a rooster bus to UNR for the softball game against Hawaii. It was a great UNR win! Go Lady Wolf Pack! May 18: An alumni group again traveled to Reno just for entertainment, visiting the Eldorado for dinner and a show. August 10: The Second Annual UNR Alumni Summer BBQ and Fundraiser will be held at the Norm Frey Ranch in Fallon. Call the Moons at (775) 423-6983 for details. August 30: Football rooster bus to the season opener, UNR vs. Grambling. Call Janice Schmidt



Regent Jason Geddes '90, '95 and his wife, Cindie Geddes '90, enjoy fine food and chatting with friends at the Friends & Alumni of CABNR Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner.



Gurpreet Kaur Class of 2010, Zaneta Janiczak '01 and Rupali Mohansingh '05 were among the more than 3,000 attendees at the annual Night of All Nations event, organized by the International Club.

(775) 867-4220 for details. March 28, 2009: Winterfest Dinner and Fundraiser. Please save the date.

For additional information regarding upcoming events, visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) and click "Connect" to find the Fallon Chapter. Please bookmark the site for reference.

### International Chapter

Susie Bender '03, [bender@unr.edu](mailto:bender@unr.edu)

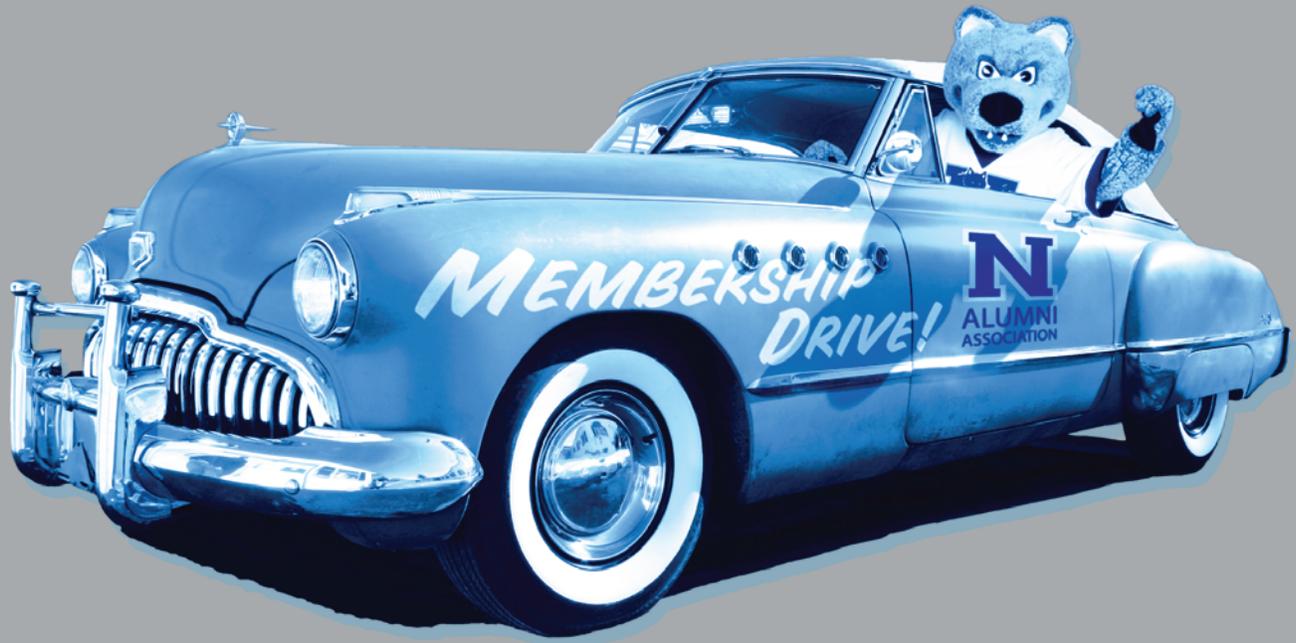
Night of All Nations, on April 4, drew more than 3,000 international students, alumni and community members for a night of global entertainment, cultural cuisines and colorful country booths. Many international alumni made an appearance and participated in the annual event that has been organized for the past 26 years. On March 19, the International Chapter hosted a round-table discussion at Starbucks in the Joe Crowley Student Union to solicit ideas for future programs and activities. The International Alumni Chapter also co-sponsored the graduation reception for international students on May 9, 2008. If you have any ideas and/or would like to help organize an international chapter event, please contact Susie Bender.

### OSNAA

Linda Clift '74, [orvis\\_alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:orvis_alumni@hotmail.com)

The Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association has two projects for 2008. Mark your calendars for a luncheon on Saturday, Sept. 27, at Lavender Ridge in Reno (more information to come). We will also fund our first scholarship, to be awarded in spring 2009. To join OSNAA, or to request more information, please contact Linda Clift.

