

NEVADA

Silver&Blue

The magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno • Winter 2009

Student Success:

Engagement, Curriculum, Support.

Joe Bradley

Improving the Community

Student Algae Research
Could Turn Nevada into
Biofuel Powerhouse

Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame Class

More Than 50 Years of Success

N

NEVADA

Silver&Blue

The magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno

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From the President

All things great and small add up to student success at Nevada

In recent months, with the openings of the Joe Crowley Student Union, the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and the groundbreaking for the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, we have seen the number of great buildings on our campus grow dramatically.

Yet, it can be argued that it is the "small" things—small only in the sense that they are the often overlooked but critically important daily elements of a thriving university—that truly equal success for our students.

Student success has always been one of the foremost goals for our University. We have been challenged in recent months with a statewide economic downturn that has necessitated deep budget cuts. A year ago, I counseled our campus to keep the faith; our goal, even with budget cuts, was to continue to search for ways to make a better institution.

Our faculty, staff, students and administration have taken this challenge and have shown a great amount of creativity, reaching across divisions, departments and programs to produce initiatives that are helping our students. Now, more than ever before, our campus is a place of engagement, where the curricular and support opportunities for our students are more efficient and impactful. Let me give you a few quick examples.

As the state's land-grant institution, part of our mission is to service all students, from all backgrounds with all types of different academic preparation. We are especially concerned with the fact that Nevada is ranked 50th in the nation regarding the likelihood that a 19-year-old will earn a college degree. This is particularly true for students from economically disadvantaged families. To remedy this situation, in September we announced the creation of the Pack Advantage program (www.finaid.unr.edu/finaidTypes/typesPackAdvantage.htm). Through the Pack Advantage program, we will be providing more Pell-eligible students than ever before with financial aid to seek full course loads, and to graduate in four years. Through Pack Advantage, any Nevada resident who is Pell-eligible will have tuition, fees and books covered by our University for four years.

Due to our budget constraints, our centers for writing and mathematics on campus, which have traditionally provided tutoring services, will have to be closed. I am pleased to announce, however, that our student leadership has played an integral role in helping us offset this loss. Through many of our academically based clubs and organizations, our student leadership has put forward a plan that will offer many of our best students—at no charge—as tutors for students who need help. In addition, our residence halls continue to provide academic intervention programming that works to ensure first-year academic success through free and easy access to academic counseling.

An overriding outcome for our University is to ensure that our students, once they graduate, are "complete" people—well-trained, knowledgeable citizens, who have a keen understanding of the interconnectedness of the world today. The University Studies Abroad Consortium is an opportunity for our students to take three months, a semester, a summer, to live and study overseas. On a campus-wide level, with more than 230 clubs and organizations to choose from, our students can reinforce their passion for almost any area. In recent months, our concrete canoe team as well as Wolf Pack mountain bikers, have captured national championships. By land, by water, even by dirt, our students are excelling outside of the classroom in notable and championship fashion.

With all of these efforts, we have simply re-thought what we do in the area of student success, and we have re-focused our energies in ways that have made a difference.

We have brought a lot of "small" things together, for the betterment of a great University. Sincerely,

Milton D. Glick
President
www.unr.edu/president



Shannon Ellis, vice president of Student Services, and President Milton Glick.

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

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About the cover

The cover photo, taken by David Calvert, features University graduates during the 2008 Winter Commencement at Lawlor Events Center, Saturday, Dec. 6. A total of 1,030 bachelor's degree candidates and 482 advanced degree certificates (master's and doctoral degrees and the education specialist certificate) were awarded.

Only Online

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

Student Success – For photo galleries from Nevada veterans in *Military experience adds depth to undergraduate experience*.

Gatherings – More photos from Homecoming Week.

What I've Learned – For the full interview with Joe Bradley.

Home Means Nevada – For full interviews with K-von and ROTC grads Jessica, Chad and Brian.

Remembering Friends – For the full obituaries.

Correction: Nevada Silver & Blue, Fall 2008, pg. 34: Jack Hayes, interim associate dean for the College of Science, was incorrectly identified. We apologize for the error.

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



Engagement drives University's student success effort

A university's primary purpose is the successful education of students. But what are the best, research-proven methods to achieve that goal?

According to Shannon Ellis, vice president for Student Services, research shows universities that promote student engagement, offer a highly challenging curriculum and provide avenues to obtain financial aid are the most effective educators. These three components are the cornerstones of Nevada's collaborative, comprehensive approach to education.

"When I'm orienting new faculty, they often ask about our retention rates, which could be better," Ellis says. "They want to know what they can do to improve our rates. I tell them

"Teach to a higher level. Students need to be challenged. Don't teach to the low end; teach to the high end. And talk to them about yourself; students really want to know more about their teachers. Find out about them. Engage them."

President Milton Glick has focused on increasing students' chances of graduating within four years, as that, along with retention rates, is an indicator of a university's success.

The University of Nevada, Reno's six-year graduation rate in 2006 was 48.8 percent, according to The Education Trust, a Washington D.C.-based independent nonprofit organization dedicated to high academic achievement for all students and at all levels. The good news is that Nevada's six-year graduation rate has gone up almost ten percentage points from 1997, when it was 38.5 percent.

Nevada is "normal" in its graduation rate and fall-to-fall retention rates among its peers, according to Ellis. Nonetheless, Nevada wants to do better, she says.

The University of Nevada, Reno is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a Research

Honors students Oscar Zambrano, freshman physics major; Danielle Simon, sophomore nutrition major; and Rachael Tateo, senior nutrition major, enjoy the new Honors Program lounge in the space that used to be occupied by the lower floor of the Overlook restaurant.

University/high research activity, the foundation's second highest tier.

The first few weeks of students' campus experience are key to determining whether they will stay or drop out, says Jerry Marczynski, associate vice president for Student Life Services: "Research shows engagement has to occur early in the freshman year, and the first six weeks are the most critical. That's when they decide whether college was a good decision. It's make or break."

For traditional freshmen—those coming straight from high school—which is the largest category of freshmen enrollees, the transition from a secure, familiar home environment to the unknown world of college can be daunting. The best chance of becoming fully engaged and supported is when students live

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on campus, Marczynski says. But if they don't, joining a club or organization, or even taking a campus job helps freshmen engage. "Research shows that students with any connection to campus have a higher likelihood to matriculate through and succeed."

Nevada's freshman retention rate—the number of students who stay fall-to-fall, is a little less than 76 percent, according to Marczynski. The average for similar schools is about 85 percent. "Basically, we lose about 25 percent of the freshman class."

So, beginning with orientation in the summer—which is now broken down into small groups rather than one huge meeting in order to promote socialization with other freshmen—and continuing throughout the student's college career, the University provides support services that make the campus a friendly, new "home."

Nevada's hallmark Core Curriculum program, which is required of all undergraduates, ensures that all students develop writing, oral communication and mathematics skills beyond the requirements within majors. In addition, the Core Curriculum requires undergraduates to take courses outside their majors, ensuring that they graduate with a broad education.

Beyond the Core, the University offers a dynamic Honors Program that challenges students who are the

most academically talented and highly motivated among Nevada undergraduates. These include 17 National Merit Scholars who have chosen Nevada from a slate of top-notch universities nationwide. The National Merit Scholarship Program is a prestigious national competition that awards top high school scholars with distinction for academic performance. While the program awards some monetary scholarships, it is the institutions of higher learning that compete with each other for these top students.

To help Honors students form friendships and create a community of scholars, the University has created the Honors Residential Scholars Community, in which Honors stu-



Photo by David Calvert

Sophomore LinnDee Hunt, 19, and junior Jason Hoffman, 20, inside the fifth floor study room at Sierra Hall overlooking downtown Reno. Sierra Hall, the recently renovated University Inn, is now a residence facility for sophomores and above. Hunt is studying human development and family services; Hoffman is a nursing major.

"One of our professors had office hours on the floor. I would get help on my homework wearing pink princess slippers."

Danielle Simon on her experience living in Argenta Hall

dents may live on designated floors in Argenta Hall or Nye Hall. These students pursue the same curriculum of study. Danielle Simon, an Honors student, lived in Argenta Hall as a freshman. "One of our professors had office hours on the floor. I would get help on my homework wearing pink princess slippers,"

she says. In addition, all undergraduates may take advantage of the Undergraduate Research Program, initiated in 2003. The program offers motivated undergraduates in all disciplines similar opportunities to conduct real research as graduate students. Students compete for grant money from three major programs: The National Science Foundation, the

Honors Undergraduate Research Awards and the General Undergraduate Research Awards, as well as other sources open to researchers.

Students who are economically or socially disadvantaged or those who come from homes in which no one has ever attended college before have greater obstacles to overcome regardless of how bright or motivated they may be, ac-

cording to Fabienne McPhail Naples, associate vice president for Student Success Services. She should know. She comes from a low-income family of nine children whose parents did not go to college, yet she earned a doctorate in educational leadership from UCLA. Her passion is to help others do the same.

In addition, McPhail Naples promotes 150 students in the U.S. Department of Education's Upward Bound Program; the ASCENT (All Students College Educated in Nevada Today) Mentor Program, a collaboration between Hug High School and the University that pairs high school sophomores with faculty and community members to help youth attain their college dreams; the TRiO and McNair programs, which help students from low-income or minority families, as well as a host of other programs to promote cultural diversity on campus, oversee counseling, provide tutoring, connect parents to campus, and guide all students and prospective students toward achievement of their college goals. [N](#)

—Melanie Robbins '06M.A.

For more information about Student Services, call (866) 2NEVADA.



Students' algae research seeks to turn Nevada into biofuel powerhouse

Noted father of the naturalist movement, John Muir, found Nevada “barren, forbidding and shadeless.” Today, biotechnology graduate student Mark Lemos and biochemistry graduate student Leyla Hernandez-Gomez see a lush garden—ripe for growing algae. At the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources greenhouses on Valley Road, they are getting a chance to see if this garden will flourish on a large scale.

Under the guidance of John Cushman, biochemistry and molecular biology professor and director of the graduate program in biochemistry, Lemos and Hernandez-Gomez are about to take Nevada’s natural resources—an ample supply of sunlight, geothermal vents and vast tracts of barren land—and leverage them into the emerging field of alternative energy by converting algae into biofuel.

Algae—photosynthetic organisms that vary from the single-celled to large, ocean kelp—boast higher oil productivity when compared to crop-based biofuels, such as those made from corn and soybeans. Some strains of the microalgae—commonly known as pond scum—that would be grown for biofuel can produce as much as 50 percent oil content, according to Rachel Oliver, reporting recently for CNN. Algae are not part of the national food supply and require significantly less water per acre than traditional crops. In addition, they don’t require freshwater, but can flourish off wastewater or saltwater in desert areas, incapable of supporting other crops, Oliver notes. Algae also grows incredibly rapidly: it can double in just hours. For these reasons, algae have attracted interest from venture capitalists and companies like Chevron, Boeing and Airbus. The race to commercialize algae biofuel production is on, and Nevada stands ready to capitalize on its natural resources.

“I came to the University knowing I wanted to study biotechnology,” Lemos says. “Grow-

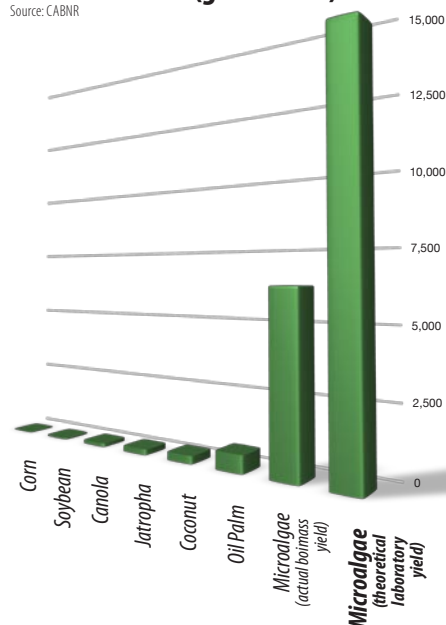
Why microalgae?

- Fastest growing photosynthetic organism.
- 30-times more oil than any other oil crop for making biodiesel.
- Can be grown in waste water, and on non arable lands.
- Does not compete with food.
- Year-round crop production with geothermal.
- Consumes global warming gases (CO_2 and NO_x).

Student Success

Biofuel Oil Yield (gallon/acre)

Source: CABNR



Photos by Theresa Damm-Douglas

ing up in Yerington, I saw how hard my family worked at the geothermal plants. No matter the brilliant suggestions my uncle or my dad made to streamline company resources, they didn't get to capitalize on them. That's how I knew I needed more than scientific knowledge. I wanted to learn about developing a business based on science. Fortunately, Nevada has faculty who were excited about my ideas and wanted to see me succeed."

As an undergraduate, Lemos consulted with Cushman, who guided him toward an accelerated five-year biotechnology program that offers a non-thesis research degree and gives students both a bachelor's and master's degree upon completion. Students in the program are required to do summer research internships in the biotechnology industry.

The graduate program seeks to produce well-trained researchers with theoretical knowledge, technical skills and real-world experience, meeting students' interests in career-directed education. "Upon graduation, our students can find career opportunities as highly skilled researchers in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries," Cushman says. "The knowledge and skills they gain put them beyond entry-level positions."

Growing green

Lemos and Cushman made valuable connections with industry executives and government entities interested in their algae

LEFT: Leyla Hernandez-Gomez grew up in Mexico City. "I chose to come to Nevada to stay close to my family, when I said I would attend Nevada, we all settled in Reno". ABOVE: "The most important lesson I have learned while here at Nevada is that taking action is the most valuable trait of any entrepreneur," says Mark Lemos.

research. Cushman received grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation SunGrant Initiative, and with assistance from energy industry consultants, Enegis LLC, has built both pilot- and demonstration-scale algal production ponds at the greenhouse complex. The first large-scale algae crop was harvested in December 2008.

Lemos and Hernandez-Gomez hope to demonstrate that algae can be grown in Nevada in commercial quantities year-round. "It's rare to come across this combination of natural resources," says Hernandez-Gomez, whose focus is to find an ideal algal strain in the lab. "Nowhere else is like Nevada. Other places don't consider algae as viable because they would have to build bioreactors and cover their ponds. Algae need few resources to grow, and we've got them naturally."

"Other researchers have noticed that once strains are cultured in captivity, that they sometimes will grow great in the flask, but not under the regular, large-scale conditions," Hernandez-Gomez continues. "The algae strain that we have chosen to use in the experiment is being sequenced by the U.S. Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute, so we can gain a lot of genetic information. We were worried when we put it in the pilot scale model

and it didn't take off right away. It now seems to be growing as expected—phew!"

"We'll continue to screen algae strains, analyze the oil content and focus on strains that do well outdoors before May," Lemos says. Why before May? Lemos will be graduating with bachelor's and master's degrees this spring. The future is bright for this McNair Scholar.

The Ronald McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program prepares participants for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Participants are from disadvantaged backgrounds and demonstrate strong academic potential. Institutions, like Nevada, work closely with participants as they complete their undergraduate requirements. The goal is to increase the attainment of Ph.D. degrees by students from underrepresented segments of society.

"I'm encouraged to look at other universities to diversify my education," says Lemos, and then a smirk came across his face. "However, we had a graduate student from U.C. Berkeley come by a few weeks ago and he was pretty excited by what we're doing here. I just may want to stick around." **N**

—Elizabeth Welsh '99



Students forge new futures with help from University program

Sophomore Manuel Ortiz should not be attending classes at the University of Nevada, Reno, let alone have graduated from high school— if you believe statistics. Yet, he is just one of more than 100 students in the Dean's Future Scholars program who have succeeded in making it to college when odds were against them.

"A lot of why I'm here is due to the program," Ortiz, 20, who graduated from Procter R. Hug High School in 2007, says. "Although I'd like to believe that I could be here anyway, it would have been a lot tougher. Before the program, in middle school, I wasn't really thinking about college; then they came to me and asked if I wanted to go."

The Dean's Future Scholars Program, for students from low-income families, is offered through the University's College of Education. It lights the way for students who have

no example to follow, since another requirement of the program is that selected students are the first generation of their families to go to college.

"The program really leads us in the right direction, you can't get away with anything," Ortiz says. "With its mentoring, the program is very hands-on. Step-by-step they helped me, made sure I was on the right track, made sure I was keeping up with my homework, studying for placement tests, and keeping up with paperwork and applications."

The Dean's Future Scholars program now includes 20 additional students from Sparks High School, following a \$200,000 financial boost from an AT&T Aspire grant.

"This will help us expand our commitment to prepare students for college and ultimately the workforce," Bill Sparkman, dean of the College of Education, says. These 20 freshmen at Sparks High School are now on track to be the first generation in their families

to attend college, a reality for those who may have never even dreamed it before.

Ortiz shared the podium with Sparkman, Nevada State Sen. Bill Raggio and other program supporters at the ceremony Oct. 16 to

announce the AT&T grant at the College of Education plaza.

"There were tough times and good times," Ortiz told the audience. "With the mentors checking in with me every week, they helped me through it. Having this experience made it more comfortable to come here as a student." He is now pursuing a degree in secondary education

"Although I'd like to believe that I could be here anyway, it would have been a lot tougher. Before the program, in middle school, I wasn't really thinking about college; then they came to me and asked if I wanted to go."

Manuel Ortiz, Class of 2011

to become a history teacher.

Ortiz acknowledges the ongoing influence of the Dean's Future Scholars Program.

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The Dean's Future Scholars Program includes all of the components recommended by research to help students reach their goals of graduating high school and attending college, including:

- Frequent mentoring with trained peers
- Involving parents and family
- Math acceleration
- 11th- and 12th-graders taking college courses in summer as a bridge between high school and college
- Work and involvement on campus with groups and activities

"This program impacts your family," he says. His older sister, Justina Ortiz, 21, is also a graduate of the Dean's Future Scholars program and is attending Truckee Meadows Community College pursuing a nursing degree. His two younger brothers, Alfonso Miranda, 17, and Eddie Ortiz, 16, a senior and a junior at Hug High School, respectively, are in the Dean's Future Scholar program, and looking forward to college and careers. Alfonso wants to pursue criminal justice studies and become a police officer, while Eddie is thinking about becoming an optometrist.

And their mother is always involved in what they do, Manuel says. "She always tells us do our best and don't quit. One of the best things was learning good study habits through the program, like do your homework right away. You learn the value of making it a priority, instead of just watching TV."

"It's nice to know my brothers are on the right track. This has expanded my social life, enlarged my world," Ortiz says.

Ortiz also mentors 17 seventh- and eighth-grade students of the 300 students from throughout Washoe County School District who participate in the Dean's Future Scholars Program. Nine other University students who were future scholars are also mentoring high school students working their way to college.



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

College of Education Dean William Sparkman with high school students participating in the Dean's Future Scholars program

Through the program, University students are trained to help middle and high school students persist through adversity, learn study skills, and prepare for and apply to college. These University mentors visit the schools and students weekly, a greater frequency than in most mentor programs.

"The Dean's Future Scholars program began with a simple idea: before middle and high school students can consider teaching as a career, they must first believe that college is a possibility," Sparkman, who founded the program in 2000, says. "With this gift from AT&T, more of these young people will set the goal of a college education, and they will have incredible help along the way."

Of the first 164 students in the program, 68 percent (112) have graduated from high school. And with the help of GEAR-UP grants of \$10,000, 101 are in college, most at the University.