*JUMP  
ON IN!*



## *GET ON BOARD*

**with the Nevada Alumni Association!**

As a Nevada Alumni Association dues-paying member, you'll receive discounts to more than 195,000 vendors around town and nationwide, including the ASUN Bookstore. Plus, you'll love our reduced pre-game party admission, invitations to members-only events and networking opportunities. But perhaps the most important reason to join is to stay connected to your past, while making a difference in Nevada's future.

*IT'S EASY!*

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## Chapter Updates



NAAC scholarship recipients, Brittney Santos, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and Justina Benner, Walker River Paiute Tribe, attend the Native American Alumni Chapter Graduation Reception on May 7.



Randy Emm '76 (managerial sciences) and his wife, Darla Emm, enjoy the NAAC Mystery Bus Trip on March 29.

### Native American Chapter

Sherry Rupert '05, [srupert@nic.nv.gov](mailto:srupert@nic.nv.gov)

The Native American Alumni Chapter hosted its first Mystery Bus Trip on March 29. The destination was JT's Basque restaurant in Gardnerville. The social event was one to remember, with faculty, alumni and family all participating in the fun-filled event. On May 3-4, the chapter co-sponsored the 4th Annual University Powwow with the Center for Student Cultural Diversity. The event continues to grow each year, with this year's attendance at approximately 1,600 students, faculty, alumni and community partners. Lastly, on May 7, the chapter hosted a reception for American Indian graduates and scholarship recipients at the Joe Crowley Student Union. The chapter was able to award two scholarships in the amount of \$500 each to a current and incoming American Indian student. Special thanks to the Nevada Alumni Association for monetary support of the events listed above.

If you would like to become more involved or receive upcoming event information, please contact Kari Emm at (775) 784-4936 or [kemm@unr.edu](mailto:kemm@unr.edu), or Sherry Rupert at (775) 687-8333.



Jim Wright '56 presents the Alumnae of the Year Award to Diana Phelps for her excellent support of the Southern California Alumni Chapter during the Annual Reunion.



Rosalia Nunez '07, Melissa Molyneux '06 and Jessie Gardner bond over beer at the Young Alumni Chapter's Beerfest 2008.

### School of Medicine Chapter

Dr. Louis Bonaldi '75, '77, [labonaldimd@aol.com](mailto:labonaldimd@aol.com)

Are you interested in reconnecting with the School of Medicine and your classmates? We welcome all alumni of the School of Medicine to join the newly reestablished UNSOM Alumni Chapter. Chapter officers met this past spring and discussed plans for fostering connections between UNSOM alumni, current medical students, faculty and the community. In addition, plans were discussed for future reunion events, including the 40th anniversary of the school in 2009.

If you haven't recently updated your contact information, please contact the Nevada Alumni Association at (888) NV ALUMS to do so. We want to make sure you receive important communication from the UNSOM Alumni Chapter.

To become a member or inquire about getting involved in chapter leadership, please contact Christina Sarman, assistant director of development for the School of Medicine, at [christinas@unr.edu](mailto:christinas@unr.edu) or (775) 784-6009.

### Southern California Chapter

Chris Polimeni '85, [cpolimeni@fwg.com](mailto:cpolimeni@fwg.com)

Ed Schoenberg, scholarship chairman for the Southern California Chapter of the Alumni Association, gave a report about scholarship recipients at a board meeting in April at the home of Lois Evezich in Fountain Valley. Scholarship recipients were invited



Paul Kline '03, Stephani Foust '01, Arkaitz Aldecoaotalora '01, Lindsey Harmon '06 and Kyle Zive '05 (back) enjoy good beer and great company at Beerfest 2008.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Jessica Hensler '01, '07MBA, Seema Donahoe '02, Courtney Miller and Kari Emm '01 raise their glasses—and money for scholarships—at Beerfest 2008

to the Annual Spring Reunion, held on June 7 at the El Torito in Newport Beach.

Upcoming events: the board is discussing a "send off" party for Southern California students who will attend the University, tailgate parties for all UNR games played in the So. Cal. area and the Holiday Party, which is usually held in Pasadena in December.

For information about the Southern California Chapter, email Jim Wright at [jtjimbob@verizon.net](mailto:jtjimbob@verizon.net), Lois Evezich at [snickie6@aol.com](mailto:snickie6@aol.com) or Chris Polimeni at [cpolimeni@fwg.com](mailto:cpolimeni@fwg.com).

### Young Alumni Chapter

Stephani Foust '01, [YACPresident@gmail.com](mailto:YACPresident@gmail.com)

The Young Alumni Chapter held their annual Beerfest scholarship fundraiser on April 29th at the Grand Sierra Resort. Thanks to the wonderful support of the Nevada Alumni Association, the Grand Sierra Resort, All City Live, the various beer vendors and our many volunteers, the event was the most successful one to date. We doubled the number of ticket sales, allowing us to award more undergraduate scholarships in the coming year. A great time was had by all, and we are already gearing up for next year! YAC holds social events once a month for members and non-members. Check out Nevada Chatta or [www.unr.edu/alumni/connect](http://www.unr.edu/alumni/connect) for updates or to become a member for only \$10 a year. For more information, contact Stephani Foust.