"The program has been an extraordinary success and demonstrates the impact that intensive support and resources can have," Sparkman says. "We expect a strong rate of

return. This grant from AT&T will help us expand our commitment to prepare students for college, and ultimately the workforce."

Nationwide, nearly one-third of high school students drop out before graduating. In Washoe County schools, which rank 50th in the country for graduation, the graduation rate is 55 percent. It is lower at schools designated as "at risk."

"These kids need someone to guide them," Bob Edgington, Dean's Future Scholars director, says of participants. "They're talented kids, but without someone to guide them, their chance of going to college would be pretty slim." ■

Major funding for the program and its elements has come from the University of Nevada, Reno Regents Award Program, USA Funds, Nevadaworks, City of Reno, GEAR-UP, Nevada Public Education; an endowment from Phil and Jennifer Satre '80M.Ed.; and an endowment from Robert and Barbara Thimot.

—Mike Wolterbeek '02



The women gathered for a group photo on the beach at Lake Tahoe.

All-female program encourages the study of science

Lake Tahoe is uncharacteristically unsettled on this late August afternoon, with a sharp breeze cutting across the beach at Camp Galilee on the lake's east shore.

Tahoe's normally placid blue waters churn with small whitecaps, and wisps of clouds seem to be gathering strength in numbers.

And yet, a group of 36 freshmen-to-be at the University of Nevada, Reno couldn't care less.

They are members of the University's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program, and they frolic up and down the rocky Galilee beach through a variety of games. They sprint through crazy relay races where they haul kayak oars tied between their legs. They balance single eggs on spoons, miraculously managing to neither (A) break stride nor (B) break the eggs that are in their care. They whoop and holler and delight in each other's company.

Welcome to the beginning of the second year of one of the University's most intriguing efforts—supported by College of Science Dean Jeff Thompson—to match talented young female math, science and engineering students

with a living/learning community designed to encourage their interests in these key areas.

"We've only been together for a few days, and already we're getting along so well," says Jessica Reynolds, an 18-year-old freshman from Minden who plans on majoring in math. "I was hoping that with this program I could work on getting my degree, and also build camaraderie with other students. So far, it's been great."

Nearby, program director Katherine McCall looks to be taking program directorship to a new level. As a young woman, she grew up working at camps on lakes in upstate New York and in Texas teaching canoeing and swimming. She helps the students into kayaks, and gently, yet firmly, instructs them on the do's and don'ts of safety on a day where the water is more choppy than calm.

New group, same goal

McCall, a longtime Nevada faculty member in physics, has been impressed with this year's WISE cohort, just as she was with last year's group.

"As with any class you have, the feel is different, the dynamics are a bit different," says McCall, during an interview a few weeks after the program's first-week retreat at Camp Galilee. "This group is really serious about their success. They're serious about doing well in school. Twelve of them are in the Honors Program, for example.

"But the point to always remember is that even as the students change, and the composition and the personality of the class changes from year to year, the goal of the program remains the same: We want to create a community of people for our students, a community that they can keep throughout their college years."

By almost every measure, last year's inaugural WISE class was a success. All but one of the students remained in math, science or engineering majors. And, McCall adds, the one student who changed majors is still at Nevada, and is still excited about college.

"What I tell the students and their parents is that if a student changes her major out of the sciences, we want it to be because she found her passion elsewhere. We don't want the reason to be that she didn't feel a sense of community or that she lacked support."

Removing obstacles

Although they are, as McCall says, serious about their school, there is also a strong sense of *esprit de corps* in the group, a unifying feeling that gender should be no obstacle in reaching their dreams in math, science and engineering.

"There are so few women in these fields," says Ashley Greiman, a freshman from

Student Success

"How can you not get excited about a community where you make great friends, and that encourages and reinforces the idea that you should get your degree and then go on to the next great thing you want to do?"

freshman Sarah Lillehaug



Photos by Jean Dixon

LEFT: Students participated in team building exercises to build community. RIGHT: The WISE students got the opportunity to kayak on Lake Tahoe.

Green Valley High School in Henderson, who will major in computer and information engineering. Greiman, who admits she “loves” robots and would like to one day design robotic operating systems herself, sees the program’s existence as validation that there is indeed strength in numbers.

“We need all the women we can get in these fields,” she says. “We need to prove we can handle it, and I know all of us will. My mom is a lawyer, but she didn’t have anything like this when she was in school. She is in love with this program, and what it represents—she thinks it’s a wonderful opportunity for me, and so do I. It’s exciting to be a part of it.”

Greiman says she can already see the program’s value.

“I’ve met so many great people here who are already my friends,” she says. “They’re going through the same things I’m going through. And it helps—it really does—when you realize you’re not all alone.”

Prinyan Ka, a freshman from Minden who hopes one day to be a general practitioner,

echoes Greiman. Her first exposure to the program was finding its website, and then feeling surprised with what WISE had to offer.

“I thought it would be good to meet and get to know girls who were into science and engineering and they’d be right down the hall,” says the biochemistry major. “So far, it’s been fun. I like all of the girls in the program.”


More than just academics

For Sarah Lillehaug, a 17-year-old freshman from Palo Verde High in Las Vegas who will major in biology, the program’s greatest selling point is its human touch. There is no question that all of the students are superior, and many are quite gifted. Yet college can be a challenging experience, both socially and academically. Lillehaug fully expects her involvement in WISE to help her throughout her four years at Nevada.

“It’s just really nice to run into people that have the same interests that you do,” she says. “We’re all clustered here. There is always going to be that common interest and concern of,

‘Well, how did you do on that last chemistry test?’ The idea of having a next-door neighbor (the WISE program is housed in Argenta Hall, on its own floor) with common interests is very cool.”

Lillehaug pauses, taking in the beauty—and the challenge—of the day at Tahoe. She smiles, noting that all of the trees at Tahoe, unlike some of the genus fake-palm tree-icius that line some of the streets in Las Vegas, are real. She says she fully expects her experience in WISE to be equally real, to be equally meaningful.

“How can you not get excited about a community where you make great friends, and that encourages and reinforces the idea that you should get your degree and then go on to the next great thing you want to do?” she says, smiling. 

—John Trent ’85/’87, ’00M.A.



Photo by David Calvert

Military experience adds depth to undergraduate experience

Veterans who are undergraduates are not only older and more mature than their counterparts, but many—especially combat veterans—have seen and experienced things most people will never see or experience.

And, like many other non-traditional students—those who don't enter college right out of high school—veterans are dedicated, focused and highly successful, according to Johann Sprenger, the University's Veterans Services coordinator.

"Veterans do as well as or better than the average student, mainly because they are a little more mature. They've been around and experienced life like we haven't. They are goal-oriented," he says.

John Newman, a 32-year-old environmental science senior, was goal-oriented from early adulthood. He joined the U.S. Army at age 24 "for the sole purpose of education benefits," he says. However, he notes that he wanted the American military experience. "My father was in the Air Force. His father had served and was

injured. But, it was more an American rather than a family tradition to serve in the military. I wanted to be a part of it."

Newman, who needed to fully support himself after graduating from high school, had tried to work construction jobs and attend classes before he enlisted, but "it was a struggle. My credits were building very slowly. My ability to give my full attention to my schoolwork, as my peers could, was strained. Those were long, hard days." So the Army, which offered education benefits as well as a chance to see the world, seemed like a perfect option.

Like many current veterans, Newman joined before 9/11, at which point "the whole game changed," he says. While he was stationed homeside, as well as his first six months overseas in Kosovo, he was able to earn college credits while working as a soldier. But with deployment to combat duty in Iraq, the opportunity ended.

Joining the Army, despite the unexpected turn, "was a life-changing experience and the best decision I've ever made," he says.

Wolf Pack Veterans Clayton Bussiere, 24, Air Force; Stuart Greenfield, 25, Marine Corps; Victor Profito, 26, Air Force; Teresa Thurtle, 24, Air Guard; Gary Mireles, 26, Marine Corps/Air Guard; Matt Sabatini, 23, Marine Corps and Benjamin Becerra, 26, Navy. INSET: John Newman, Army, while setting up a large-scale traffic control point north of Fallujah in 2004.

Newman spent four years overseas. When he returned, he worked as the Veterans Administration's global war on terror readjustment counseling outreach coordinator for northern Nevada. He resigned and returned to school because as a counselor his career was tracking toward social work, but his real love is environmental science.

While veterans in general are highly successful students, they can have unique difficulties. Returning to civilian life can be tough after months without something as simple as clean laundry, and, as in Newman's case, an entire year "without a porcelain toilet that flushed itself or a sink that ran water." When he came back, he took two showers a day for a week "just because it felt so good."

In addition, after four years, Reno itself had become unfamiliar. "It had practically doubled in size. I had missed out on four years culture and music. The cars were all different. It was

Student Success

like returning to a whole new world”

Newman, like many combat veterans, also had to deal with “combat stress,” technically called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. One of the symptoms of PTSD is that it can leave people easy to anger, irritable and hyper vigilant—a combination that can also leave them unwilling to “jump through hoops,” typically required in any university bureaucracy. He explains, “People who are experiencing combat-induced PTSD have either witnessed atrocities or have some perspective on how close death can be at any time.” Combat duty is “being immersed in hostility, being completely faceless and anonymous, knowing it could be you or the guy standing next to you. The bomb does not care whether you have a family that loves you, whether you have a scholarship coming to you, whether you have a car waiting for you, or whether you’ve been saving your money and you have a wife and child, or whether you are just some guy who drinks his money away—the enemy does not care.”

After experiencing these types of things—which are not normal—and then being returned “to a protected and structured society, where people get angry for having to stop for you at a crosswalk, even though all the effort that that took was raising the foot off one pedal and depressing the other for 10 or 15 seconds” veterans can find dealing with such pettiness unbearable.

“It’s a perspective. I’m more concerned about whether I’m going to live to go to sleep tonight,” Newman notes.

Veterans can also have a hard time dealing with seemingly meaningless complexities such as standing in line. “It’s a feeling that I don’t want to deal with this level of difficulty because where I just came from things were pretty simple: I’ve got my boots. I’ve got my bullets.”

Here’s where Johann Sprenger comes in. The Veterans Services coordinator is an

‘I’m more concerned about whether I’m going to live to go to sleep tonight.’

John Newman on the perspective of veterans.



Stuart Greenfield, far right, poses in Fallujah, Iraq with some of his Marine Corps buddies.

“outstanding resource,” Newman says. “He’s the man. He helps with everything: billing, course substitutions, prerequisite overrides. If a veteran doesn’t know the system, they can go to him.”

Last fall, Sprenger’s office oversaw some 365 veterans and their dependents who were attending classes.

Veterans can also find support in Wolf Pack Veterans, a student group. Led this year by 25-year-old Stuart Greenfield, a junior business management major with a minor in economics, the group meets regularly and hosts fundraising events for scholarships for veterans.

Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America often attend the student group’s meetings offering guidance.

Teresa Thurtle, ’08 (criminal justice/women’s studies), 24, who is currently a member of the Air Guard, says Wolf Pack Veterans “is

still a young organization, but it has a lot of potential. It’s a good, positive place to be where veterans can come together for camaraderie, mixing civilian life with military experience.” Thurtle graduated in December.

Greenfield says he wasn’t ready for college at age 18. So the day after graduating from Galena High School in 2000, he joined

the Marines. Like Newman, he followed a military tradition within his family, his father and grandfather having served. And, like Newman, he joined prior to 9/11. “It was peacetime. The worst combat you would see was a bar fight in Australia,” he jokes. After 9/11, he was deployed to Iraq, completing three seven-month tours of combat duty as a ground intelligence analyst, which entailed “running around the battleground with my laptop and my shotgun.”

As a Marine, he witnessed a tragic accident and was required to inform an Iraqi family that their baby had died. “That was the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do. How do I put that experience in perspective and remember it and build from it, yet not let it influence me in a negative fashion?”

Therefore, joining the Marines “was the best and worst decision I’ve made. It shows you what you value: time, family, quiet.” Greenfield married his wife, Andrea, in 2006. Andrea is a 2006 graduate of the Orvis School of Nursing. [N](#)

—Melanie Robbins ’06M.A.

To donate to the Wolf Pack Veterans scholarship fund, please contact Stuart Greenfield at (775) 240-0599 or greenfieldsd@gmail.com.

LOOK ONLINE

For photo galleries from Nevada veterans, visit: www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

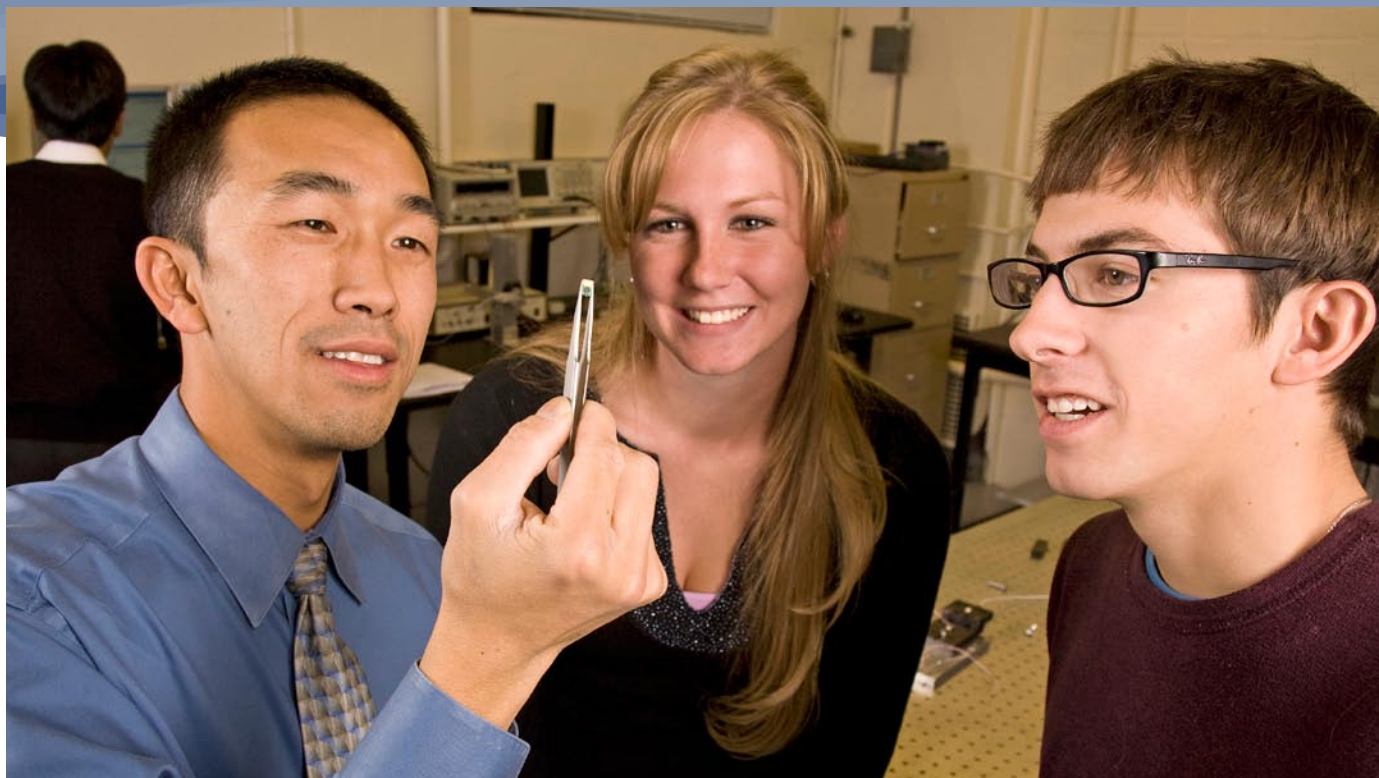


Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglas

Great faculty are critical for student success

Kam Leang, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, with civil engineering juniors Katie Ezell and Timothy Cecere-Waters.

Putting all the pieces together to create student success: engagement, curriculum and support, is a team effort—but the effort hinges on having great faculty, according to Shannon Ellis, vice president for Student Services. “The University has terrific faculty—teachers students rave about,” she says, ticking off just a few: David Fenimore (English), Scott Casper (history), Paul Starrs (geography), Phil Boardman (English). But the rising stars among new faculty are something to get excited about, too. Nevada Silver & Blue profiles just two of the dynamic new faculty on campus.

—Melanie Robbins '06M.A.

Leang's mechatronics research makes nano-sized things move

Since arriving at the University of Nevada, Reno from Virginia Commonwealth University this past fall, mechanical engineering professor Kam Leang has enjoyed the opportunities for outdoor recreation that northern Nevada offers. Although he has a passion for the great expanses of the Sierra Nevada, he is equally passionate about his work in the microscopic world of nanotechnology.

Professor Leang's specialty is modeling and designing control and mechatronic systems. The term “mechatronics” is used to describe a

cross-disciplinary combination of mechanical, electrical and computer engineering—in essence the use of electronics and computer programs to control mechanical devices.

Leang's specialty is controlling the behavior of active materials—special materials that respond to electrical signals, for applications at the nano scale. “I like to try to figure out ways to move objects and tools at the nano scale—one billionth of a meter,” says Leang. “Like the cranes outside my window that are building the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, I'm trying to develop the control ideas for moving positioners at the nano scale.”

Since the majority of machines we use today contain embedded electronic control systems, mechatronics specialists can be involved with the design and construction of a huge range of equipment: video recorders and washing machines, traffic control systems and anti-lock brakes, medical scanners and artificial organs, data storage devices, industrial robots and computer-controlled machine tools.

Leang is developing a new technical elective course in mechatronics to be taught for the first time on campus in spring 2009. The course will include upper division seniors and first-year graduate students. “Mechatronics is my favorite course to teach because that's what first got me interested in a career in mechanical engineering as an undergraduate,” says

Leang, who currently has a National Science Foundation grant to develop a curriculum for the teaching of mechatronics in engineering departments across the country.

Leang credits grants from NSF throughout his career with inspiring his teaching. “I was very fortunate to be a NSF K-12 Teaching Fellow while a graduate student at the University of Washington. Funding was provided to train graduate students in science so that they could better communicate with the public and bring research and science into the local K-12 school systems. I was able to learn pedagogy and bring research into the classroom and I credit that program with greatly enhancing my teaching skills. It was very enlightening.”

Leang says he enjoys working with his young students because of their energy, enthusiasm and hunger for knowledge. “I chose to go into teaching to make an impact. My profession is great because it allows one to have a significant impact not only in teaching but also in research. I like seeing light bulbs turned on when students grasp something they didn't know before.”

Some of Leang's students have gone on to graduate school at MIT and Virginia Tech, as well as other prominent engineering universities. “I like knowing that what I teach students now may well have a big impact on their future,” he says.

Student Success

In his short time on campus, Leang has already impressed his colleagues. “Many students are talking with enthusiasm about what a great instructor Dr. Leang is and how happy they are to have the opportunity to be in his courses,” says Kwang Kim, chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. “I have no doubt that he will become a star researcher at the national and international levels.”

Walsh deconstructs candidates' arguments

Lynda Walsh flips on the classroom monitor to clips from *Comedy Central's The Daily Show* or *The Colbert Report* for the “Campaign Stop” segment of her English 102 class last fall. She’s teaching persuasion in digital media.

Why the comedy shows? “Most news outlets are corporately owned and they’re spinning one side or the other,” says the recently hired assistant professor of English. “Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart are doing the closest thing to classical rhetorical analysis right now on television.” Who knew?

The shows—which Walsh acknowledges are clearly liberal—are nonetheless known for illuminating politicians’ contradictions over time. With the presidential candidates, they ran video clips of current pronouncements and compared them to previous statements, getting big laughs from the mostly youthful audience. “They’re doing good solid argument analysis, doing deconstruction of these arguments, and showing internal contradictions,” Walsh notes, adding that she was careful to choose material that avoided injecting inappropriate political biases into the classroom. “I balanced the Colbert/Stewart clips with Republican ads and clips from *Fox News*.”

Classical argumentation has gone somewhat out of style with the explosion of cyberspace, she says. “People put up a blog and, in effect,

“Professor Walsh is very direct, firm. She definitely knows what she’s talking about. She backs it up with evidence. She’s very knowledgeable and very positive, full of energy.”

Freshman Nadia Shabrin, who is studying international affairs and cultural anthropology.

say, ‘If you like me, here’s my blog, be my friend. If you don’t, get your own blog.’ It’s fundamentally different from how classical persuasion was designed to work in a democracy. We’ve almost become tribal factions.”

Both President-elect Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain, however, are classically trained rhetoricians, Walsh notes. “Obama tends to be very textbook. He’s upfront: ‘I

believe (in this controversial thing)...’ and then he’ll give you his explanation of why he believes in it so that you will agree with him.”

McCain, on the other hand, “does this ingenious thing where he starts with a warrant [the often unstated value at the heart of an argument] that he thinks everyone will hold and he works his way to the more controversial claims,” she

says. “For example, McCain might start with a statement such as, ‘My friends, we all agree that the United States should be a role model for the world.’ Then he says that if we’re going to be

a role model we need to have other countries look up to us, and we need to be consistent in how we treat foreign nationals and therefore we should close the camp at Guantanamo Bay. He sneaks you through the backdoor into the policy argument he wants to make.”

Classical argumentation includes appeals to logic, emotion and credibility, also known as appeals to logos, pathos and ethos, respectively. But 21st century digital media persuasion can be something quite different.

On Nov. 5, Walsh holds the final Campaign Stop. She opens a browser to a New York Times page containing an “election word slider”—readers from far and wide are inputting words that express their feelings. The slider is updated every half hour. These words appear in a “cloud” format, with the most often used words displaying larger than less frequently used words. The Democrats’ words are blue and the Republicans’ are red. Not surprisingly, the large blue words are entirely positive: “Happy,” “Elated,” “Joyful,” while the red words are downright sad: “Depressed,” “Miserable,” “Fearful.”

“A display of emotion... just stating how you feel can be persuasive,” Walsh tells the class.

—Ken Kempcke and
Melanie Robbins ’06M.A.



Lynda Walsh, assistant professor of English, teaches the “Campaign Stop” segment of her English 102 class the day after the November presidential election.

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Summer Freshman Start eases transition to the University

Summer on the University of Nevada, Reno campus is a relatively calm, peaceful time during which students can focus on one or two subjects and choose from more than 600 classes offered in three condensed terms. And thanks to Summer Freshman Start, it's also a time when incoming freshmen get their first taste of University life while completing the prerequisites required to enroll in English 101, Math 120 or Math 126 their first fall semester.

Since 2005, more than 560 newly admitted University of Nevada students have taken classes through the program, which is designed to give freshmen a head start

first fall semesters prepared to perform well and confident that they can keep up in their classes—and statistics show that retention rates are higher for students who take a course in their 'freshman summer.'"

Jillean Velarde, an 18-year-old freshman sociology major who took Math 096 and English 098 this summer, says the program helped prepare her for her five-class course load this fall in more ways than one.

"It helped me so much," Velarde said. "It was a really good pace and I could focus a lot better—plus, I was caught up on credits when school started and familiar with campus. It really made me feel more at home and comfortable at the University."

Amit Saini, a lecturer in the University's Department of Mathematics and Statistics, agrees wholeheartedly that Summer Freshman Start helps ensure student success on a number of levels. He has taught Math 096 classes the last two summers.

"Everyone likes to get ahead," Saini said. "With Summer Freshman Start, students are not only getting ahead, but usually taking care of

something that is not their strength—all in five weeks. They usually get to focus on just one topic, so they seem enthusiastic every day."

For more about the University's Summer Freshman Start program, visit www.freshmanstart.unr.edu.

—Sarah Purdy '02



toward degree completion.

"Summer Freshman Start is a great opportunity for students to get ahead or stay on target for the rotation of requirements for their degrees and for degree completion in four years," said Kerri Garcia, director of Summer Session and Summer Freshman Start.

"Student success rates for English 098 and Math 096 are higher in Summer Session than in fall, likely because students have fewer distractions and are taking fewer classes. That achievement helps incoming freshmen start their

"It helped me so much. It was a really good pace and I could focus a lot better—plus, I was caught up on credits when school started and familiar with campus. It really made me feel more at home and comfortable at the University."

freshman Jillean Velarde

Student Success



Photos by Jean Dixon

Renewable Energy Center opens at Redfield Campus

Students and faculty engaged in geothermal, wind, solar, hydrogen and biofuels research have a new laboratory—the University of Nevada, Reno Renewable Energy Center at the Redfield Campus.

Completed in November 2008, the center is one of three new centers in Nevada and part of the Nevada Southwest Energy Partnership funded by a grant from Sen. Harry Reid and managed by the National Renewable Energy Lab. The University has partnered with the Nell J. Redfield Foundation and Ormat Technologies, Inc. to build the laboratory, which

will demonstrate the benefits of transitioning to a cleaner, more secure, more reliable and affordable energy future.

The center is uniquely located in an area with abundant solar and geothermal resources, as well as significant wind energy, according to Ted Batchman, emeritus dean of the College of Engineering and the center's founding director.

"The goal is to develop partnerships with industry, government agencies, University educators and researchers to help Nevada achieve its goal of becoming energy independent and a net exporter of green energy," he said.

Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, Manos Maragakis, added, "Renewable energy is a critical component for developing a sustainable community, state and nation. The College of Engineering has set as one of its major strategic objectives to develop a first

Geology researcher Chris Sladek collects steam samples at Brady Hot Springs, east of Fernley. INSET: The Reno Renewable Energy Center is housed at the Redfield Campus on Mt. Rose Highway.

class renewable energy program consisting of new courses and degrees, state-of-the-art research and robust partnerships with industry." NV Energy provided funds for two new assistant professors whose area of interest is renewable energy. These funds helped jumpstart the program.

In January 2008, the College of Engineering, in cooperation with other University academic departments, initiated an interdisciplinary minor in renewable energy. Open to all students, the minor is designed to expose students to a broad range of technical and social/political disciplines.

—Kimberly Zaski '95, '04M.A.

Wintermester classes give winter break new meaning

Now in its third year, the University's Wintermester offers students an intensive three-week window during winter break to earn as many as four credits in a condensed time frame. This year's shortened "semester"—held from Dec. 29, 2008 to Jan. 16, 2009—featured more than 50 classes in 22 subjects, with several capstone offerings and other classes that fulfill degree requirements in a variety of colleges. Wintermester credits also count toward full-time spring credit loads, reimbursable with the Millennium Scholarship.

Most classes are held on campus and run three hours a day, five days a week, or four hours a day, four days a week, for the three weeks. Subjects include criminal justice, dance, economics, special education, English, history, journalism, math, management, music, psychology and more. Two four-day field study courses in geography let students explore the landforms of Death Valley National Park.

"We developed Wintermester for students to take advantage of an otherwise quiet time on campus, to catch up on credits, fulfill prerequisites and get ahead with classes needed for graduation," said Carley Ries '95 (criminal justice), associate director of Independent Learning in Extended Studies, which administers the Wintermester program for the University. "We've had great response from students and faculty alike, and the program has more than doubled its offerings in three years."

Two students who share Ries' enthusiasm for the new short "semester" include brothers Evan '08 and Nolan Warner. Evan was able to graduate on schedule last spring in mechanical engineering with a math minor by taking a Wintermester class the prior term.



Evan Warner '08 (right) with fellow Nevada grad Grigoriy Lukin '08 (political science), at the Spring Commencement ceremony, May 17, 2008.

"It's pretty difficult to graduate in four years with an engineering degree, but I was determined to make it happen," Evan said. "Wintermester was a good way to get three credits taken care of and to free up my schedule to take the final credits I needed. The class was great. It was also easy to stay focused because I was only taking three credits."

Evan and his brother, Nolan, took their Wintermester class together. "I thought it would be fun to take a class with my brother and this was the only opportunity I was going to get," Evan said. "History of Dance, which counts for both a fine arts and a diversity requirement, was interesting. We also learned the cultural significance of each dance we studied."

Like his brother, Nolan put himself on track too, in preparation for a year studying in Japan. "The Wintermester class gave me

enough credits to become a senior going into this year of study abroad," said Nolan, a computer science major minoring in math and Japanese. "So when I return I'll be on track. Requirements aside, the timing of the class also allowed me to enjoy my winter break while learning at the same time."

The experience also helped fulfill a more personal objective. "I heard about Wintermester from

friends. When they recommend something, I can be sure I'll enjoy it," he said. "Getting ahead on my academic schedule gave me the opportunity to study abroad, which has been a

"It's pretty difficult to graduate in four years with an engineering degree, but I was determined to make it happen. Wintermester was a good way to get three credits taken care of and to free up my schedule to take the final credits I needed."

Evan Warner '08

Student Success



Photos provided by the Warner family

Nolan Warner and fellow Nevada student, Leslie Parawan, studying in Japan.

goal of mine for many years.”

An active supporter of student success at all levels, economics professor Mark Pingle is

major and graduating,” said Pingle, who also helps organize the University’s annual Economics Day where middle and high school

also a proponent of the Wintermester format for students declaring majors in the College of Business. “It serves students who are finding it more difficult to obtain classes, and helps students complete their lower-division business core earlier and move toward declaring a business

students learn about career opportunities associated with economics training.

Like the Warner brothers, Pingle also credits Wintermester with helping fulfill a personal mission. “Economics provides an especially useful lens through which a student can view the world in which he or she lives,” he says. “So I like to get economics education to students any time I can reasonably do it. Wintermester is great for that.” **N**

For more about the University’s Wintermester session, visit wintermester.unr.edu.

—Andrea Turman

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Kamin VanGuilder works with Brianne Owens at the University of Nevada School of Medicine Student Outreach Clinic.

School of Medicine's Class of 2010 wins acclaim for student clinic

Every few years, most educational institutions can point to a particular class that stands out because of its academic achievements, extracurricular activities or because it embraces a greater sense of the common good.

The University of Nevada School of Medicine is no exception. The Class of 2010, current third-year medical students, have set themselves apart in an entire school of accomplished students.

Whether serving in the Student Outreach Clinic, helping each other in class, writing grants to fund projects or forming a new association to increase the number of minority students entering medical school, the Class of 2010 has already made a mark on the School of Medicine that will be remembered and admired for years to come.

Anne McMillin, APR, is a public relations specialist for health science communications for the School of Medicine.

"This class has a drive and cohesiveness as a group I've not seen before," said Dr. Dan Spogen, chair of the department of family and community medicine in Reno and faculty adviser for the Student Outreach Clinic, a se-

ries of free clinics held each month to help the medically underserved attain basic care, while giving students clinical exposure. Clinics are run by each class of first-year medical students.

Spogen said when the 57-member Class of 2010 took over the Student Outreach Clinic in 2007, it was limping along with a handful of patients for each clinic and one student who would show up to treat those patients.

"They were able to recruit preceptors (volunteer faculty or community physicians who supervise students in a medical setting) and other students to the clinics so they could see more patients," Spogen said. "Students John Sutherland, Whitney Law and Danielle Stage started the idea of giving pediatric vaccinations in the clinics and reached out to the indigent population who needed them. They contacted the county health department to get their certification to give those vaccinations to children."

He added that Law offered her personal contacts with the Redfield Foundation to the class as a source for additional funding for the clinics. Jake Zucker took it upon himself to write a grant proposal in the amount of \$25,000 to cover equipment, operational costs and to set up a patient care fund to help with patients who couldn't pay for needed medical

services. The full amount of the proposal was granted by the Redfield Foundation.

At the time the Class of 2010 took over the Student Outreach Clinic, they were being held off campus. Class members again initiated contact with the Washoe County Health Department to move the clinic to the Family Medicine Center at University of Nevada where they could see more patients in a better equipped medical setting.

So successful were they in revitalizing the Student Outreach Clinic that for the children's vaccination clinic in August 2008, the line to get in reached for several hundred yards. The general and children's clinics now regularly see 40 patients, while the women's clinic sees 25 patients every month.

The Class of 2010's passion for helping the underserved extends beyond the local community to the international arena. The class, led by Morgan Richards, held a benefit auction and reception during spring semester of their first year to help raise funds for two teenage sisters from East Timor who needed life-saving surgery from a debilitating form of scoliosis. The successful event raised \$8,500 for the procedure.

For their efforts on these two humanistic projects alone, the *Nevada Business Journal* awarded the Class of 2010 its Northern Nevada "Healthcare Hero" award for entrepreneurialism last summer. It was the first time a class at the School of Medicine had been recognized by the business magazine.

Undergraduate medical education at the University of Nevada School of Medicine offers students a variety of avenues outside the classroom to help anchor their academic instruction to real-world applications.

Carissa Sparrow and Law, both 2006 Nevada graduates, attended a Society of Teachers in Family Medicine conference where they presented a poster on how serving the underserved medical community enhances their education.

"We were pleasantly surprised to see how much we had actually accomplished with the Student Outreach Clinic while also determining ways for improvement," Sparrow said.

Sparrow attributes her class' success in their third-year rotations in large part to the

experience gained from running the Student Outreach Clinic. "Most of our early experience predisposes us to a more complete way of interacting with patients, allowing us to address all aspects of patient care."

A sampling of other opportunities garnered by the Class of 2010 include Mike Krainock being awarded an American Association for Thoracic Surgery research fellowship in Boston; Jason Michaels spending six weeks completing research projects in the department of dermatology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and Miren Guenechea-Sola and Wilfredo Torres forming a chapter of the Latino Medical Student Association to increase the number of minority students applying for, and being accepted to, the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

The Class of 2010 has built a reputation for itself as being particularly caring, not only for their patients, but for each other. As the class members fan out across Nevada for their third-year clinical rotations, class president Daphne Scott keeps the entire class informed of each other's accomplishments and projects via periodic emails.

While the School of Medicine has afforded many opportunities for the Class of 2010, class members are quick to point out specific faculty members who have been particularly influential in their medical education.

Scott believes Peggy Dupey, interim associate dean of admissions and student affairs, has been important to her medical school experience. "She is extremely knowledgeable and always willing to help students. Those qualities combined with her open door policy and extremely understanding and caring nature have made her very influential in my life," Scott said.

Law said Spogen has had a huge influence on her as well as her whole class. "He was there from the beginning helping run our clinical problem solving class and as an adviser for the Student Outreach Clinic. He is great at encouraging us to move forward with our ideas and dreams, but will also support us until we reach our goals." She said the most important concept Spogen has taught the class is to find their own "passion in medicine" by following their dreams when choosing a specific career path within the larger field of medicine.

Sparrow calls Kenneth Maehara, associate professor in the department of pathology, "my all-time favorite professor." She said she greatly respects his knowledge and values his teaching methods. "I have never come out of a classroom learning so much," she said. "He keeps your at-

tention and truly cares about his students."

The class' sense of altruism is also seen within the confines of the classroom by their academic professors.

"This class is prepared for each lecture and lab and are also nice to each other," said Maehara, who instructs a year-long course to second-year students. "They have a good sense of humor and are willing to help outside the classroom."

As an example of this willingness to go above and beyond, he recalls when he casually mentioned in class that he was moving across town in a few days. "About 10 of them showed up to help me move that morning and it was the smoothest move I've ever done," Maehara said.

"As with all our medical students, they are very driven, focused, bright people. This class is one where everyone passed their Step 1 national exam, which is necessary to get into the third year of medical school," Maehara said. He added that their success on that exam will be significant when the class applies for residency programs this year. "We're very proud of that."

Jamie Anderson, director of the division of interdisciplinary medical education and a 20-year member of the School of Medicine faculty, teaches first- and second-year students in clinical problem solving. She notes that the Class of 2010 is very empathetic to patients in preceptorships.

"They truly have a sense of altruism, which is a core value of the medical profession. They respect each other, the faculty and their community," she said, adding that empathy and altruism are the two outstanding characteristics of this class as a whole. "They really shine when it comes to these two things because these characteristics are so important that they make the difference between merely being a competent physician and one who really cares." ■



Dr. Dan Spogen works with University of Nevada School of Medicine student Anneka Hoof.



School of Medicine winners at the Nevada Business Journal's 2008 Northern Nevada Healthcare Heroes awards dinner held on July 31 at the Silver Legacy: Dr. Catherine McCarthy, recipient of the Educator Award; Class of 2010 members Whitney Law, Morgan Richards and John Sutherland; Dr. Trudy Larson, recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award and Class of 2010 members Corey Richardson, Justin Terry and Carissa Sparrow. The Class of 2010 received the Entrepreneurialism Award.

Photo courtesy School of Medicine



Wolf Pack gives back

Nevada's student-athletes, coaches and staff set a goal of 2,000 hours of community service every year.

Competing in front of Wolf Pack fans each night is one of the greatest privileges of being a student-athlete at the University of Nevada, Reno. The Wolf Pack athletics department has a long-standing commitment to giving back to the community that support our teams.

Between academics, practices and competitions, Wolf Pack student-athletes, coaches and staff pride themselves on getting out in the community and therefore set a goal of at least 2,000 hours of community service every year. Each team has a goal based on their number of student-athletes, and several Wolf Pack squads have already exceeded their goals.

Throughout the year, Nevada's student-athletes participate in a number of activities, including reading to children at elementary schools, working with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and participating in sports clinics. A number of Wolf Pack teams also volunteered at this year's American Cancer Society Heart Walk and the Race for the Cure. The athletics department also holds its Girls and Women in Sports Day every spring, a popular event that gives hundreds of girls a chance to interact with student-athletes, attend a women's basketball game and

participate in clinics from every sport.

In addition, Nevada's Student-Athlete Advisory Council has chosen Habitat for Humanity as its community service project for this year. Teams of Wolf Pack student-athletes are heading out at least once a month to help build houses, as well as working in the group's discount store.

As much as the Northern Nevada community benefits from Nevada's community service efforts, Wolf Pack student-athletes say they benefit from the experience even more.

"It's important for student-athletes to give back to the community to set examples and expand our awareness of the world outside of our sports," former Wolf Pack swimmer Nonie Wainwright said. "Community service benefits student-athletes by getting us out of the court, field or pool to do something productive and to give back to the place that supports us."

"Community service gives athletes the chance to interact with the people who support them and their sport," former Wolf Pack soccer player Blaine Dugan said. "It benefits athletes in ways that are

immeasurable. It teaches everything from responsibility to conscientiousness and also brings out characteristics such as respect, humbleness and caring."

According to Nevada's coaches, community service plays a big role in enhancing a student-athlete's college experience and building character.

"Community service completes the overall experience of being a student-athlete," Wolf Pack baseball coach Gary Powers said. "It's not just about playing the games; it's about being a role model and a good citizen and giving back to the people who have supported them during their time as a student-athlete."

"We as Division I coaches and student-athletes receive a lot of great benefits and we need to give back to the community," first-year Nevada women's basketball coach Jane Albright said. "Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our problems, but it's hard to think about our own selfish needs when you are helping others. It gives you a great feeling. It's like winning a game."