**Grill.**



**Swill.**



**Chill.**



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DRINKS, GIVEAWAYS  
AND MORE!*

# **FOOTBALL TAILGATERS**

**FOR MORE INFO. VISIT,**  
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or call 775.784.6620  
or 888.NV ALUMS.

## **HOME GAMES**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 30**  
Nevada vs. Grambling State

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**  
Nevada vs. Texas Tech

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11**  
Nevada vs. New Mexico State\*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18** (Homecoming)  
Nevada vs. Utah State\*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**  
Nevada vs. San Jose State\*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22**  
Nevada vs. Boise State\*

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

# **N**

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ASSOCIATION**

Lifetime Members: **FREE**  
Children 12 and under: **\$5** (per person)  
Annual Members: **\$10** (per person)  
Non-Members: **\$15** (per person)

*Special thanks to:*



\*Conference games

## Alums write and produce award-winning film



The love of movies that began for Chris Ford '93 (journalism) and Jason Newmark '94 (criminal justice) at the former Keystone Theatre resulted in making a film of their own.

Ford, writer and producer, and Newmark, co-producer and production coordinator, recently released their first movie, *The Village Barbershop*. Ford says they fell into the film industry because of the impact movies have had on them.

"My parents remember where they were when JFK was shot," Ford says. "I remember

*Ashley Humphrey, Class of 2009 (English literature), is a student intern with Nevada Silver & Blue.*

where I was when I first saw *Star Wars*—the Keystone Cinema, two-thirds of the way back—I'd just had three teeth pulled."

Ford was motivated to begin writing the screenplay after an encounter with a dreamer who talked about someday writing a script.

"That guy was a good 10 years older than me at the time and I said to myself, 'If I don't write something now, I'm going to be that guy in 10 years still talking about it,'" he says.

Newmark has been an amateur filmmaker since he was a child.

"I shot videos with my brother since I was little," Newmark says.

*The Village Barbershop* is about a "terminally irritable" man who is stuck in a Reno rut of haircuts and hot dogs, Ford says. After the death of his partner, a "spitfire young girl" enters his life and his shop. Together, the old man and the young girl find their way back to what is important.

Newmark didn't truly believe that a student from Reno could get a career in the film industry:

"I was always interested in studying film, but frankly, always thought it was a pipe dream," Newmark says.

Both Ford and Newmark delved into various fields during their student days at Nevada.

"I started off in engineering, moved to art, then ultimately journalism with an emphasis in advertising," Ford, who minored in art and English, says.

Newmark dabbled in business and journalism, but ended up with a criminal justice degree, all the while maintaining an interest in filmmaking. He learned public poise from one of his criminal justice professors.

"Matthew Leone taught me to have confidence in my writing abilities, and most importantly my presentation skills," Newmark says.

Ford's advertising professor, Bourne Morris, inspired him to realize his potential to contribute something unique to society.

"I was blown away by her experience,"



Gloria (Shelly Cole) and Art (John Ratzenberger) make an unlikely pair as Gloria takes a job in Art's "man's man" Reno barbershop, in *The Village Barbershop*.

Ford says. "It was her presence at Nevada that empowered me to think I could graduate from the ad program and go out and do something great."

Currently, *The Village Barbershop* is moving through the film festival circuit with hopes of gaining distribution.

"Just like colleges," Ford says, "the better festivals are hard to get into and have an overwhelming number of applicants. The best festival we've been accepted to was Cinequest, where it world-premiered."

The Cinequest Film Festival was recently named one of the top 10 festivals in the world by the *Ultimate Film Festival Survival Guide*. *The Village Barbershop* received the Cinequest Audience Award for best feature film at the Silicon Valley festival.

The goal for having the movie run in film festivals is to generate enough positive reviews to sell the movie.

"Theatrical distribution is the holy grail of independent film making," Ford says.

The movie also appeared in the Sonoma Valley Film Festival in April, and has been accepted at the Newport Beach Film Festival and the Santa Cruz Film Festival.

For more information visit, [www.thevillagebarbershop.com](http://www.thevillagebarbershop.com).