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

Morrill named one of top 10 Division I Finalists for NCAA Woman of the Year

Former Nevada rifle student-athlete Meghann Morrill '08 (accounting/information systems) was named one of the top 30 honorees and one of only 10 representing NCAA Division I institutions for the 18th annual NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

The NCAA Woman of the Year Award recognizes outstanding female student-athletes who have excelled academically and athletically in addition to demonstrating strong community service and leadership. To be eligible, female student-athletes must have been lettered and competed in 2007-08 and been in their final year of eligibility.

"It is a great honor to be chosen as one of the ten honorees in Division I for NCAA Woman of the Year," Morrill said. "This and many of the other recognitions I have received are directly attributed to the support the Nevada Athletics Department has provided during my four years as a member of the Wolf Pack. Being a student-athlete at Nevada has given me more experiences in personal growth than I would have thought possible, as well as given me memories to last a lifetime."

A native of Verdi, Nev., Morrill was a four-year letter winner on the Wolf Pack rifle team and earned first-team All-America honors in 2006 and 2008. A 2008 recipient of the NCAA's Postgraduate Scholar-

ship, she graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of Nevada's Honors College with a degree in accounting and information systems in May of 2008. She also received

one of the University's 11 Outstanding Senior Awards from the College of Business. Morrill's future plans include attending law school where she seeks to specialize in tax and estate planning law, as well as attempting to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Team at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

During her senior season, Morrill finished first in eight of the Wolf Pack's 10 competitions. She set a number of school records, including the high team aggregate score. A two-year team captain, she was also a four-time academic honoree by the National Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association. Morrill finished third at the 2008 National Air Rifle Championships and seventh at the 2008 U.S. Olympic Trials and is currently ranked third in the United States in women's air rifle.

"Meghann is one of our best and brightest. She pursues excellence in all that she does," Wolf Pack rifle coach Fred Harvey said.

—Rhonda Lundin



Meghann Morrill

Photo courtesy Nevada Athletics Media Services Department

Nevada athletes graduation success rate at all-time high

The University of Nevada, Reno's Graduation Success Rate for student-athletes is at an all-time high, according to the most recent data released by the NCAA in October 2008.

Nevada's student-athletes posted an overall Graduation Success Rate of 70 percent in 2008, the highest mark in school history, and up from 67 percent in 2007. Nevada's success rate has improved in each of the four years the NCAA has released the data, from 63 percent in 2005, 65 percent in 2006, 67 percent in 2007 and now 70 percent in 2008. The federal graduation rate for Nevada's student-athletes, which doesn't count trans-

fer students, is 54 percent this year.

"We are pleased to see our Graduation Success Rate reach 70 percent for the first time in school history, and I want to commend all of our student-athletes, academic staff, coaches and the University community for all of their hard work in helping our student-athletes accomplish the ultimate goal of graduation," Nevada Director of Athletics Cary Groth said.

The current Graduation Success Rate is based on student-athletes who began full-time enrollment at any school in 2001-02 and received athletic aid in their first year of college.

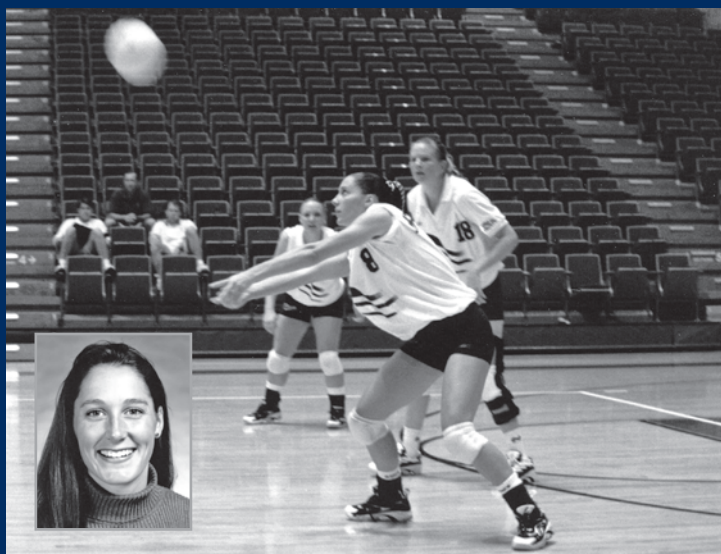
The Graduation Success Rate was developed by the NCAA as part of its academic reform initiative to more accurately assess the academic success of student-athletes. Unlike the federal graduation rate, the NCAA's rating holds institutions accountable for transfer student-athletes, includes

mid-year enrollees, and is calculated for every sport.

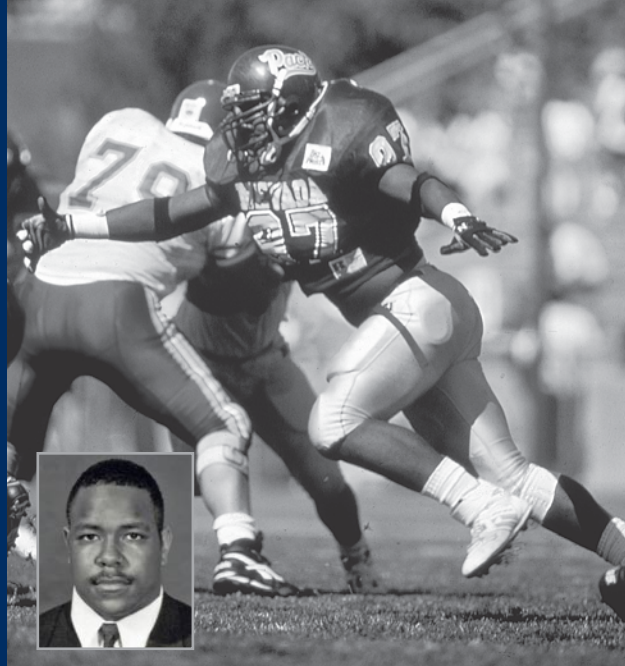
Nevada's highest-ever Graduation Success Rate mark is the latest accomplishment in a year of academic successes for the Wolf Pack. All 17 of Nevada's teams turned in a multi-rate Academic Progress Rate at or above the NCAA's standard of 925 in 2007-08, and Nevada was the only school in the Western Athletic Conference to not have any teams face penalties. Nevada saw 78 student-athletes representing 15 teams earn their degrees in the 2007-08 academic year, while 103 Wolf Pack student-athletes were named to the 2007-08 WAC All-Academic teams.

"We have a strong athletics program that embraces the importance of producing student-athletes who are as successful in the classroom as they are in competition," University President Milton Glick said.

—Rhonda Lundin



Tiffany Neumeier Breeden '98



James Cannida '03

Nevada's Hall of Fame class *represents more than 50 years of Wolf Pack success*

The Nevada Athletic Hall of Fame's Class of 2008 will likely be remembered not only for its fine collection of athletes who achieved at the highest level, but also for the diverse collection of individuals who contributed to the University of Nevada, Reno.

The class included individual standouts Tiffany Neumeier Breeden (volleyball), James Cannida (football), Andy Dominique (baseball) as well as former coach Bill Ireland and the first national championship team in school history, the 1956 rifle squad.

"This year's class is one of the most diverse and decorated groups we have inducted into our Athletic Hall of Fame," Nevada Director of Athletics Cary Groth said. "They are all very deserving of the honor and represent over 50 years of Wolf Pack athletics success."

The inductees were honored at the Hall of Fame Dinner on Oct. 17 at the Silver Legacy and the group was inducted into the Hall of Fame at halftime of the Homecoming football game on Oct. 18, a Wolf Pack victory over Utah State.

Tiffany Neumeier Breeden '98

Volleyball, 1994-97

Considered undersized, the 5-foot-8 hitter is one of the most dominating players in Wolf Pack history. Eleven years after her last match at Nevada, she still holds the school record for

career kills with 1,779, and ranks in the top six all-time in digs and service aces.

"When Tiffany played, you did not want to be on the other side of the net," said head coach Devin Scruggs, who introduced Neumeier Breeden at the Hall of Fame Dinner.

Neumeier Breeden was the catalyst who ushered in the golden era of Wolf Pack volleyball, which has made five NCAA Tournament appearances under Scruggs. Though she did not possess the height of a prototypical outside hitter, Neumeier Breeden played with a fire and intensity that transferred to her teammates.

"My entire life, people told me that I would not survive in a top volleyball conference, so I always played with a chip on my shoulder," Neumeier Breeden said. "I will always cherish the memories I have of Nevada, and will always be thankful for the opportunity I was given."

James Cannida '03

Football, 1994-97

Defensive players in the 1990s did not receive as much attention as their offensive counterparts on the Nevada football team. With their prolific aerial attack setting records and dismantling opponents by racking up yardage and points, the defense oftentimes went overlooked. With that in mind, it is a telling honor that James Cannida '03 (jour-

nalism) was selected to the Wolf Pack's "Team of the Century" in 1998 as a celebration of 100 years of Nevada athletics.

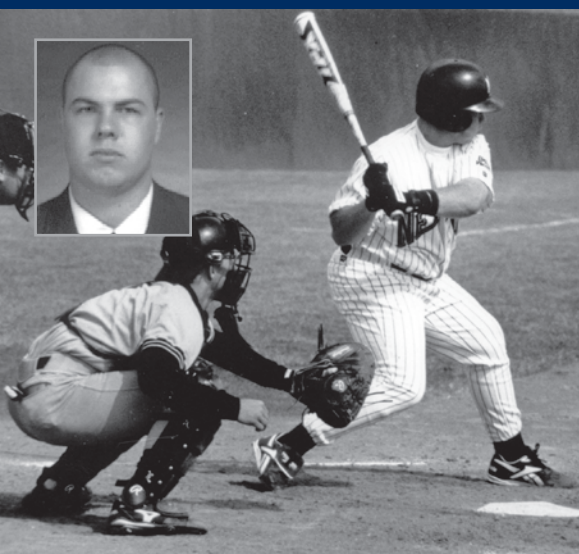
Cannida was a dominant defensive lineman who was a two-time All-Big West Conference honoree. He helped the team to a pair of Las Vegas Bowl appearances, including a victory in the 1996 game against Ball State. Playing in the trenches, Cannida was known not only for his toughness, but his durability as he started all but four games in his career and missed only one game in four seasons.

"James Cannida has passion and desire," said former roommate and teammate Mike Edwards, Cannida's presenter at the Hall of Fame dinner. "And I'm not just talking about football, but in life."

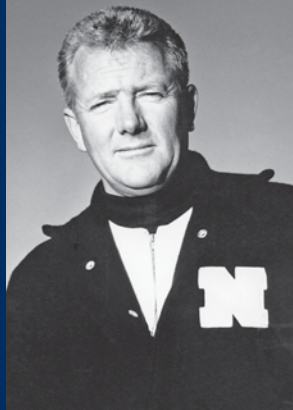
Cannida called the induction "the greatest honor I could ever ask for."

During a recent campus tour, Cannida said he was impressed with the direction of the University with facility upgrades and additions in the athletics department, as well as the new Joe Crowley Student Union and Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center.

"The University is growing and that is really neat to see," Cannida said. "All of the facilities that these athletes have now made me feel that, as a player here, I helped set a foundation for the future. And that really means a lot to me."



Andy Dominique



Bill Ireland '52



1956 National Championship Rifle Team

Photos courtesy Nevada Athletics Media Services Department

Andy Dominique

Baseball, 1994-97

Simply put, Andy Dominique is the best baseball player to ever play the game at the University of Nevada, Reno. A decade removed from his days at Peccole Park, his name still appears at or near the top of every hitting category in the Wolf Pack baseball record books. A two-time All-Big West selection, Dominique was the MVP of the conference as a senior in 1997 and earned All-America honors after slugging 30 home runs—still a single-season Nevada record.

His professional career was cut short due to injury, but he was part of five major league organizations, making his major league debut in 1994 with the eventual World Series champion Boston Red Sox.

This from a player who never thought he would ever go to college.

"I had a learning disability, but this University gave me the opportunity to advance myself," Dominique said. "This school gave me an opportunity I never thought possible."

Overcoming odds was the hallmark of Dominique's career. Overlooked by the major leagues coming out of high school, Dominique came to Nevada and immediately helped the Pack to an NCAA Regional appearance as a freshman. After two more highly productive years, Dominique went undrafted after his junior season and nearly quit the game. But he came back for his historic 1997 season and led the Pack to another NCAA Regional trip.

"He is the greatest player I have ever coached," said 26-year Nevada coach Gary Powers. "His attitude was everything. His

mindset was 'don't tell me that I can't do something because I'll show you that I can.' "He spent his entire career doing just that."

Bill Ireland '52

Baseball Coach/Assistant Football Coach, 1960-67

Few others have made a larger impact on intercollegiate athletics in Nevada than "Coach I." A 1952 graduate of Nevada, he has a lasting legacy with the Wolf Pack, the UNLV Rebels and the rivalry between the Silver State's premier college athletic programs.

He coached the Wolf Pack's freshman football team in 1960, and then went on to a seven-year coaching career with the Nevada baseball team, winning a Far Western Conference championship in 1966. He became UNLV's first football coach in 1968, a post he held through the 1972 season before serving as UNLV's athletics director from 1973 until 1980. Ireland died in 2007 at the age of 80.

"It was not an easy time to coach, but he was blessed by a great collection of kids, most of whom were Nevadans," Ireland's widow, Jeanne, said of her husband's time at Nevada.

He is perhaps best known for his idea of creating a traveling trophy for the winner of the annual rivalry game between Nevada and UNLV. His idea became a reality in 1970 when the Fremont Cannon was presented to the schools' students in 1970.

During the Hall of Fame induction, it was announced that the traveling trophy has been renamed the Bill Ireland Fremont Cannon.

1956 National Championship Rifle Team

The seven-man team coached by Sgt. Joel


Cantrell is notable for two distinct reasons: The squad is the second team to be inducted to the Nevada Athletic Hall of Fame, joining the 1979 swimming and diving team; moreover, the team brought home the first national championship in school history.

The team was comprised of Max Botz '57 (geological engineering), Gene Espin, Terry Katzer '57 (geology), John Middlebrook '58 (mining engineering), '59M.S. (geological engineering), Dick Mills, Bill Rusk and Chuck Taylor.

Prior to the national championships, Nevada had a stellar season, winning the 31-team Southwest Invitational in El Paso, Texas, and the Eastern Washington College of Education Invitational. Nevada also won the Sixth Army Title at the prestigious Hearst Intercollegiate Shoot as Nevada finished second.

But it was in March of 1956 that Nevada made history. Competing at the National Intercollegiate Rifle Championship in Berkeley, Calif., Nevada set a national record with 1,443 out of a possible 1,500 points with the victory coming against the defending national champs, California.

Katzer and Rusk were named All-Americans that season, and Sgt. Cantrell was awarded the Army's Commendation Ribbon with Medal Pendant, one of the top peacetime awards available for meritorious service.

"This honor means more at this point in our lives than it ever would have before," Katzer said. 

— Chad Hartley '03 is assistant director of Athletics Media Relations



Fiber optics opens up new world in measuring temperature

Scott Tyler has a mile-long thermometer and he's taking the temperature of Lake Tahoe, the Walker River, farmlands and forests.

Tyler, a University professor in the Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering, is using the thermometer, a standard issue fiber-optic cable, in innovative ways to study a wide variety of hydrological, climatological and geologic topics in Nevada and around the world.

His equipment uses a laser to send and receive certain wavelengths along the tiny glass fiber. Recording the amount of travel time in the cable allows Tyler to determine temperature at various intervals by the wavelengths that return. The process is called distributed temperature sensing.

"I have about 20 miles of fiber-optic cable, and we've used it in a variety of new applications to find out what's going on in the environment," Tyler said. "If we know the temperature, we can tell what's happening in an ecosystem. It's unbelievable the opportunities for research this has opened."

As part of the Walker Basin Project—designed to sustain the arid region's economy, ecosystem and lake—Tyler and his colleagues tugged on hip waders and lowered the fiber-optic cable into the Walker River. They spooled out one kilometer of cable through small riffles of water, deeper pools and areas of shade and sun.

"This technology is like no other in that we

can measure temperature along many points (high spatial resolution) at once and record it over a long duration at each of those points," Tyler said.

"We can determine where groundwater comes into the river by the water temperature. Due to the very high spatial resolution, we can pinpoint areas impacted by sub-surface agricultural return flows or groundwater levels; we can help determine water quality or if the river temperatures are adequate for spawning."

Researchers also target irrigation in the Walker Basin Project. Tyler and his crew loaded a spool of fiber optics onto the back end of a tractor and buried two kilometers of it in a Mason Valley field, about a foot underground. With radar, scientists can measure soil moisture in the upper inch of the ground, but no other methods are available to measure distributed soil moisture in the root zone over a large area, Tyler said. This data will support water-use efficiency studies in the basin.

In June, at Lake Tahoe, Tyler hung three cables 450 meters deep from a research boat to the lake bottom, gathering temperatures from every meter of depth. Scientists watched the fluctuating temperatures at the 100-foot level, the bottom of the "warm" water, as underwater waves sloshed back and forth across the lake every 20 minutes. The surface water was smooth and flat.

"We've always known that the wind causes

Scott Tyler, professor of geological sciences and engineering, inspects a fiber optic cable in the Walker River while postdoctoral researcher Christine Hatch takes readings.

the water to be pushed across the lake, but we've never seen it before," Tyler said. Seeing the patterns of water movement and temperature layers will help researchers understand nutrient movement at the interface of warm and cold water.

Besides his work in Nevada, Tyler's additional projects, conducted in collaboration with a number of researchers and universities worldwide, take advantage of the versatile properties of fiber optics.

These projects include: studying caves; measuring soil temperatures during a prescribed burn at Lake Tahoe forests; assessing the dynamics of San Francisco Bay salt marshes, coal mine reclamation and acid mine drainage in Germany; studying snowpack and snowmelt at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area in California and stream/lake/groundwater interactions at Lake Tahoe and several national parks; as well as analyzing water temperature at Devils Hole in Death Valley in a bid to protect the endangered pupfish. Tyler is also anticipating a project that would measure deep-ice and deep-water temperatures in Antarctica.

—Mike Wolterbeek '02

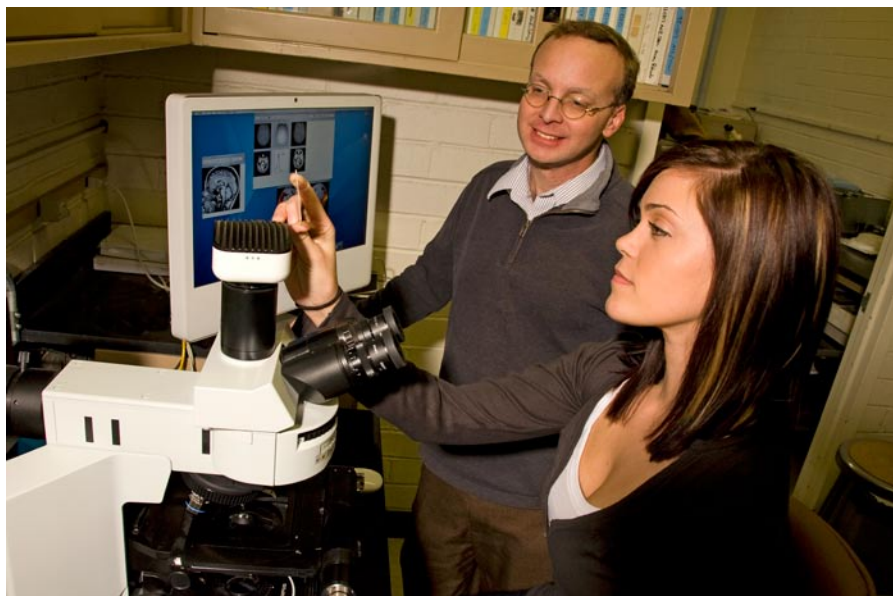
Nevada joins ranks of UCLA, Harvard, Duke with new neuroscience program

The University has added a new undergraduate degree program to its academic offerings—a bachelor of science in neuroscience.

The neuroscience major will provide students rigorous, broad training in brain and cognitive sciences, and create direct research opportunities with faculty. The program is interdisciplinary, with courses primarily in the psychology and biology departments.

“Neuroscience is such a multidisciplinary field and presents so many opportunities for students,” said Michael Webster, co-director of the program and professor of psychology. “It’s one of the most active areas of science right now, and there are so many directions you can go with it.”

Neuroscience is defined as any science dealing with the functions of the nervous system. Webster says that the University already has several psychology and biology faculty members with expertise in the neuroscience realm, so no new faculty or new funds are needed to begin the program. For example, Jeffrey Hutsler, assistant professor of psychology, is researching the cell structure and brain morphology in autism. Webster is researching



Jeff Hutsler, associate professor of psychology, works with neuroscience undergrad Sally Osborne.

visual neuroscience, looking at how people see colors and recognize faces. Psychology department colleagues Michael Crognale and Mark Wessinger also work in neuroscience.

In the biology department, associate professor Grant Mastick, neuroscience program co-director with Webster, is conducting research on how cells connect to each other as the brain is developing. Biology colleagues Scott Clark, Thomas Kidd and Vladimir Pravosudov also specialize in areas of neuroscience.

“Teaming up with psychology to create this major is a natural partnership,” Mastick said. “Here in the biology department, we try to understand the brains and behavior of animals. In psychology, they seek to understand the brains and behavior of humans. So, there’s a lot of crossover, as well as a lot to be learned from each other.”

Faculty members with neuroscience-related expertise in other University units, such as the School of Medicine and College of Engineering, are also available to the program, which

already has attracted 20 student enrollees.

“No other institutions in the state were offering an undergraduate program in neuroscience, so there was a real gap there,” commented Webster. “Across the country, graduate programs in neuroscience are more common. Undergraduate programs are less common, but more highly ranked schools, both research institutions and liberal arts colleges, are establishing them.”

The University joins colleges such as UCLA, Dartmouth, Harvard and Duke in adding an undergraduate neuroscience major. Approximately 30,000 trained neuroscientists work in the United States. The demand for neuroscientists is expected to increase as the country’s elderly population continues to grow.

“Ultimately, by better understanding the brain through the study of neuroscience, we hope to learn how to treat common neurological diseases,” Mastick said.

—Claudene Wharton ’86, ’99M.A.

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges 40th Anniversary in Reno Commemorative Dinner Event

Honoring Nevada State Senator Bill Raggio
and

University of Nevada, Reno President Milton Glick

Event co-chairs:

Joe Crowley, former University president, and Nancy Fennell, Dickson Realty

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 • Reception — 6 p.m. • Dinner — 7 p.m.

Silver Legacy Resort, Exposition Hall

\$80 per person or table of 10 for \$750
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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES

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Faces on the Quad

ERIN EDGINGTON '08

A summa cum laude Honors Program graduate this past May, Edgington recently became the first University student to earn recognition as a Portz Scholar. The National Collegiate Honors Council selected Edgington's 60-page thesis, "Costume and Propriety in Madame Bovary: la 'Culture de Lin,'" as one of the top three research papers in its evaluation of 36 theses nationwide. She presented her research at the council's national conference in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22-26. Edgington graduated from Nevada with bachelor's degrees in French and sociology while completing the Honors Program. She is pursuing a master's degree at Indiana University-Bloomington.



TREVOR HARTZELL '08

The campaign manager for Associated Students of the University of Nevada President Eli Reilly during the 2008



campaign, Hartzell served as a senator for the College of Liberal Arts. A Spanish major and a French minor, the 20-year-old was ASUN's chief of staff, a position on

the undergraduate student government's executive board. A rock climbing and biking enthusiast, Hartzell graduated in December, completing his coursework in two and half years. He is applying to Boyd Law School in Las Vegas as well as the Seattle University and University of San Francisco law schools. Hartzell is looking for a career defending civil cases and in immigration law.

—Pat McDonnell

MBA program receives another national nod

The Princeton Review has recognized the University's College of Business as outstanding in its 2009 guidebook of Best 296 Business Schools. The recognition stems from the quality of the college's MBA program.

According to Robert Franek of *The Princeton Review*, "We select schools for this book based on our high regard for their academic programs and offerings, institutional data we collect from the schools, and the candid opinions of students attending them who rate and report on their campus experiences at the schools."

"The greatest strength of the school is its practical, hands-on curriculum," said

one student who participated in surveys conducted by the Review.

The guidebook specifically recognizes the MBA program's professors, stating: "The University of Nevada, Reno's ranking as one of the top 150 research institutions in the U.S. attracts business professors who are 'very accessible and helpful,' as well as 'skilled in blending real-world experience with academic theory,' with an ability 'to promote critical thinking and teamwork.'"

In the book's two-page profile of the college, it also states that in 2005, three months after graduation, 99 percent of the college's MBA holders were employed, with an average starting salary of \$50,000.

Earlier this year, *BusinessWeek* ranked the part-time MBA program No. 17 in the United States.

—Claudene Wharton '86, '99M.A.

University awarded several major grants

The University of Nevada, Reno received several major grants recently to pursue a diverse range of research projects:

The National Science Foundation awarded a \$15-million, five-year grant to the University; Desert Research Institute; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Nevada State College to study climate change in Nevada. Nevada's National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research led the grant effort, and the Nevada System of Higher Education is providing an additional \$6.6 million for the project. An interdisciplinary "dream team" of researchers will build infrastructure to measure, analyze and model the effects of climate change in Nevada.

The University's Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies has received a five-year, \$8.7-million grant to expand its integrated Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies. The center will use the funds, awarded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, to enhance its efforts to prevent and reduce substance abuse and associated public health issues for several groups,

including 18- to 24-year-olds.

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded more than \$5 million to the University's College of Engineering. More than \$2.5 million will enable research in spent nuclear fuel reprocessing and hydrogen production at the University's Center for Materials Reliability. Almost \$2 million will begin site work for the construction of a 23,000-square-foot addition to the James E. Rogers and Louis Weiner Jr. Large-Scale Structures Laboratory at the Center for Civil Engineering Earthquake Research. The project expands the center's capability for simulating earthquakes. The remaining \$738,000 enhances the University's ability to commercialize innovative energy technologies to further energy security and stimulate economic growth.

The campus' Student Conduct Office and Police Services department have teamed up with local law enforcement agencies and Join Together Northern Nevada to secure a three-year, \$854,000 grant aimed at reducing underage drinking at the University and the surrounding community. Program goals include changing social norms that encourage underage student drinking, reducing the availability of alcohol to underage students through enforcement and enhancing existing policies and practices that address underage student drinking.

—Claudene Wharton '86, '99M.A.



Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglas

Trio of Obama visits to campus in '08

From gymnasiums to elm-lined quadrangles and baseball fields, President-elect Barack Obama packed people in at the University of Nevada, Reno in 2008.

The Democratic presidential candidate and U.S. senator made three visits to the University prior to the Nov. 4 general election. He and

Barack Obama speaks to a packed crowd on the Quad, Sept. 30 in one of his three campus appearances in 2008.

his wife, Michelle, spoke at the campus' Virginia Street Gym on Jan. 18. On Sept. 30, his campaign rally on the Quad attracted 12,000 people. A final event Oct. 25 at Peccole Park, home of the Nevada baseball team, drew about 11,000 people to hear Obama speak.

"Events like this contribute to a more informed electorate and certainly contribute to an engaging and educational atmosphere

for our students," University President Milton Glick said.

National political pundits shined attention all year on Nevada, with its five electoral votes, as a "battleground state" during one of the most memorable presidential campaign events in U.S. history.

—Pat McDonnell

Thompson named College of Science dean

Since the creation of the University of Nevada, Reno's College of Science in 2004, Jeff Thompson has served as associate or interim dean. Thompson will continue to lead the college's development, although now in the role of dean.

"Jeff has a strong resume of teaching and research productivity," said University Provost Marc Johnson, who named Thompson to the role in late October. "In conversations with members of the faculty of the College of Science, it was apparent to me that Jeff is a well-respected leader who has shown he has the vision, the enthusiasm and the talent to foster the future of one of our largest colleges."

Nearly all of the University's undergraduate students are at one point enrolled in a course offered through the College of Science. The college includes



Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglas

the departments of biology, chemistry, mathematics and statistics, and physics, as well as the geography, geological sciences and engineering and mining engineering departments in the Mackay School of Earth Science and Engineering.

"Under Jeff's leadership the College of

Science has advocated strongly for student success and has made some notable inroads in the areas of recruitment and retention," said University President Milton Glick. "He recognizes the critical role of research to the future of the University and the state and the importance of competitive funding to maintain and enhance the University's research profile."

Thompson has played an integral role in planning, design and construction oversight for the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, now under construction on the site of the former Fleischmann Greenhouses at the southeastern edge of campus. The building is slated to open in fall 2010.

Thompson joined the Nevada faculty in 1991 and served as chair of the Department of Physics from 2001 to 2004. His research is in the area of atomic and molecular physics, and he continues to be active in the field.

—Jane Tors '82



Photo by Brant Allen, UC Davis

Diver Scott Hackley (UC Davis) collaborates with University of Nevada researchers to study the recent invasive clam species found at Lake Tahoe's Marla Bay in July 2008.

Lake Tahoe gets help fighting invasive species

When people see Lake Tahoe's sparkling waters, they may not think that some of the diverse species that live in and around the Western landmark are akin to alien invaders.

These species, called invasives, to not occur naturally in the lake and threaten its ecosystem, including water clarity, infrastructure and habitat for native species.

Faculty and students from the University's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources are at the forefront of research efforts to help solve the problem.

Sudeep Chandra, an assistant professor in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, and graduate students who work under his supervision are trying to prevent damage to the lake by

invasive species like quagga mussels, bluegill and Asian clams. Chandra and his colleagues in the college collaborated with local organizations such as the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to institute new regulations for the boat-washing stations around the lake. Effective Nov. 1, 2008, these regulations required an invasive species inspector to be present at all boat-washing stations, and mandate that boat owners decontaminate their craft if an invasive is found.

The new regulations will prevent watercraft from depositing species that they pick up from other bodies of water being carried into Lake Tahoe. Such species have appeared at Lake Mead in southern Nevada and San Justo Reservoir in northern California. These aquatic ecosystems are significantly threatened by rapidly multiplying invasives, as scientists continue to find such species in other bodies of water and fight the odds to eradicate them.

—Alix Cirac '08

University researchers turn biomass into fuel

Chemical engineering associate professors Charles Coronella and Victor Vasquez are researching whether leafy or woody biomass can be economically and efficiently converted into a fuel product such as synthesized gas. Their work on the pretreatment portion of the conversion process is part of a \$4.7 million study by the Gas Technology Institute.

Coronella said the researchers have experimented with wood and agricultural residue such as corn stalks and leaves, rice straw and switchgrass to make a product that is molecularly uniform and dense enough to optimize the gasification process of converting biomass to fuel.

"Biomass produces a dirty gas if it's not

pretreated," he said. "The molecular composition of biomass is not ideal for gasification." Their hydrothermal and dry heating processes produce a carbon-neutral, black, crumbly char, similar to coal but with none of the problems of bad chemical compounds. The product is shaped and sized to behave more like coal, for use in existing processing equipment.

As part of the project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the University's research partner, the Desert Research Institute, is assessing the type and amount of biomass within Nevada and characterizing pretreatment byproducts. A small processing plant and a techno-economic analysis are also a part of the study.

"This work will directly address the



Photo by Mike Wolterbeek

Professor Charles Coronella with equipment that subjects biomass to 3,000 psi of pressure as part of the conversion process.

nation's high priority of increasing the supply of domestic and renewable energy by integrating advanced technology that improves the conversion of biomass into fuels and power," said U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, who secured funding for the project in an Energy and Water Appropriation bill.

—Mike Wolterbeek '02

Journalism school establishes Nevada high school press association

The Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism has organized the first statewide association to promote excellence in journalism in Nevada's secondary schools. The Reynolds High School Journalism Association kicked off Oct. 4 with a half-day meeting of high school newspaper advisers and media professionals.

"The association promotes networking and professional development among teachers and leverages resources to promote high journalistic standards among students," said Jerry Ceppos, dean of the Reynolds School and Fred W. Smith Chair in Journalism. "This is a pivotal time to support Nevada education and a perfect role for a land-grant university."

The organization will support curriculum development, equipment acquisition, and statewide communication.

"The journalism school faculty is 100 percent committed to our new organization because there is a positive link between high school journalism and academic

achievement," Ceppos said. "A Newspaper Association of America study this year showed that students who work on high school newspapers and yearbooks get better grades in high school, earn higher ACT scores and get better grades as college freshmen."

The potential to engage high school students in journalism interested Jackie Leonard of Reno, who donated \$10,000 to the organization less than one month after it was established.

"The program exposes young people to the University and the journalism school by supporting teachers and increasing student access to technology," Leonard said. "It is an excellent way to reach out to rural communities. I think that's important."

Leonard is carrying on a family tradition. In 2007, Gwen Leonard—Jackie's mother—established the Paul A. Leonard Chair in Ethics and Writing in Journalism and the

Paul A. and Gwen F. Leonard Memorial Scholarship.

The Reynolds School already is one of five sites for the Reynolds High School Journalism Institute, a two-week program that helps advisers hone teaching skills, recognize and incorporate media trends into teaching plans and newspaper production and encourage students to consider journalism as a career. In 2007, the journalism school received a \$430,000, three-year grant from the American Society of Newspaper Editors to design and offer the institute.

—Zanny Marsh

Contact Kristin Burgarello '97, director of development for the Reynolds School of Journalism, at (775) 784-4471 or kburgarello@unr.edu to donate to the Reynolds High School Journalism Association.



Photo by Zanny Marsh

Prior to the launch of the Reynolds High School Association, Dean Jerry Ceppos observed that too many Nevada high school journalism advisers were on their own. Participants in the first statewide association meeting gathered Oct. 4, at the journalism school.

Changes afoot for Getchell Building

The University of Nevada, Reno's plan to reopen a renovated Getchell Library building in 2011 for much-needed student support services and fine arts space is contingent on Nevada State Legislature funding of \$10.5 million to implement code upgrades to the 46-year-old building.

The University submitted a capital-improvement project request to the State Public Works Board that includes a new sprinkler and fire alarm system,

improvements to the building's exits and upgrades for disabled patrons, including enhancements to restrooms. The renovated four-story building would not be used in its traditional role of library services (the University closed the facility in conjunction with the Aug. 11 opening of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center), but might accommodate such offices as Student Success Services, Counseling Services, a proposed Women's Center, as well as music practice rooms and studio space for the art, dance and theatre departments, said Provost's Office official Paul Neill.

Discussions on the building's future use will be ongoing, Neill said. Some consolidation of student support facilities on campus is a University priority, along with providing needed space for School of the Arts departments that have outgrown their current facilities in the Church Fine Arts Building and the Virginia Street Gym.

"Getchell is close to the historic University Quad, close to the residence halls, and it's on a major arterial pathway through the campus. It's an ideal location for a student support center," Neill added.

—Pat McDonnell



A Nevada fish story

Scientists probe reservoirs for answers to fish safety

Dark clouds form on the horizon, signaling the onset of another storm, as Melissa Markee drills a hole through ice to measure the pH of the frigid water beneath the surface. The air is cold and dry at the Wild Horse Reservoir and she can barely feel her hands and feet.

Alice Good '78 is an emerita communications specialist with Cooperative Extension.

Natural Resources. "Most of our reservoirs are desolate, off dirt roads, far from the cities. The

company I keep are bald eagles, antelope, deer, ducks and pelicans."

Markee is in her second year of water sampling at five northern Nevada reservoirs (the others are Chimney Dam, Rye Patch, Ruby Marshes and South Fork) to test water quality parameters that may be a factor in the accumulation of toxic methyl mercury in reservoir fish.

Markee works with a team of University faculty—Mae Gustin, natural resources and environmental science associate professor, Susan Donaldson, Cooperative Extension water quality specialist, and Kerry Seymour, Cooperative Extension nutrition specialist—and scientists with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the researchers are generating data on the factors responsible for high mercury concentrations in reservoir fish, and developing a public education program for consumers and reservoir managers.

Where does the mercury in fish come from?

In 2006, 80 percent of the national fish



Photos by Joel Donaldson

TOP: Graduate student Melissa Markee, 26, measures the pH of the water at Wild Horse Reservoir during the winter. INSET: Markee collects water samples during the summer from Wild Horse Reservoir using a Van Doren sampler.

consumption advisories were for mercury, with 48 states issuing more than 3,000 warnings. NDOW indicates that mercury in fish from some of Nevada's reservoirs and lakes exceeds the Environmental Protection Agency standard of 0.3 parts per million. A number of Nevada waterways were impacted by gold and silver mining in the late 1880s, which left residues of mercury used in extracting the precious metals.

In the reservoirs, some water quality



Photo by Alice Good



Photo by Melissa Markee

Photo by Alice Good

TOP: The Ruby Marshes have a desolate beauty all their own during the winter. LEFT: Markee turns the air flow on to bubble reservoir water samples onto traps to test for methyl mercury. RIGHT: Cooperative Extension faculty Sue Donaldson (left) and Kerry Seymour discuss the results of a survey of licensed fishermen to determine their fish-consumption habits.

parameters have been identified that may influence the production of methyl mercury, the neurotoxin taken up by living organisms that is dominant in fish tissue. Recent studies have suggested that the level of draw down and the timing of filling and release of water can impact this type of mercury production. And there is national debate as to whether mercury in the air might be the predominant source of mercury in fish.

"Currently we do not understand the primary drivers for production of methyl mercury in our reservoirs," Gustin says. "There has been some work done for lakes but little for reservoirs."

Donaldson adds, "We hope that data developed in this project will lead to understanding of how reservoir management affects methyl mercury production in reservoirs and concentrations in fish. We also hope to better manage human risk for mercury ingestion by studying fish consumption patterns and helping consumers make appropriate dietary choices."

How much fish should we eat?

The American Heart Association recommends eating fish twice a week, especially those rich in Omega-3 fatty acids, as part of a diet that promotes cardiovascular health. On the other hand, the media has trumpeted the mercury-based fish advisories,

raising confusion and fear among the public. Mercury toxicity can affect the brain, nervous system, kidneys and the immune system. Babies and young children are at highest risk for mercury exposure.

To learn more about Nevadans' fish-eating habits so that recommendations can be made about the role of fish as part of a healthy diet, Nevada researchers drafted two fish-consumption surveys. The first, distributed by NDOW to licensed fishermen, yielded nearly 1,900 responses.

"We were wondering if the fish-consuming habits of anglers might be different than others and possibly put them at risk for eating fish more often than recommended," says Seymour. "However, we found that fewer than 6 percent eat fish twice a week. At the same time, the fish portions of more than half the fishermen surveyed are double the recommended deck-of-cards serving, indicating that about 12 percent are eating the recommended weekly amount of fish."