*Keepin' it*

# OLD SCHOOL

HOMECOMING 2008

OCTOBER 15-18

N

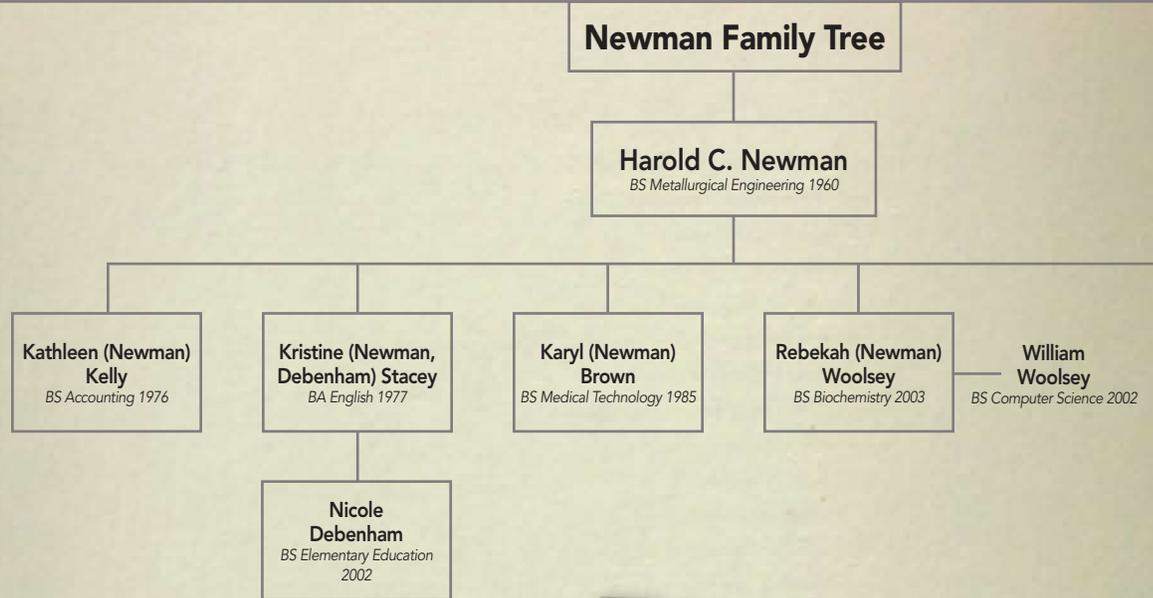
- Oct. 15 Homecoming Gala** 6 pm Cocktails • 7 pm Dinner & Program • Joe Crowley Student Union Ballroom
- Oct. 17 Blue Flu Free Community BBQ** 11:30 am to 1 pm • Joe Crowley Student Union Plaza
- Oct. 17 Family Pep Rally & Bonfire** 6:30 pm • North Parking Lot, University of Nevada Campus
- Oct. 17 Old Guys' Night** 9 pm • Little Waldorf Saloon
- Oct. 18 Nevada vs. Utah State Pre-Game Party** 11 am • Wolf Pack Alley (north of Mackay Stadium) • Kick Off 1:05 pm Mackay Stadium

For a complete list of Homecoming events, go to [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni).

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## A university steeped in tradition. A family tree rooted in mining.

You could say the Newman family has been mining the University of Nevada's rich educational resources for over fifty years. It all began with Harold (Hal) Newman who first attended the University in 1956 to follow in his father's footsteps and pursue a career in mining. Since then, seven of his ten children have chosen to attend Nevada for their continuing education, each pursuing his or her own degree in a wide range of disciplines, including English, science and education – and each sharing the same enthusiasm as their father who started it all.



*Hal Newman at 1960 graduation*



**Jacqueline  
(Newman) Hickman**  
BS Environmental  
Resource Sciences 2004

**Daniel  
Hickman**  
BS Economics 2004

**John  
Newman**  
Attended 2002-2005

**William  
Newman**  
BS Mining Engineering 2007

**Erin (Doerr)  
Newman**  
BS Geology 2007



Top Row: Luke Newman, Will Woolsey, Rebekah Woolsey, Russell Brown, Harold Newman, Kristine Stacey, Roc Stacey. Bottom Row: Kayla Brown, Erin Newman, William Newman, Ryan Brown, Emma Woolsey, Phyllis Newman, Nicole Debenham.



Erin and William Newman



Jacqueline and Daniel Hickman

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



## Remembering Friends

**Carl W. Backman, professor emeritus**, died Feb. 16, 2008 at age 84. Carl was born in Canandaigua, NY during a family fishing trip, and was raised near Buffalo in Tonawanda, NY. He dropped out of high school during the depression to work in the family grocery store. At age 19, he was awarded a scholarship to Oberlin College in Ohio, which he attended for one year before enlisting in the Army.

Carl was assigned to reconnaissance and intelligence during World War II, but poor eyesight and illness plagued his tour of duty. His military experience profoundly shaped his skepticism about the value of war, believing that the majority of people who die in conflict have little investment in political ideologies. Following the war, Carl met and married co-ed Shirley Bennett when he returned to Oberlin. Carl abandoned plans to become a Presbyterian minister, opting instead to study crime, then friendship, and eventually social psychology.

He completed graduate work in sociology at Indiana University and taught for four years at the University of Arkansas. In 1955, Carl began a distinguished academic career at the University of Nevada performing research and teaching for five decades. Carl is credited with co-founding, with professors Gerald Ginsberg and Paul Secord, an interdisciplinary doctoral program in social psychology in 1967. He wrote or co-authored six books and numerous articles, and collaborated with fellow scholar Paul Secord to write the text *Social Psychology*, widely considered one of the landmark works in the discipline.