Seymour and Truckee Meadows Community College dietetic interns Deanna Bradburn, Teresa Liebman and Anna Shepherd, prepared a similar survey of seafood consumption among the general public, randomly selected across northern Nevada. The results will be compared with national data and the data from the fishermen survey, and recommendations made about fish

selection and consumption guidelines in fact sheets and at workshops for water managers and the public.

The role of a graduate student

"Melissa's doing a wonderful job," says Donaldson. "She's taken a very challenging project with a lot of facets, and is making the extra effort needed to understand the processes at work in determining mercury accumulation in fish."

Markee, who graduates in May, is a native Nevadan who has had only one B in a nearly 4-point GPA during graduate school.

"The things that appeal to me on this project are the outreach and teaching aspects. I can spend all these hours in the lab, but I know I can share this knowledge and make an impact in the community," Markee says.

"I've kind of grown up at the University," Markee adds. "I like the small classes, and I feel like the faculty know me and know what I do. It's comfortable but challenging at the same time."

Gustin says, "Melissa is a careful scientist, and this project not only benefits the people of Nevada, but it advances our understanding of mercury in the environment." ■

For more information on the Mercury in Fish project, contact Mae Gustin, (775) 784-4203, or mgustin@cabnr.unr.edu.

Youth take the first steps toward science careers

Christian Senda, 12, is eager to show people how they can conserve water in their potted plants through the use of superabsorbent polymers called hydrogels.

"I think the hydrogels would help my mom keep her plants alive," says the Carson City Mark Twain Elementary School student. "My friends and I are also excited to learn if the hydrogels could be used in disasters such as gasoline spills or maybe oil slicks."

Hydrogel polymers are long molecule chains that grab onto water molecules.

Senda, together with Mark Twain students Jose Sepulveda and Cindy Cardenas, celebrated the first 4-H National Youth Science Day, Oct. 8, by demonstrating water conservation experiments at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension office in Carson City.

Alice Good '78 is an emerita communications specialist with Cooperative Extension.

The youth joined with more than 300 other students who conducted experiments in clubs and after-school programs throughout Nevada, as well as thousands of other sites around the country. This national science initiative hopes to inspire the six million 4-H members to explore scientific careers, and in turn, make a difference in their communities.

"The new campaign champions the national goal of attracting one million new youth to the 4-H science, engineering and technology programs in the next five years to help our country remain globally competitive," says Karen Hinton, Cooperative Extension dean and director.

How hydrogels can help conserve water

Members of the Pyramid Lake and Silver



Pyramid Lake 4-H Club members Cristal Rosales-Vega and Tyler James measure a drink mix in an experiment showing hydrogel's ability to retain water in soil in a demonstration on campus.

Paws 4-H Clubs showed that hydrogel polymers can absorb water and be used in environmental applications at the University's Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center on Science Day.

Sabrina Nelson, 13, and Tenaya James, 12, collected a sample of hydrogel from the cotton and plastic lining of a clean, disposable diaper. The two then placed the stuffing material and plastic lining into a zipper-lock bag. After shaking the bag, they removed the powdery hydrogel polymer from the stuffing. When they mixed the powder with water, it became a gooey solid, showing it was able to absorb water from the diaper.

"It's fun to see how we can help the environment by saving water," says Nelson, an 8th-grader at Traner Middle School in Reno. "We need to start realizing that if we don't start, no one will."

Sarah Chvilicek, coordinator of 4-H youth development programs, says she is hopeful that more young women such as Nelson will consider careers in science, as they are underrepresented now.

In the second experiment, Tyler James, 17,

and Cristal Rosales-Vega, 10, poured potting soil into two clear plastic bottles. In one bottle, the pair mixed 1 tablespoon of hydrogel into the potting soil. Then they mixed a packet of unsweetened powdered drink mix into a cup of water, and poured a quarter-cup of solution into the two soil soakers. The bottle with hydrogel absorbed the liquid into the soil while it seeped through the soil in the other bottle.

"This experiment shows there's a potential for conserving water for indoor and outdoor plant use," says Mark Walker, who mentored the students. "The hydrogels change the infiltration rate in the soil, slowing down evaporation so we don't lose it."

Walker says the experiments open the door to a wide range of important questions, which is what science is all about. This kind of demonstration could be a starting point for these and other students, who might later conduct research that could change the way we use water.

Walker is environmental sciences graduate program director, state extension water quality specialist, and natural resources and environmental science associate professor.

How science programs expand 4-H offerings

4-H clubs in Las Vegas took advantage of the national science day to encourage youth and their parents to form more local clubs based on science, especially in urban areas.


"Kids in the city don't always have room to raise swine or horses, but there are a lot of other sciences they can experiment with," says Walter Barker, 4-H youth development specialist.

Barker says there are 12,000 youth participating in 4-H in southern Nevada. Science clubs experiment with Global Information Systems (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) units, alternative energy, robotics and rocketry.

"These programs reach youth who otherwise don't have the chance to build robots or launch rockets and give them a

relaxed environment away from school," says Sandy Sanders, a community-based instructor. "It's a fun environment with their friends and it gives youth more time to expand their interests."

Silverado High School student Alyssa Barker, 16, says the 4-H space program gave her the chance to experience a flight simulator and meet an astronaut.

"In school, there's a lot more paperwork," she says. "In rocketry, we spoke to an astronaut and asked him questions. In class, we would have just read what he says." 



Pyramid Lake 4-H Club member Tenaya James, a 7th-grader at Mendive Middle School in Sparks, shows the solid form the hydrogel powder turned into after absorbing water from a diaper.

For more information on 4-H programs in Nevada, contact Steve Schafer, (775) 784-6207, or schafers@unce.unr.edu, or your local Cooperative Extension office.

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Joe Bradley

Joe Bradley '78 (economics)

Throughout my life, I have learned the importance of an education—not only to acquire knowledge, but also because it is during your education that you develop lifelong relationships with people who serve as mentors and become friends. It is also important to help those who are less fortunate and continually strive to improve conditions within your community. This is something I do every day in my job as a senior partner at the law offices of Bradley, Drendel & Jeanney and in my philanthropic work as a trustee of the E.L. Cord Foundation, University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, and the Athletic Association of the University of Nevada.

I'm a native Nevadan born in Reno in 1955. I came through the Washoe County public schools, graduating from Reno High School. While I was at Reno High, I started my work career. I fueled airplanes and drove concrete trucks, and it was through those experiences that I truly learned the value of an education. My father, William O. "Bud" Bradley, had also been a lifelong resident of Nevada. He led a very interesting life in northern Nevada, first as a water rights and ranching lawyer, and then branching into injury litigation—which we carry on to this day and have done so in our very location at 401 Flint Street for 55 years.

While I was an undergraduate at Nevada, I met many people whom I still consider friends and who continue to be influential in my life: Mike Reed, former professor and dean of the College of Business, current vice chancellor of finance with the Nevada

System of Higher Education, was my faculty adviser; Nazir Ansari, emeritus professor of management, was my teacher; Ret. Air Force Major General Ron Bath '68 (business and agriculture), '71MBA, was a professor of mine and was instrumental in guiding me toward law school. As I look back on my life, I recognize how important it was for me to attend Nevada, particularly because at the time I didn't realize that I was going to continue practicing law in Reno for the next 25 years. I had a very rich and fulfilling experience at Nevada.

I attended the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. It was there that I met many more interesting and influential people, including the late Dean Schaber, who was the former dean of McGeorge School of Law and former presiding judge of the Sacramento Superior Court.

Law school solidified my desire to continue on in the practice of law doing what my father and his partner, John Squire Drendel, had been doing: representing the rights of injured victims.

My father was an original trustee of the E.L. Cord Foundation, a Reno-based philanthropic organization. The Foundation was established for the purpose of improving the health, education and welfare of the residents of the Truckee Meadows and rural counties of northern Nevada. The work I do in this field is extremely rewarding because I have the opportunity to make changes in the quality of people's lives.

When the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center was nothing but a scribble on a piece of paper, President John Lilley approached the Foundation—I'm proud to say—as the first potential, major, private donor. The E.L. Cord Foundation became one of the first private commitments to the Knowledge Center. I like to think our pledge was the springboard for other donors to become involved, and that this magnificent facility exists today, is at least in some part due to our initial involvement.

If people haven't seen the Knowledge Center, the Joe Crowley Student Union or the E.L. Cord Academic and Athletic Complex, they really should take the time to come up and look because I doubt that there's a trio of buildings anywhere on the West Coast that would outshine these three facilities.

From a conversation with Senior Editor Melanie Robbins '06M.A. in October 2008. Bradley, 54, is the incoming chair of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Board of Trustees. He is a senior partner with the Reno law offices of Bradley, Drendel & Jeanney, where he has worked for the past 25 years. In 2005, he won a \$4 million jury verdict on behalf of a young, mentally disabled man seriously burned by a defective fryer machine. He graduated in 1978 with a degree in economics. He earned a juris doctorate in 1983 from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. His wife, Liza, graduated from Nevada in 1996 with a degree in accounting. The couple has two children, Gina and Sam.

LOOK ONLINE

For the full interview, visit: www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

Trustee **Attorney**
Philanthropist
Trial Lawyer
Wolf Pack Fan Visionary



Lemelson and LEAP Foundation inspire teachers

The Lemelson Education and Assistance Program (LEAP) received two substantial gifts from its founder and director, Dorothy Lemelson, to continue its work in support of Washoe County School District teachers. Twelve K-6 teachers will have their tuition paid while pursuing a master's degree in elementary education with an emphasis in math and science in the University's College of Education.

"This gift responds to a critical need for high quality instruction in mathematics and science in elementary schools. The foundation that elementary students receive in math and science influences their ability to take higher level courses in the future and pursue careers in these fields," says Teruni Lamberg, an assistant professor of curriculum, teaching and learning, as well as the principal investigator for the program. "It provides significant financial incentives to Washoe County teachers and allows the University to strengthen and deepen the links between our graduate programs and our community's classrooms."

Eligible candidates for scholarships were



"As an educator myself, I believe in preparing my students to become life-long learners," says Erin Vaughn, Lemelson scholar and kindergarten teacher at Sierra Vista Elementary in Reno. "I believe it's my responsibility to continue educating myself to not only set an example for my students, but more importantly, so that I can grow and provide the best teaching to my students."

required to complete a formal application during the summer of 2008. Chosen applicants will begin the program during the Spring 2009 semester. Since its inception in 2000, LEAP has provided close to \$1 million to cohorts of teachers to complete their master's degrees in literacy studies.

—Elizabeth Welsh '99

For more information about establishing scholarships for teachers and/or the College of Education, contact Mitch Klaich '02, development director, at (775) 784-6914 or mklaich@unr.edu.

Pennington Foundation continues outstanding undergrad student support

The William N. Pennington Foundation continues to generously support undergraduate students in business, engineering and physical sciences at Nevada. The Pennington Foundation scholarships are designed to support worthy students who meet the criteria, but did not receive the University's Presidential Scholarship. Thus, recipients of the Pennington scholarship have a minimum GPA of 3.5 and demonstrate financial need.

"Last summer I interned at Intuit as a software engineer," says computer science

and engineering sophomore Douglas Crossley. "They actually extended me an offer to stay and work part-time, but with my class schedule this semester I knew that I would not be able to be successful in school and work a job. Being awarded this great scholarship was such a relief, just knowing that I would now be able to completely focus on my classes without the worry of finances. I've been offered a higher-level internship again this summer with Intuit and look forward to using all I have been learning this past year to succeed at my job."

The Foundation generously provides funding for 16 scholarships at \$2,500 per year and the scholarships are renewable for up to three additional years for a maximum commitment of \$10,000 for each student. Since 1995, the Pennington Foundation has also supported students in the School of Medicine with another scholarship, bringing the Foundation's total giving, to University student scholarships, to more than \$500,000.

—Elizabeth Welsh '99

For more information about establishing a scholarship at the University of Nevada, Reno, contact Keiko Weil '87, director of donor relations at (775) 784-1587 or kweil@unr.edu.

Leonard family tradition of giving to Nevada

The Rev. Jackie L. Leonard '71 (speech and theatre) recently established two endowed scholarships that benefit Nevada upperclassmen and graduate students pursuing degrees in theatre and music. The first, named for two outstanding Nevada faculty members in the Department of Speech Communications and Theatre, the Jim Bernardi and Bob Dillard Theatre Scholarship, recognizes the tremendous contributions of these long-serving professors to the life of the University and community. The second, the Leonard Family Music Scholarship, pays homage to the University's faculty and student musicians and their musical performances through the years.

Jackie is a minister at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Reno and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Theological Seminary. In 2007, she established the Paul A. Leonard Chair for Ethics and Writing in Journalism in honor of her father,



Professor Bob Dillard, Professor Jim Bernardi and Reverend Jackie Leonard visit in the costume shop in the Church Fine Arts Theatre building.

a Nevada Class of 1936 journalism graduate. Her philanthropy continues her family's long tradition of giving back to the University. In 1977, her parents established an endowment named for her brother and their late son, Guy L. Leonard '77 (philosophy), benefiting the departments of philosophy, English, and physics. After her father's death, her mother, Gwen, established an endowed scholarship in the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism in Paul Leonard's name. Following Gwen's death, the scholarship was renamed the Paul A. and Gwen F. Leonard Memorial Scholarship.

"It is a joy and a privilege to give back to

the University and community, which have been so important in my life and the lives of my parents and brother," said Leonard. "I am delighted to talk with anyone considering a gift to the University. It is critically important that we give back to the institution that has given so much to us."

—Keiko Weil '87

For more information about establishing an endowment at the University of Nevada, Reno, contact Bruce Mack, associate vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, at (775) 784-1352 or bmack@unr.edu.

Alumnus engineers student success

L. David Kiley '50 (electrical engineering) is a valued alumnus of the College of Engineering and current member of the college's advisory board. He recently created two University endowments—one to benefit student scholarships for seniors in the College of Engineering and one to support the college's programmatic needs.

David's Nevada roots run deep. The son of Marian Louise McClravy-Kiley and James Stead, he grew up on the family ranch in Spanish Springs. He attended Sparks Junior High School and later went to New York where he graduated from the New York Military Academy in 1944. He served in the 99th Infantry Division in Europe during World War II and then returned to Nevada in 1946 to pursue his education at the University of Nevada, Reno.

After WWII, the family ranch operated



mainly as a cattle ranch and was commonly known as the "Stead Ranch." In 1980, L. David and his son David A., inherited the ranch. Currently, David A. has a ranch in Wyoming. Today, together with his son Matt '90 (mechanical engineering), '92M.S. (mechanical engineering) and daughter, Megan '96 (social work), L. David Kiley creates a legacy with the Kiley Ranch Master Planned Community in Sparks. Another son, Michael '81 (managerial sciences), is a pilot for Delta Airlines.

"The College of Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno has advanced since my

days," David says. "It uses newer technology and developments to be competitive. I set up the scholarship for several reasons. As a former electrical engineering student, I know that the curriculum is very challenging and that any aid is appreciated. As former professor Dr. Sandorf would say: 'It's a tough go.'"

"The scholarships support students because they need all the support they can get," David adds. "College is a learning process and scholarships support that learning process. The ability to think and be successful is what college does for you."

The College of Engineering's reputation for excellence is confirmed by the strong support it enjoys from alumni, friends and business partners like L. David Kiley.

—Ken Kempcke

For more information on supporting the College of Engineering, please contact Melanie Perish, director of development, at (775) 784-6433 or mperish@unr.edu.



27th Annual Foundation Banquet

The 2008 Foundation Banquet was held Sept. 25 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. The featured speaker was journalist Forrest Sawyer.

The banquet was presented by the Whittemore Family Foundation. The Foundation Banquet, one of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation's central fund-raising events, draws capacity audiences. This year, more than 750 people attended.

- (1) Paul Bible '62 and Regent Stavros Anthony
- (2) Beryl Love chats with Jill Winter '78 (political science), '88M.A. (political science)
- (3) Tom Hall '65 (finance) Annette Whittemore '74 (elementary education/special education), Forrest Sawyer and Harvey Whittemore '74 (prelegal)
- (4) George and Dorothy Gillemot pose with Kathleen Kamille
- (5) Scott and Kristin Whittemore, Todd Okeson '05 (general studies) and Chase Whittemore

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Photos by David Calvert





Vintage Nevada Wine Festival and Auction

This premier wine tasting event raised its glasses to scholarships for the 18th year on Friday, Oct. 24 at the Downtown Reno Event Center. The University of Nevada, Reno and Southern Wine and Spirits organizes the annual fund-raiser to support financially needy students attending the University. This year there were nearly 1,200 attendees and the event raised more than \$30,000.

- (6)** Suzanne Capurro '69 (elementary education), Corinne Capurro '95, (health science) '00M.D., Jennifer Marini '98 (secondary education), Tawnya Renwick and Bob Capurro '64 (business administration)
- (7)** Bruno '53 (physical education) and Edna Benna, Vintage Nevada Auction Committee members
- (8)** Melissa Burns '98, Shauna Scheneman '98 (speech communications), Lianne Ricciardi, Holly Turville and Traci Dean '95 (fitness management)
- (9)** Patt Olmstead, Marybeth Farrell, Chris Johnson and Richelle O'Driscoll '78 (journalism), '00M.A. (speech communications)
- (10)** Jennifer Bascom '93 (social work), Jonathan Bascom '00 (psychology), Libby Bumb and Josh Wilson '98 (health education)
- (11)** Maureen Wander '02 (elementary education/special education), '08M.Ed. (special education), Wendy Monzon, Jeff Bachon, Sidalia Reyes, Carl Wander and Nino Matteom

Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas



Photo by Patrick McFarland

New book chronicles Jewish life in Nevada and the West

A Jewish, Latvian-born tailor patented the design for the world-famous Levi's blue jeans. An industrious Jewish casino pioneer with a dubious past played an important role in the development of Las Vegas. A Jewish immigrant succeeded against all odds in constructing a four-mile-long tunnel to gain access to the riches of the Comstock Lode. These and hundreds of other historical figures helped to shape the American West, with the one common bond of Judaism and their commitment—in one form or another—to their ancestry and their faith.

For over 150 years, Jews have been involved in virtually every part of the state of Nevada: as businessmen; agrarians; scholars; educators; artists; politicians; and civic, professional, and religious leaders. But until now the history of Jews in Nevada has been only rarely touched upon in history books. As John P. Marschall,

the author of *Jews in Nevada* recalls, "I intended to write a critical history of religion and politics in Nevada... I chose the Jews, only to find that virtually nothing had been written on them." This fascinating historical study provides readers with an understanding of Jews and their place in American history, and in particular the important roles they played and contributions they made in communities throughout Nevada and the West.

Marschall is an emeritus professor of history at the University of Nevada, Reno. Hailing from Chicago, he was an ordained Catholic priest from 1961 to 1972. He earned his Ph.D. in religious history and constitutional law in 1965 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He began working in the Department of History in 1969, becoming an associate professor in 1980. During his career at Nevada,

John Marschall poses in the Honor Court's Rose Garden on the southern end of campus.

he served in several administrative capacities, including chair of the Faculty Senate, interim director of Finance and Administration, director of University Services, director of Intercollegiate Athletic Drug Education, Testing & Treatment Program, and associate vice president of Student Life. In addition, he was the associate pastor at Our Lady of Wisdom church and the director of the Newman Center. In 1969, he helped create the Center for Religion and Life, working with students and faculty to address important societal issues of the time. Marschall retired in 2002.

Jews in Nevada, published in 2008 by University of Nevada Press, includes 456 pages and 83 black and white photographs. It is available from your favorite bookseller.

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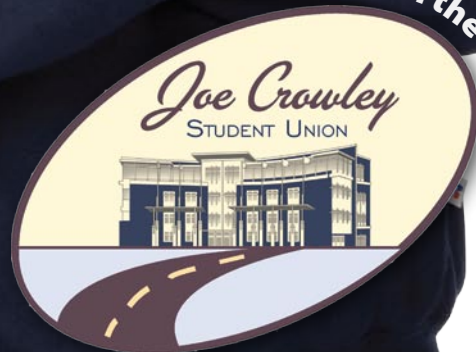
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Photo by Jean Dixon

Nationally ranked debate team has high expectations

After finishing 14th in the nation last year, the University's debate team returned last semester with even higher rankings and confidence to win nationals in the spring semester.

"Our performance this semester was an indication of our continual improvement," said Philip Sharp, director of forensics and debate team coach.

The team finished the semester strong at the University of Pacific on Nov. 7-9, winning the round robin competition and finishing third place overall in the small school division.

"The win is indicative of our strong chances of finishing well at nationals," Sharp said.

The team took home trophies at all four competitions. On Oct. 23-26, the team clinched second place overall in one of the most competitive competitions of the year at a competition held at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash. On Nov. 1-2, the team got third place overall at a tournament

at the University of California, Berkeley. David Pena and Max Alderman were awarded individual tournament champions at three of the competitions this semester. Pena won the award at the UC-Berkeley tournament out of 100 individuals. Alderman won the award at the University of Puget Sound and again at the University of Pacific. On Dec. 6-7, Elia Pirtle and Travis Salley took gold in the junior division, Jack Cholin and Matthew Hogan were semi-finalists in the open competition and the team took third place for the small entry division at Cal State, Long Beach.

"I know that the intelligence and ability of all of our debaters gives us a real shot at winning every event we attend," Sharp said.

The University's debate team consists of 12 students, eight of whom travel. Their practice runs four days a week, four hours each day. Not every student attends all the practices, but the average student practices eight hours a week. According to Sharp, many benefits can

The Debate Team gathers for a photo on the steps of the Knowledge Center, where they practice. Left side (from front to back): Irin Mannan, Travis Salley, Assistant Coach Keith Osborne, David Pena, Matthew Long. Right side: Elia Pirtle, Matthew Hogan, Jack Cholin, Max Alderman, Director/Head Coach Philip Sharp. Not Pictured: Mark Mendoza and Adam Fluke.

come with participating in the debate team.

"It definitely looks good on a resume," Sharp said. "It will help you get into law school and grad school and will improve your skills of public speaking and critical thinking."

With no more competitions until January, the team plans to study, research and practice as they prepare for next semester's competitions and nationals.

"We hope to make a serious run at either of the two national titles while creating a solid squad," Sharp said. The team debates under two organizations, the National Parliamentary Debate Association and the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence. The Nationals are held at UC Berkeley and Pacific University in late March.

HOME MEANS NEVADA

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Photo by Jean Dixon

Nevada Alumni Council

The Nevada Alumni Council, led this year by Mike Dillon '94 (see feature on Mike on page 51), is a 27 member advisory board for the Nevada Alumni Association. With four major areas of focus: Membership and Marketing; Student Involvement; Community Outreach; and Chapter Development, the Council works to enhance and evaluate the quality of current Association activities, as well as develop new initiatives to engage alumni with their alma mater.

During the Annual Homecoming Meeting on Friday, Oct. 17, the Nevada Alumni Council unanimously approved a new slate of officers as well as seven new board members (see photos below).

Nominations for the 2009/2010 Alumni Council are open until Aug. 1. If you are interested in receiving more information about becoming a board member, please email the Office of Alumni Relations at nvalumni@unr.edu.



Mike Dillon '94
President



Cindy Buchanan '95
Past President



Lauren Sankovich '98
President-elect/Treasurer



Samantha Hudson '94
Vice President for Chapter Development



Kelly Bland '91
Vice President for Community Outreach



Julie Rowe '94
Vice President for Marketing and Membership



Jim Conkey '83
Vice President for Student Outreach



James Eason '95
Board Member



Jill Johnson Fielden '91
Board Member



Caesar Ibarra '00
Board Member



Laura Jenkins '99
Board Member



Pamela Jewett '04
Board Member



Rita Laden '96
Board Member



Ro Lazzarone '03
Board Member

Nevada Alumni Council Executive Committee

Mike Dillon '94
President

Cindy Buchanan '95
Past President

Lauren Sankovich '98
President-elect/Treasurer

Samantha Hudson '94
Vice President for Chapter Development

Kelly Bland '91
Vice President for Community Outreach

Julie Rowe '94
Vice President for Marketing and Membership

Jim Conkey '83
Vice President for Student Outreach

Board Members

Roberta Bibee '83

Chad Blanchard '93

Randy Brown CPA '89

Todd Cabral '91

Roger Diedrichsen '71

Larry Digesti '72

Seema Donahoe '02

Stephanie Clemo Hanna '96

James Eason '95

Jill Johnson Fielden '91

Caesar Ibarra '00

Laura Jenkins '99

Pamela Jewett '04

Rita Laden '96

Ro Lazzarone '03

Patrick Martinez '95

Marlene Olsen '74

Eli Reilly (ASUN President)

Michael Pennington '95

Jeff Pickett '89

Jason Sterrett '02

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

Christy Jerz '97
Assistant Director, Alumni Relations

Juliane Di Meo
Alumni Program Manager

Lindsey Harmon '06
Alumni Program Coordinator

Hope Hepner
Administrative Assistant II



Gary Lee '71Ph.D.

CLASS CHAT DEADLINE

Spring issue: Feb. 2

email: chatter@unr.edu

'60s

The Honorable Gregg W. Zive '67 (journalism) has become the President of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges for a one-year term. The association has several purposes including providing continuing legal education to judges and lawyers, securing a greater degree of quality and uniformity in the administration of the bankruptcy system and improving the practice of law in the bankruptcy courts of the United States.

'70s

Linda Begbie '70 (elementary education) and **Cyndy (Wedertz) Hutchinson '73** (elementary education), cofounders of RDL Enterprises, have created one of the largest meeting and conference planning organizations based in northern California. The motto of the business, "We Make it Happen for You" is meant to describe the breadth of the services offered by their staff of 10 to their clients. These clients include local, statewide, national and international organizations.

Gary Lee '71Ph.D. (chemistry) and **Patty (McMullen) Lee '69M.S.** (home economics) hosted a chemistry department reunion for the classes of 1966-1971 at their home in Georgetown, Texas in May 2008. The group surveyed the Texas hill country, enjoyed a ride on the Colorado River, and relished the Austin, Texas nightlife.



Jeff Ceccarelli '76

Lee Ann (Colegrove)
Gallagher '78

Scott T. Barnes '82A.A.

Benjamin J. Rodriguez
'82M.D.

Pablo Arenaz '72 (biological sciences), '76M.S. (biology) has been named provost and vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M International University. Prior to that he was at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Dan Barnett '72 (management) is chair for Vistage International, the world's largest CEO membership organization. As Vistage chair, Dan runs a board of advisors for CEOs, business owners and company presidents in the Reno-Tahoe area. Dan lives in Incline Village with his wife and youngest son.

Jeff Ceccarelli '76 (civil engineering), NV Energy corporate vice president, service delivery and operations and president of Sierra Pacific Power was honored with the College of Engineering's James G. Scrugham Medal on Oct. 17.

Brian Koniak '76 (accounting) has started a payroll CPA firm since leaving the Cincinnati Reds baseball organization as payroll manager. His firm serves organizations in the smaller communities of southwest Ohio with a focus on payroll.

Lee Ann (Colegrove) Gallagher '78 (speech/theatre) attended a Holocaust seminar held in Poland and Israel during the summer of 2008. She and 34 other teachers from around the country visited a kibbutz, Jerusalem, Yad Vashem, death camps and other sites dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust. Lee Ann has taught English, special education, ESL, speech/drama and publications during her 27 years of teaching.

'80s

Susan (Thompson) Paulsen '81 (home economics) has been teaching home economics classes for the last 14 years at Irvington High School in Fremont, Calif. This year Susan received the Staff Member of the Year Award and was awarded the Honorary Service Award by the PTSA. She recently completed a class for home economics teachers at PCI (Professional Culinary Institute) in Campbell, Calif. She is married with two sons, ages 23 and 17, and has lived in the Bay Area since 1987.

Scott T. Barnes '82A.A. (engineering design tech), '91B.S. (civil engineering), '06MBA has joined the Reno office of Colliers International as an associate specializing in the area of land development. Scott is passionate about land development and has been involved with several major master planned communities and projects in the Reno/Sparks area. Scott is happily married to Yann Ling-Barnes. His daughter, Clarissa, is a freshman at the University.

Benjamin J. Rodriguez '82M.D. was honored by the Clark County Medical Society as the 2008 Physician of the Year. Benjamin is also the 2008 president of the Rocky Mountain Association of Plastic Surgeons. Since 1989, he has operated and taught several times each year in foreign locations as an internationally credentialed plastic surgeon for Interplast, Operation Smile, Medical Aid for the Children of Latin America and other organizations.

Claudia Sands '82 (zoology) was recently selected for promotion to colonel in the United States Air Force. She is currently on a six-month deployment in Iraq as a member of the Deployed Combat Casualty Research Team. Her husband, Kevin McCarthy, and two sons live at the family's home in Virginia.

Georgia (Dudding) Scoggins Burke '85Ph.D. (clinical psychology) is now living in Dodge City, Kan. and is licensed in both Kansas and Nevada to practice clinical psychology. She and her husband plan to return to Nevada in the next few years. She continues to practice clinical psychology with a focus on women's issues and doesn't envision total retirement any time soon. She experiences a great deal of satisfaction from this focus in her clinical practice and also enjoys visits with her daughters and their families (especially grandchildren) in Nevada immensely.

'90s

Barbara Bengston '90 (counseling and educational psychology) has worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor since 1999 in the Seattle area and is employed with Rainier Case Management. Barb is currently the president of the Washington Chapter of the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals.

Mark Stovak '90 (biology), '95M.D. (medicine) was selected and participated as a physician for Team USA at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing, China. His team assignments were velodrome cycling, road cycling, volleyball, fencing and shooting.



Mark Stovak '90



Chris Ault, Jr. '91



David Pearson '95



Brian Fralick '97



Alli Nagel '98

Blake Peterson '90 (chemistry) took a position at the University of Kansas as Regents Distinguished Professor of medicinal chemistry. Blake obtained his doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles and spent three years in postdoctoral training at Harvard University. Blake taught at Penn State before accepting his recent position with his research focused on the functions of biologically active small molecules. Blake and his wife, Rebecca, have three children: Karenn, 7; Callia, 4; and Ryan, who was born in July, 2008.

Chris Ault, Jr. '91 (speech communications) has joined Chase International as its newest real estate agent. Chris brings more than 15 years of combined experience in title and escrow management, commercial sales, financial development and leasing to Chase International's Reno office.

Hilary (Munro) McLeod '93 (international affairs) is currently working as a print manager in the marketing department at Patagonia in Ventura, Calif.

Cindy Buchanan '95 (finance) was awarded the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award by the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 1.

David Pearson '95 (speech communications) has been named senior vice president of sales for PlaneTechs, the leading provider of aviation workforce solutions. In this executive-level role, David will oversee and lead the company's growth through the development of new aviation staffing business as well as through relationship management with existing clients.

Brian Fralick '97 (accounting) has been promoted to senior tax manager in the Reno office of Grant Thornton, LLP. Brian was previously a tax manager with Grant Thornton, LLP and is currently the tax construction industry expert for the Reno office. In addition to the construction industry, he serves clients in real estate, gaming, hospitality, retail, technology and manufacturing.

Diane Parkinson '97 (accounting) was elected president of the Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants' Reno Chapter for 2008-2009. She is currently the senior manager of audit for the Reno office of Grant Thornton, LLP.

Alli Nagel '98 (international affairs/Spanish) has been hired as a staff accountant at The Certified Public Accounting Firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. In her new position, Alli

will assist with the completion of tax, audit and accounting work.

'00s

Sheri Russell '00 (accounting) has been elected to the statewide board of the Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants. Sheri currently works at The Certified Public Accounting firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co.

Christopher J. Moore '02 (international affairs/Spanish) recently earned a master's of international studies in peace and conflict resolution from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, where he was a rotary world peace fellow. Chris has traveled to South Africa, Ghana, Cote D'Ivoire and Liberia as part of his studies.

Ricky Delacruz '03 (biology) recently graduated cum laude from Life Chiropractic College West with a doctorate degree in chiropractic. Ricky is board certified and plans to go into private practice in Reno. He is currently an associate doctor for Herrera Chiropractic in Reno.

Samantha Fredrickson '03 (journalism) recently earned her juris doctorate cum laude from New York Law School in May 2008.

ROTC grads show Pack spirit at Mizzou

ROTC grads Major Jessica (Rowell) Gregis '95 (criminal justice) Signal Corp; Major Chad Uhl '95 (political science) Aviation, Blackhawk pilot; and Major Brian Herzik, '96 (geography) Field Artillery, rooted for the Pack at the Mizzou-Nevada game Sept. 13 in Columbia, Mo. The trio are currently classmates attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Jessica is married to Major Mark Gregis and has a stepson, Zachary. Chad met his wife, Asa, while deployed to Sarajevo, Bosnia, in 1999 when she was with the Swedish army. They have a 6-year-old daughter, Mia. Brian is married to Shannon (Hensley) '95 (elementary education/special education). They have a 1-year-old son, Nikolaus, who was born in Germany. The Missouri Tigers, then 6th ranked, beat the Nevada Wolf Pack 69-17.

LOOK ONLINE

Read full-length interviews with Jessica, Chad and Brian visit: www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue



Claudia Ortega-Lukas



Sheri Russell '00



Christopher J. Moore '02



Ricky Delacruz '03



Romeo "Ro"
Lazzarone '03



Cindy Vance '04



Brittany Walshaw '08

Samantha is now an attorney serving a year-long fellowship at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, a first amendment advocacy organization located in the Washington, D.C. area.

Romeo "Ro" Lazzarone '03 (marketing) has been named as a member of the 2008 Quality Council of New York Life Insurance Company. Members of the Quality Council are among the most successful of New York Life's elite sales force of more than 10,300 licensed agents.

Matthew Wolden '03 (health ecology), '05M.P.H. (public health) was recently promoted to the quality and patient safety improvement manager at New York Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia and Cornell Universities.

Keri Oberly '04 (journalism) is co-director and cinematographer for the documentary Wazi, which explores the daily joys and trials of people in Tanzania living with HIV. For more information about Wazi visit www.wazifilm.com.

Cindy Vance '04 (accounting) has been promoted to manager at The Certified Public Accounting Firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. In her new position, Cindy will oversee all aspects of client engagements, including tax preparation as well as financial and compliance audits.

Nikole Oroszi '05 (speech pathology) earned her master's degree in clinical speech pathology from the College of Health and Human Services at Northern Arizona University. She is employed as a speech-language pathologist at The Continuum in Reno.

Bill West '05 (speech communications), '07M.A. (speech communications) recently launched GhostWest Writing and Editing Services. GhostWest specializes in ghostwriting books, articles, and web copy; editing manuscripts; and condensing and consolidating large pieces of information.

Brittany Walshaw '08 (animal science) has been hired as the district representative for the Fort Dodge Division of Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Based in Las Vegas, she will be responsible for customer support and the sales of pharmaceuticals to veterinarians located in northern and southern Nevada, northern Arizona and northeastern California.

A SILVER AND BLUE EVENT

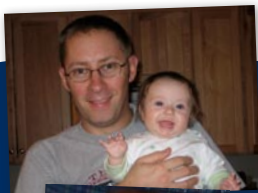
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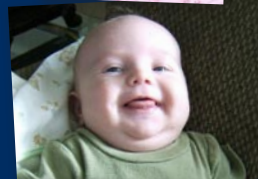
Wolfcubs



Michael Linde '93 (English/psychology) and his wife, Dr. Samantha Woodruff, would like to announce the birth of their first child, Jessica Jane, on April 17, 2008. Michael and his family reside in Denver.



Matt Morse '94 (geography) and Amy Claire Morse announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Rosalie, born on May 13, 2008 in Reston, Va. Olivia attended her first alumni event, the Nationals baseball game and family picnic, through the Nevada Alumni Washington D.C. Chapter.



Ronda (Brown) Bybee '95 (political science) and Mac Bybee '99 (political science) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Beau McCullar, on July 22, 2008.



Amber Joiner '00 (political science/speech communications) and Kyle Davis '01 (political science) are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Eleanor, on Aug. 19, 2008.



Crystal (Harrison) Brokaw '01 (chemical engineering) and Tom Brokaw '01 (chemical engineering) are proud to announce the birth of their son, Brady Edmund, on Feb. 15, 2008.



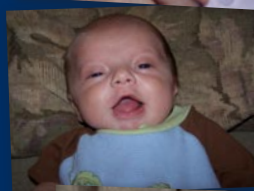
Kimberly (Newman) Philips '01 (finance), '03MBA and Gary Philips '03M.S. (biotechnology) are proud to announce the birth of their son, William Clarence, on Sept. 6, 2008.



Jaime (Johnson) Sheahan '01 (elementary education), '03M.A. (educational leadership) and Sean Sheahan are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Max Michael, on April 11, 2008.



Megan (Lorenz) Galli '02 (human development and family studies), '07M.S. (human development and family studies) and Justin Galli '02 (environmental policy analysis) would like to announce the birth of their daughter Tamsen Nevada on Sept. 25, 2008, she joins big sister, Taylor, (4) and big brother, Troy, (2).



Damon Ogden '02 (mechanical engineering) and Becca Ogden are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Colin Thomas, on May 14, 2008.



Shannon (O'Hair) Hartley '03 (psychology) and Chad Hartley '99 (journalism) are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Maya Kathryn, on March 2, 2008. She joins big sister, Hannah Rose, 5.



Heidi (Rentsch) McHugh '03 (biology) and Ryan McHugh '03 (biology) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Addison Lynn, on Sept. 22, 2008. The couple currently lives in Missoula, Mont.

Wolfmates



Lauralyn McCarthy '92 (journalism) and Ken Hanifan '92 (civil engineering) were married on Oct. 13, 2007 in Los Angeles. Ken's cousin, Father Mark Hanifan '98 (civil engineering), presided over the ceremony. Tanya (Walquist) Hale '90 (criminal justice) introduced the couple, who did not know each other while attending the University. Lauralyn is owner of New Mexico Gaming, LLC and Gaming Solutions, LLC. Ken is owner of Slater Hanifan, Inc., a civil engineering company in Las Vegas.



Kari (Thomas) Michael '99 (elementary education/special education), '04M.Ed. (special education) married Matthew Michael on June 23, 2007 on the shores of Lake Tahoe. The couple lives in Kings Beach with their first child, Seth Thomas, born April 5, 2008. While at the University, Kari was active in the music department; performing with the Pride of the Sierra Marching Band, the wind ensemble, the jazz band and various jazz combos. She was also president of Sigma Alpha Iota, professional music fraternity for women. Kari is a special education teacher in Incline Village and Matt is a ski instructor at Alpine Meadows Ski Resort.