Carl's colleagues often described him as egalitarian, and appreciated that his influence "rubbed off" on his peers, students and family. During his University tenure, Carl also served as president of the Pacific Psychological Association, which was instrumental in desegregating northern Nevada casinos. He is remembered as an unassuming gentleman who fought only for peace and justice. Carl also served as a visiting professor at UCLA, Oxford University, Nijmegen University (Holland) and the University of

Melbourne (Australia). Backman served for two years as program director for Sociology and Social Psychology at the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC. His allegiance remained at the University where he served as department chair of sociology and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Even in retirement, he regularly led graduate seminars in the interdisciplinary program.

**Helen Louise Eustachy '50** (education) died Jan. 12, 2008 at the age of 79. Louise was born in Elko, Nev. and lived in Reno, Nev. until graduation

from the University in 1950. She later married George Eustachy in 1953 while living in San Francisco. The family moved to Arcadia, Calif. in 1965 where Helen continued to pursue her true gift and passion, teaching, for 20 more years.

Upon retirement, she and George moved to San Clemente, Calif. where they enjoyed lots of golf. Helen is survived by her adoring husband, George Eustachy, children, Dinae Bowen, Larry Eustachy, Marilyn Jasco, Nan Wysong, and eight grandchildren. As a Godly and grateful woman she will be greatly missed.

## Three former Wolf Pack football standouts from 1940s pass away

**Frederick Martin Leon**, co-captain of the 1949 Wolf Pack football team and a Collier's Far West selection, **Richard Victor Tilton**, a member of the Wolf Pack football team from 1946-49, and **E. Alex "Al" Phillips**, a member of the 1946 football team, passed away this spring.

Leon, 82, passed away on March 20 in San Diego. Leon played for the Wolf Pack from 1947-49, appearing in two bowl games in 1947-48, playing tackle on both offense and defense. He was co-captain of the Pack's 1949 squad, and also a letter winner in boxing as a heavyweight. Prior to his time at Nevada, Leon served in the Navy during World War II, and as a nose gunner and flight engineer flew in 39 patrols of at least 2,000 miles each and participated in five major battles. Drafted by the Green Bay Packers, Leon turned instead to a career as a well-respected senior aeronautical design engineer with Rohr Corp. in southern California. He is survived by his wife of 57 years,

Lucy, three children and several grandchildren.

Tilton, 80, of Reno, passed away on March 12. Tilton, in addition to being a four-year letter winner for the Wolf Pack, also served overseas in the Army from 1950-52. Remembered as a "Nevada character" by his family, he is survived by two sons, daughter, and several grand- and great-grandchildren.

Phillips, 86, of Tulsa, Okla., passed away on April 17. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Nevada before serving as a pilot in the Navy during World War II. He received eight air medals, two distinguished flying crosses and two silver stars. He later formed San Juan Oil and Exploration Co. in Tulsa, and was an avid supporter of University of Tulsa sports programs. He received that institution's prestigious Centennial Citation. Al is survived by his wife of 55 years, Nancy; five sons and daughters and numerous grand- and great-grandchildren.

—John Trent '85/'87, '00M.A.





Carl W. Backman



Charles Ernest Tam '50

**Charles Ernest Tam '50** (electrical engineering) passed away Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, at West Hills Hospital in West Hills, Calif. at the age of 83. Charles was born Jan. 4, 1925, in San Francisco to Ernest and Dulcie Tam. He was raised in San Francisco where he graduated from St. Ignatius High School in 1943.

Following high school he entered the U.S. Navy for the duration of World War II. Upon his return from his duties in the Navy he completed his degree at the University of Nevada, Reno. On Jan. 27, 1951, Chuck married Geri Clays after meeting at a Wolf Pack football game in 1949. They lived in several places including San Francisco, Sacramento and Walnut Creek. They moved to Bellevue, Wash. in 1969 and in 1973 they settled in West Hills, Calif. The two were married for 56 years.

In his leisure time Chuck enjoyed salmon fishing, traveling first class, poker night, football, a well prepared meal and spending time with his family and Labrador Retriever, Georgie Girl. His family remembers him as a loving husband, father and grandfather, who possessed a wonderful sense of humor, great attention to detail, and as a man who made friends wherever he went. Chuck is survived by his loving wife, Geri, children, Katie Devine (Larry Devine), Lisa (Dennis) Mitchell and Steve Tam (Borianna). He was preceded in death by his sons, Christopher in 1988 and Michael in 2001.

**John J. Quintana '56** (civil engineering) passed away on March 4, 2008 at his home in Agate Bay, Calif. John resided in Agate Bay,

starting a construction company, Quintana Construction in 1962. In 1990 he became a rancher. He ran two ranches, one in Loma Rica, Calif., and his summer ranch in Sierra Valley, Calif. John served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War.

John is survived by his wife of 52 years, Corrine, son, Gary, daughter, Carol W. Johnson, brothers, Frank and Ed, grandsons, Shaun and Randy; grand-daughter, Jessica Miller (Paul Miller), great-grandchildren, Tyler Williams, Garret Williams, Ellie Williams and Dare Miller.

**Doug Fletcher '69** (economics), '72MBA died April 11, 2008. Born in Rockford, Ill. to Dorothy and Fred Fletcher, the family returned to Reno, and Doug completed his high school education at Reno High School in 1961. Doug's family roots dated back to Virginia City (circa 1860). Doug pursued higher education and after graduating from the University in 1972 earned a J.D. from the McGeorge School of Law in 1975.

Doug had several successful careers. As an engineer, he worked for PanWorld Engineering and Nevada Bell. During his notable career as legal counsel, he was operating trustee for the William Lear Motors Co., Mapes Hotel and Casino, and the Horseshoe Club Casinos, among others. Socially and professionally, Doug touched the lives of many people through his membership and participation in: Sigma Nu Fraternity, State Bar of Nevada (Environmental Law Committee), the University

Graduate School of Business (committee advisor), Northern Nevada Bankruptcy Bar Association (founding member), the Prospectors Club and Washoe County Youth Foundation (director).

Doug will be remembered for his great love for tennis and skiing. He was a certified member of the P.S.I.A. and the U.S.S.A. skiing organizations and demonstrated his passion through coaching and instruction of people of all ages and abilities during his years of skiing. He helped to found the Hot Kids Ski Team, which has inspired the current junior racing program. He was a member of the Reno Ski and Recreation Club (general counsel), served as adviser to the University of Nevada Ski Team and founder and director of the Sierra League of Reno. After retirement, he could be found at the tennis courts or on the ski hill. He passed away doing what he loved best, and we all hope to remember him with a great smile as he cruised his favorite hills.

Doug is survived by his fiancée, Susie; his brothers, Charlie and Bernard; his children, Adrian, Lauren, and Robin; and grandchildren, Rohan and Varun. His family wishes to thank Dr. James Atcheson and Dr. Eric Boyden for their continued help and care. And finally, they also wish to thank all of their many friends for their support and heartfelt well-wishes at this time of grief.

## Fred Anderson: Father of the School of Medicine

The University of Nevada School of Medicine has a father. He was a special man who gave birth to a program, as well as a building to accommodate all of the aspiring doctors in Nevada and beyond.

Fred Anderson was born Jan. 17, 1906 on a small ranch in Secret Pass, Elko County. Those who knew him only as an adult may be surprised to learn that the sophisticated, urbane and distinguished surgeon was a product of rural Nevada who spent most of his boyhood and youth on ranches in Elko and White Pine counties and in the copper towns of Ruth and McGill, working variously as a cowboy, a “soda jerk” and as a laborer on the “bull gang” for the copper company. Fred graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1928 with a bachelor’s degree in zoology. He had the privilege of being the mentee of Peter “Bugs” Frandsen, for whom Frandsen Hall was named. With his assistance, Fred obtained the Rhodes Scholarship and attended the highly acclaimed Oxford University. With his elite education, he was accepted into Harvard Medical School.

He returned to the Silver State, where he set up a medical practice. It was a success from the beginning, but before it could get firmly established World War II broke out in Europe and Fred volunteered for service in the army. He served from October 1941 until December 1945.

Although medicine was his primary activity, Fred’s interest in the University of Nevada and its Alumni Association projected him into a major role in the development of the Nevada System of Higher Education. Elected to the Board of Regents in 1956, he served for 22 years, four of these as chair. His service corresponded to the period of the University’s greatest growth, and he took a leading role in



*The Anderson Health Sciences building as it appeared in 1980. The building is located just north of Mackay Stadium. RIGHT: Fred Anderson in 1972.*

Photos courtesy University Archives.

the development of many of the new programs and in the establishment of new buildings. As a regent, his work culminated in the development of the School of Medicine or more correctly, the School of Health Sciences. The title, “Father of the School of Medicine,” given to him by the school’s first graduating class, is quite appropriate, as was the naming of the first building at the school, the Anderson Health Sciences Building. Fred passed away at age 97 in 2003. Here are some of his recollections, in his own words:

### College Days

“I came down to the University of Nevada as a pre-med student in 1924, not very solvent, but with a little help from home. While attending the University, I was active in Campus Players and the Blue Key service organization. I was editor-in-chief of the University newspaper, the *Sagebrush*, which paid my senior year expenses and even allowed me to buy a car; assistant editor of the yearbook, the *Artemisia*; did small bits in Campus Players; and was a member of the InterFraternity Council. I was elected to Phi Kappa Phi in junior year,

became a Coffin and Keys member also in my junior year, and was a chairman of the Premedical Society.

“I went over to England in the fall of 1929. At Oxford we took parallel courses to those at the second year in the United States, but in a slightly less organized fashion and with some other things thrown in.

“Among my most vivid recollections of this year are autopsies. Each of us had to do 12 or more autopsies and write reports on them. The cadaver could be examined only to the extent approved in the permit. Some authorizations might allow explorations through the chest or abdominal incisions, and in some cases autopsy material could only be studied through organs that could be reached through the mouth or rectum. I can remember some of us trying to do a complete autopsy from the anus to heart and lungs through the anus, and by means of long rubber gloves we did them. Also, we were thrown into the emergency room under supervision of a middle-aged nurse, or sister as they were called there, to patch up minor wounds, do dressings, inject varicose veins and anything not serious

enough to require a doctor's skill.

"When I went to Harvard Medical School in my junior and senior year, I worked both of those years. I worked taking tickets at football games, and as a subject in physiological experiments. I gave transfusions as often as they'd let me and got paid for that.

## Election to the Regents

"Sometime during 1955, I was invited to a meeting of Coffin and Keys, the group to which most of the student leaders and campus student achievers belonged, and of which I had been a member when a student. This group requested that I file for election to the Board of Regents in 1955, which I did.

"It was an eye-opener when I made my campaign for regent in 1956, the last year when there were statewide elections. I had some information cards printed and hit nearly every town in the state in one statewide tour, in some places staying with friends. I used no newspaper or television ads or programs, but did talk to some service clubs and other organizations. Altogether I spent \$250 on the campaign.

## Medical School Beginnings

"A letter from Kevin Bunell, who was assistant director of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education [WICHE], informed me that he had had a phone call from Art Palmer of the Nevada Legislative Council asking questions concerning the success of Nevada students in gaining admission to medical school. Art Palmer undoubtedly was calling at the behest of Senators Lamb and Brown, who were opposed to the school, to see if he could get testimony against the school. However, Bunell was favorable toward it. He conveyed that information with a statement that a medical school in the state surely would make a substantial difference in numbers of entering medical students and ratio of doctors to population, and would, in his opinion, be a desirable thing.



*William O'Brien, Silas Ross and Fred Anderson place items into a box for the Anderson Health Sciences Building cornerstone ceremony in 1972.*

"Representatives from the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare and foundation members—such as Kellogg and Commonwealth and Carnegie and other foundations—had been going through here and were impressed with our research programs and the many supporting programs in our 100-year-old University, especially our premedical, psychology, engineering, nursing and other areas. These were the years when the United States, in general, was thought to be short of doctors—particularly family doctors—by the Public Health Service, by the American Medical Association and by everyone concerned who did studies. There was much sentiment in Congress and money and encouragement by the accreditation officials for starting even two-year medical schools where states were unable to start four-year ones. "I was still chairman of the Board of Regents at that time, and on Feb. 11, 1967 I stepped down from the president's chair and made the following motion: I move that both medium and long-range planning be instituted to provide for the devel-

opment of a health sciences center associated with the University of Nevada in Reno, and in conjunction with Washoe Medical Center and other health facilities in the area.

"Perhaps the thing that affected the [legislature's decision to approve the medical school] more than anything we did was that Howard Hughes—who had not long before that moved to Las Vegas, bought the Desert Inn and occupied the entire top floor—communicated with our governor, Paul Laxalt, by letter, offering us a sum of \$6 million. Hughes's interest in the Medical School continued, and he was a major factor in its realization."

### LOOK ONLINE

For the full text, visit: [www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue](http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue)

*This oral history was initiated by Mary Ellen Glass in 1978. The process was interrupted shortly thereafter to be resumed and completed by Tom King, professor and director of the Oral History Program, between 1983 and 1985.*

## What I've Done With My Life

By Cheryl Hug-English '78 (biology), '82M.D. Harry English '77 (biology), '81M.D.

*Cheryl Hug-English '78 (biology), '82M.D. has spent the last 20 years of her medical career working at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. She has served as medical director for the Student Health Center since 1994, and also serves as associate dean of admissions and student affairs. Harry English '77 (biology), '81M.D. is practicing with Associated Anesthesiologists of Reno. Harry and Cheryl met during their undergraduate years at Nevada. They became engaged during medical school and were married the week after Cheryl took her boards and the week after Harry took his surgery final. They have been married for 28 years.*

### What is your fondest memory from your days at the University of Nevada, Reno?

Our days at the University are very memorable. We both graduated from Nevada and went on to attend medical school at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. We both have many good friends from our time as undergraduates and as medical students.

We have fond memories of games and concerts in the old gym, exciting (and sometimes cold!) football games, marathon study sessions in the library, and coffee breaks at the student union. We also like to remember the good friends from activities we participated in, like Lambda Chi Alpha and Pi Beta Phi. We've watched this institution grow and evolve over the years. We take great pride in the core mission of high quality education that this University stands for.

I (Cheryl) feel privileged to be able to come to work every day and interact with bright and talented students, who keep me motivated and inspired. I love walking on campus and seeing the excitement of new buildings, new energy, and new students experiencing their own college adventures.

I (Harry) enjoy the opportunity to stay active with students, as well. I take care to talk



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

with preprofessional student groups and precepting medical students. We both continue to be active alums and love attending various sporting events to cheer on the Wolf Pack.

We really enjoy time with our family and friends. Harry continues to be an avid golfer and tries to keep up with our son, Christopher, on the golf course. And Cheryl continues to try to hit tennis balls without getting much better! We love summers at Lake Tahoe and enjoy our winter snow.

### What have you done that you're most proud of?

Together, we're most proud of our three children, Christopher, Ashley, and Alysha. Christopher is 24 and graduated from Nevada in December 2007 with a degree in philosophy. Ashley is 21 and is a junior at Nevada. Alysha is 19 and has recently started her academic pursuits at Nevada, as well. We are thrilled that all three of our children will graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno. They will be the fourth generation of our family to attend and graduate from this institution.

### What advice would you give someone just starting out after college?

To new students beginning their academic pursuits in higher education we say, "Take hold of your dreams and your passions—Experience adventure and explore your paths!" The University of Nevada, Reno has brought us great joy and continues to be a central part of our lives.

We feel lucky to be a part of such great tradition, educational opportunity, and academic culture. The people we have met through the University of Nevada, Reno and University of Nevada School of Medicine continue to be a great part of our lives. How fortunate we are to know all the administrators, faculty, and friends who have enriched our lives over the years.

*Cheryl Hug-English  
Harry English*

**What I've Done with my Life** asks an alum who has been out of school for a while to answer the three questions above. Email your submission to [silverblue@unr.edu](mailto:silverblue@unr.edu), or mail to: *Nevada Silver & Blue*, University of Nevada, Reno/0007, Reno, NV 89557-0007. Please include a phone number. Don't exceed 650 words. Submissions may also be posted at [www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue](http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue).



## Goldcorp Endows Chair at the Mackay School to ensure another 100 years of excellence

The State of Nevada ranks fourth in the world in precious metals mining and is the nation's largest producer of gold, silver and other precious metals and minerals. As the state grows, the mining industry continues to serve as the state's second largest private employer, and turns to the University of Nevada, Reno for talent.

At the Mackay 100th Celebration Gala, Goldcorp, Inc. announced a generous pledge to complete funding for the minerals engineering chair, which recognizes the importance of higher education in academic areas critical to the minerals industry, principally the geological sciences, mining engineering and mineral processing, extractive metallurgy and geographic information systems.

"We strongly feel that now is the time for industry to step up and invest in its future,"

said Kevin McArthur '79 (mining engineering), president and CEO of Goldcorp. "It is imperative that we attract and retain the best academic talent to maintain minerals programs' excellence. This will allow us to continue to attract the best students—students who will eventually provide the necessary human resources to grow and sustain our businesses."

Jeffrey Thompson, Interim Dean of the College of Science said, "The mining industry is facing a huge shortfall in skilled personnel. Goldcorp's generosity makes it possible for Nevada to maintain and enhance its leadership position in responding to that challenge. We consider this a key step in the University's strategy for addressing the needs and issues of the Nevada mining industry through undergraduate teaching, graduate study and research."

"Goldcorp's generosity makes it possible for the University of Nevada, Reno to maintain and enhance its leadership position in responding to that challenge. We consider this a key step in the University's strategy for addressing the needs and issues of the Nevada mining industry through undergraduate teaching, graduate study and research."

—College of Science Interim Dean, Jeffrey Thompson

For information on how to establish an endowed faculty position, contact Bruce Mack at (775) 784-1352 or email [bmack@unr.edu](mailto:bmack@unr.edu).

### Why are endowed faculty positions important?

The character of a university is largely determined by the caliber of its faculty. Endowed faculty positions enable Nevada to offer competitive compensation and ample research support to attract superior faculty, as well as to graduate prepared professionals.

### Two opportunities for supporting faculty positions at Nevada:

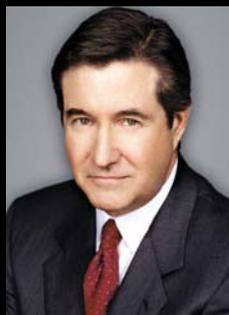
- Endowed Chairs: Chair holders are recruited from the ranks of distinguished scholars at the University and from other institutions in the United States and around the world.
- Endowed Professorships: An endowed professorship recognizes outstanding accomplishments of faculty, providing incentive for all faculty members to achieve teaching and research excellence. Both relevant industry experience and rising stature as an academic scholar will be critical characteristics of the position holder.



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If it happened, Forrest Sawyer was there.

Forrest Sawyer is one of America's most respected television journalists, with more than 24 years of experience reporting from around the world. He is a veteran of ABC, CBS and MSNBC. He has anchored *Day One* and *Turning Point*, as well as *World News Sunday* and *Good Morning America*.

Sawyer is a veteran war correspondent, having reported on every United States action over the past two decades. He has also reported extensively on the impact of human activity on the environment. In addition, he has received numerous honors including the *George Foster Peabody Award*, seven *National Emmy Awards*, two *Sigma Delta Chi Awards*, an *Associated Press Award* and others.

Thursday, September 25, 2008

John Ascuaga's Nugget  
No-host reception at 6 p.m.  
Dinner at 7 p.m.



University of Nevada, Reno

- A table of 10 is \$2,000 (\$1,000 is tax-deductible)
- Individual tickets are \$200 each (\$100 is tax-deductible)
- Sponsorships also available

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Jeanne Corbit in the University Events Department, [jcorbit@unr.edu](mailto:jcorbit@unr.edu) or (775) 784-4831. Please make checks payable to the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation.