Photo by Theresa Dams-Douglas

K-von parlays business degree into comedy career

K-von (his real name), a native Nevadan and 2003 marketing and management alumnus, currently lives in Beverly Hills. He starred in the horror flick spoof The Gingerdead Man 2, and has appeared many times on television, including Showtime's Comics w/out Borders with Russell Peters, the Style Network and Good Morning America to name a few. He is a regular at Hollywood's Laugh Factory and tours colleges and clubs across the country.

With a Persian father and an American mother, K-von has a good-natured brand of multicultural humor—and he's not afraid to mock anyone, of any ethnicity, but he takes special aim at his Middle Eastern brethren. Constantly coming up with new material, he often draws from his childhood in Las Vegas, as well as his experiences as a college student at the University.

What got you interested in comedy?

My father worked at Harrah's Casino and always had plenty of jokes to tell. Some of them may not have been appropriate for a 7-year-old, but I always thought it was great that he could make people laugh with a quick story and a surprise punch line. I wanted to be able to do that.

In Nevada, there is not much opportunity for beginners to do standup, so I vowed to tackle it after I graduated. While in college, I would write jokes in the back of my notebook. Looking back, I realize the more boring the

class, the more jokes there were. In fact, I tell my family to this day that I was low on material and that's why I had to take accounting twice.

What's it like being a comedian?

It's a total roller coaster ride. Maintaining a daytime job, preparing for shows at night, impressing club owners and building a fan base keep you very busy. For the first few years a comic is just trying to figure out who they are on stage, come up with material, and basically survive for the amount of time you are on stage. If you can get past the ups and downs in the beginning, it becomes a lot more rewarding. We have a lot of fun on the road and after shows, but the comics I see really excelling treat comedy more like a business than a 24/7 party.

How did your experiences at the University help shape your future career path?

From a business standpoint, I use my marketing degree every single day and it has given me quite an advantage. From an experience perspective, the University allowed for a well-balanced campus life. I find, when I share my school stories while on stage, I'm able to relate to audiences all over the United States. Topics like being out of the house for the first time, joining a fraternity, living in the dorms, dating, and gaining weight from eating in the cafeteria are a gold mine for comedy material.

Were there certain professors who helped you the most?

Former Dean of the College of Business Mike Reed, the Nevada Small Business Devel-

opment Center's Rod Jorgensen and Professor of Managerial Sciences Howard Olsen were a few of my biggest influences while in school. They pushed me, made me work hard, and allowed me to confidently prepare to start my own business one day.

What are your favorite memories from your days at the University?

Partying at the Beer Barrel, taking skiing as a class (I still can't believe it), pledging the fraternity, heading to Lake Tahoe on a whim and late-night study sessions in our pajamas, to name a few. One memory in particular comes to mind. Like most college kids I was totally broke while in school. After all, my class missed the Millennium Scholarship by one year. So during finals week, I went to Krispy Kreme and bought five dozen donuts. I set them on my study table in the library with a sign that said "\$1 Donuts." I made \$48 a night for a week while studying. I should have received my business degree right then and there! That money helped pay for the next semester's books... or a few trips to the Beer Barrel, I can't remember which. Of course, there was a downside: I usually polished off plenty of donuts myself each night.

LOOK ONLINE

For the full interview, visit: www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

From a conversation with Senior Editor Melanie Robbins '06M.A. For more information on shows, please sign up and view K-von's calendar on www.K-vonComedy.com or www.myspace.com/KvonComedy.

Chapter Updates



TOP: The Alumni Band prepares to take the field during the Homecoming 2008 halftime show. BOTTOM: Tubas! Tubas! Tubas! take part in Alumni Band festivities during Homecoming.

Alumni Band

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

The 12th annual Alumni Band gathering was a great success! Members did not let fire, flood or children with chicken pox prevent them from participating. Although we weren't the most balanced band ever, we had a good time. The only thing missing was you! To be involved with the Alumni Band, or just to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact Kiara Wolf.

The Pride of the Sierra is continuing to work hard, raising money to save the University Marching Band from being eliminated next year. They have done everything from washing cars to cleaning the stadium after football games to playing half-time at the roller derby. They also raffled off chances to conduct the band at home football games. To get involved with the save the band effort, visit www.savenband.org or contact Alan Sullivan at alan@unr.edu.

Alumni College

Doug Byington, dbyington7@aol.com

Celebrate 20 years of Alumni College with us July 14-16, 2009. We will be exploring various locations throughout northern Nevada and California. Details are being finalized, so watch for more information.

COBAA

Dan Flowers '97

The College of Business Alumni Association had another great year in 2008. Most recently, we hosted the New Faculty



ABOVE: Buffy Cooper and Tobin Rupert '88 ponder where the road will take them during the Native American Alumni Chapter's Mystery Bus Trip. TOP RIGHT: Mikel Alvarez, Robert Garcia, Luis Nieber and Sherry Rupert '05 enjoy good food and great friends at the Native American Chapter Homecoming tailgate party on Oct. 18. BOTTOM RIGHT: Sandi Emm '02, Adrian Emm '02 and Staci Emm '96 celebrate Homecoming at the Native American Chapter tailgate party.

Welcome Reception in September. It was an opportunity for students, alumni and members of the business community to meet the new business faculty. The event was a success thanks to Dean Greg Mosier and everybody in attendance.

The College of Business Alumni Association has big things planned for 2009. In addition to our annual golf tournament, we have designed several monthly events to boost membership and fundraising. COBAA remains focused on providing scholarships and funding for various business students and organizations, and we have high goals for the upcoming year.

For more information on upcoming events or how to become a member please check us out at www.business.unr.edu/grad/alumni.

Football Alumni Chapter

Jim Farley '99, jfarley47@verizon.net

The Nevada Football Alumni Chapter held a tailgate BBQ on Sept. 27 and enjoyed watching the Wolf Pack smash UNLV 49-27. Many football alumni attended the event including former NFL players Trevor Insley, Don Morgan, Mike Rockwood, Jeff Rowe, Deshonne Myles and Ezra Butler. We hope to grow this event in the upcoming years and look forward to additional participation. We encourage former football alumni to register on nevadawolfpackfootball.com if they haven't already. If football alumni are interested in joining the chapter, they can email Jim Farley.

TOP: Former Wolf Pack football players attend the Football Alumni Chapter's pregame party in Las Vegas prior to the Nevada vs. UNLV game: Adam Kiefer '05, Ezra Butler '07, Don Morgan '05, Greg Oliver, Art Lloyd '99, Jim Farley '99, Deon McDaniel '99, Trevor Insley, David Burr '00, Alex Rosenblum '08 and Matt Swan '07. LEFT: Adam Kiefer '05, Jeff Rowe '06 and Brian Kaskie '88 at the Nevada vs. UNLV football game.



Native American Alumni Chapter

Sherry Rupert '05, srupert@nic.nv.gov

The Native American Alumni Chapter had an eventful October. On Oct. 4, the chapter hosted its 2nd Annual Mystery Bus Trip. The bus was filled with approximately 30 attendees who traveled to Blairsden, Calif. Attendees enjoyed a superb meal at the Grizzly Grill and socialized with colleagues, friends and family. The event raised an entire year of scholarships for the chapter. The chapter also hosted a homecoming tailgate on Oct. 18. The tailgate brought approximately 25 alumni, family and friends together for a delicious barbecue, the meeting of new and old friends, and attendance to the football game.

The chapter meets monthly at various locations. If you are interested in joining or want to receive upcoming event information, please contact Kari Emm at (775) 784-4936 or kemm@unr.edu, or Sherry Rupert.

Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association

Linda Clift '74, orvis_alumni@hotmail.com

The Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association held a fall event on Sept. 29 at Lavender Ridge in Reno. During the event, Dr. John McDonald, vice president, Division of Health Sciences, and Patsy Ruchala, director of the Orvis School of Nursing, updated the group regarding the newly created Division of Health Sciences and the exciting new Health Science Education Building that will house the School of Nursing.



Mike Dillon '94 Alumni Council President

1. You were involved in student government and the Greek system. How have your experiences at Nevada helped shape you personally and professionally?

During a couple of close Wolf Pack games, some might say I'm a little too attached to my alma mater. Seriously though, going to Nevada is a huge asset for me in business. The interaction I had, and still have, with other students, the Nevada community, and even alumni at the time have provided a strong base to build upon. The University is the focal point of this community and I am proud to say I am associated with such a fantastic institution. It's wonderful to work in a city where wearing Pack clothing on casual Friday is not only acceptable but encouraged.

2. What is one of your most memorable moments on campus?

I truly enjoyed all of the activities put on for students by ASUN. Major weeks and intramurals, while competitive, were always lively because there was so much participation from the student body. I think one of the best things about going to Nevada is that it doesn't have to

end. Our strong Alumni Association means you can forever be part of Nevada life and even go to The Wal before a home game and not feel like the oldest person at the bar. Don't wear red and you'll be just fine.

3. You are the owner of Dillon Insurance Services and the executive director of the Builders Association of Northern Nevada. Is this the direction you envisioned your career heading?

Although I'd still like to think I could help Mark Fox on the sidelines as an assistant coach, I have truly been blessed to have the opportunities I have had. Having a chance to run my own business and being able to lead the largest trade association in the state creates a new challenge every day. The people who work in the construction industry are the most generous, hardworking people I have ever met. I have the greatest job trying to fulfill every American's dream of owning a home. But for the record, I'd also like to be the first to tell Coach Fox, I'm happy to fill in if he wants to take a day off.

4. In 2008 the Builders Association of Northern Nevada (with BAWN) introduced Sierra Green Guidelines. What do these guidelines mean for the future of your industry in Northern Nevada?

The industry voluntarily developed a green building program in reaction to market desires. The building industry wants to be good stewards of our environment and provide a quality product in an efficient manner. Locally, we are ahead of the nation on sustainable residential green building design by a long way. The cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County, TMWA, Washoe County Water and NV Energy have all endorsed the program.

5. What do you hope to accomplish as the 2009 Nevada Alumni Council President?

My goal is to have every alumnus be a member. Everyone who graduated from this institution should be proud of the positive changes that are happening on campus. A strong alumni base is essential to a strong University of Nevada, Reno. We will continue to provide quality events and work closely with our various alumni clubs and chapters.



Do you have *THE RIGHT STUFF?*

Join the Nevada Alumni Association. Take advantage of special services, programs, benefits and more.

As a Nevada Alumni Association dues-paying member, you'll receive discounts to more than 250,000 vendors around town and nationwide, including the ASUN Bookstore. Plus, you'll love our reduced pregame party admission, invitations to members-only events and networking opportunities. But perhaps the most important reason to join the Nevada Alumni Association is to stay connected to your past, while making a difference in Nevada's future.

To join, just call 775.784.6620, 888.NV ALUMS or visit www.unr.edu/alumni

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Chapter Updates



Steve Park '99 (left) and Bill Chaffin '66 (right) present Eppie G. Johnson '51 (center) with a Nevada Wolf Pack flag to indicate that Eppie's New Horseshoe Bar & Grill is the official meeting place for the Sacramento Alumni Chapter.

Sacramento Alumni Chapter

Steve Park '99, spark@ccarey.com

Steve Park, a sales associate with Cornish & Carey Commercial Real Estate, is the new president of the Sacramento Alumni Chapter. He replaces Bill Chaffin '66, a Sacramento attorney and former student body president of the University.

Congratulations to Bill, who was presented the Alumni Association Service Award at the 2008 Homecoming Gala, and Laura Jenkins '99, who was selected to be a member on the Nevada Alumni Council!

In October, the chapter informed Eppie G. Johnson '51—a chapter founder and originator of our scholarship fund—that his New Horseshoe Bar Grill in Loomis, Calif. will be the chapter's official meeting place.

Our Annual Mystery Dinner Bus Trip is not a secret this year. On Jan. 24, alumni will bus to Chico for a visit that includes a brewery. In June, the chapter will attend the Reno Rodeo. In September, we will fly to South Bend for the Nevada vs. Notre Dame football game.

The Sacramento Alumni Chapter holds lunch meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Steve Park for information.

Southern California Alumni Chapter

Jim Wright '56, jtjimbob@verizon.net

The Southern California Alumni Chapter held its annual Christmas reunion on Dec. 6 at Beckham's Grille in Pasadena, Calif. President Joyce Long, Vice President of Membership Jim Wright and Treasurer Chris Polimeni joined old and new



Stephen Chavez, USAC Chapter member, speaks to a group of students about his experience in Spain.



Gary Philips '03 and Kim (Newman) Philips '01, '03 enjoy the Southern California Chapter's Christmas party luncheon at Beckham's Grille in Pasadena, Calif.

alumni in celebrating the holidays with an ornament exchange. Recent alums who have joined the chapter are Kim and Gary Philips from Lake Forest, Calif., Trina Shartsis, who is the new corresponding secretary from Huntington Beach, and Roseanne Levan from Newport Beach.

The chapter is active with casual dinner meetings in March to plan for the spring reunion, usually held at El Torito in Newport Beach, and in September to plan for the Christmas party, held the first Saturday in December. All alumni are welcome to attend the meetings or the reunions and bring their spouses or families. For information, please contact Jim Wright.

UNSOM Alumni Chapter Update

Dr. Peter Verhey '97, '02, ptverhey@yahoo.com

The newly reestablished UNSOM Alumni Chapter is in full swing. We have been busy reconnecting with our 1,429 alumni, participating in the re-launch of the Synapse publication and planning for the upcoming UNSOM Alumni Association annual event, which will take place in the fall. The chapter is also involved in assisting the medical school and its students in key initiatives and programs.

You are an important part of the School of Medicine's legacy through your individual careers and achievements. We encourage you to give back to the School of Medicine and its students by being an active member of the UNSOM Alumni Chapter. If you are interested in learning more, reconnecting with colleagues, becoming a member, updating your contact information, and/or participating in chapter leadership, please visit www.medicine.nevada.edu/alumni/alumniassoc.asp or contact Christina Sarman, assistant director of development, at christinas@unr.edu or (775) 784-6009.



TOP: Pack Pride brings Jaime Bertelson Dianda '01, Julie Kealy '00, Gary Brooks and David O'Mara '99 together to watch the Nevada vs. UNLV football game at Scruples during the Young Alumni Chapter's Wingology. BOTTOM: Young Alumni Chapter members Lindsay (Allen) Holt '02, Leslie Davis '04 and Justin Holt '01 enjoy Wingology on September 27.



USAC Alumni Chapter

Michelle Cobb, mcobb@unr.edu

We started off this past fall with our semi-annual Passport Fair, held at the USAC central office. The fair drew students, faculty, alumni and community members, and over 50 applications were completed. In October, Destination Now, a study abroad festival, was held on campus. USAC alumni were there to represent each program abroad and share their experiences with future students. Our Around the World; Coffee Talk was a big hit! Always a favorite event, USAC gathered with spring 2009 study abroad students to give advice and reminisce about their adventures abroad.

Young Alumni Chapter

Stephani Foust '01, yacpresident@gmail.com

In September, YAC hosted "Wingology" at Scruples Bar & Grill in conjunction with the Nevada vs. UNLV football game. Event attendees watched the Pack's victory, while indulging in a variety of beers and eight exotic flavors of wings: Sweet Hot, Orange BBQ, Sierra Nevada Mustard Honey, Peanut Maple, Marmalade Coconut, Oriental, Apple Teriyaki, Mango Picante! Our members were busy in October with Homecoming festivities. On Nov. 14, we took our annual Mystery Bus Trip, where alumni and friends travelled to a secret location (the Overland Hotel in Fallon) to enjoy great food, good friends and a wonderful night. The holidays were celebrated in December with a group dinner at LaVecchia. In January, we got together again to ring in the New Year at our annual Bagna Cauda at the Coney Island Bar. YAC welcomes new members and involvement. For information contact YAC President Stephani Foust or visit www.unr.edu/alumni/yac.

Thanks!

FOR SHOWING YOUR
true colors.

The Nevada Alumni Association would like to thank the following businesses
for encouraging their employees to wear blue during Homecoming 2008.
We appreciate your continued support of the University of Nevada!

Accountants, Inc., AdSpec, Applied Staffing Solutions, ASUN Bookstore, AT&T, Bank of the West, BBC Advertising, Bicycle Warehouse, Blue Oyster Pearls, Bonanza Casino, Builders Association of Northern Nevada, Chewy & Jug's, City National Bank, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Clearstar Financial Credit Union, College Courtyard Apartments, Colliers International, Colonial Bank, Dillon Insurance, Dr. Amanda Richards and Dr. Tom Rammel, Double Diamond Athletic Club, Eclipse Running, EDawn, Eissmann & Newmarker Peak Dental Practices, ELP Capital, Inc., Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Fahrendorf, Vilorio, Oliphant and Oster, Firestone, First Independent Bank of Nevada, Fuel Promotions, GEICO, Great Basin Bicycles, Holland & Hart, IGT, Java Jungle, JC Paper, JJ's Pie Co., JLH, Incorporated, Jungle Vino, KPS3 Marketing, KTVN Channel 2, Lazzarone Group, Legacy Wealth Planning, Lessinger Team, Little Waldorf Saloon, Lumos and Associates, M3Planning, Manpower, MassMedia, McCarran KinderCare, Muckel Anderson, NAI Alliance, Nancy Eklof Public Relations Etc., National Automobile Museum, Nevada Payroll Services, Nevada State Bank, New York Life, Northern Nevada Business Weekly, Odds On Promotions, Olsen & Associates Public Relations, Panattoni Construction, Pitts Orthodontics, Platinum 1st Mortgage, Proctor, Davis and Company, Pub N' Sub, Q&D Construction, Reliable Framing, Inc., Reno eNvy, Reno Gazette-Journal, Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Reno Vulcanizing, Robert Half International, Inc., Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center, Scruples Bar & Grill, Sierra Pacific Federal Credit Union, Silver & Blue Outfitters, Somerset Development, Sparks Heating & Air Conditioning, Sun West Bank, The Glenn Group, The Killian Company, The Success Partners Group, Tripp Dentistry, Truckee Meadows Water Authority, US Bank, Vino 100, Washoe County School District, Wells Fargo, Western Nevada Supply, Whispering Vine Wine Company, Whitehall Lane Winery, Wild Island Family Adventure Park

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Homecoming 2008

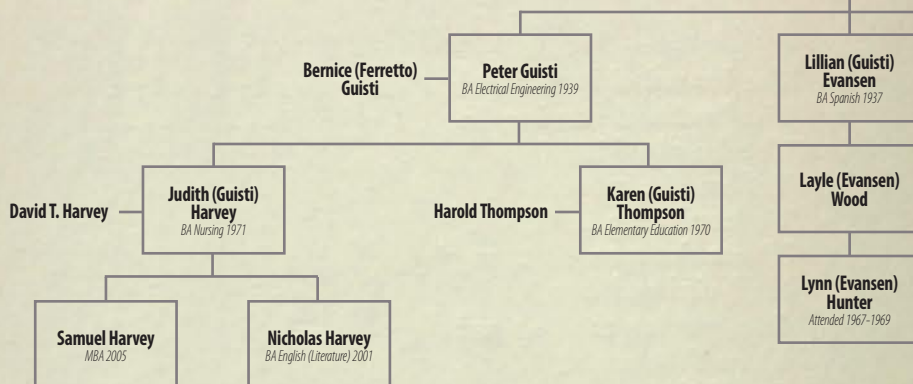
(1) The annual University of Nevada, Reno Homecoming Bonfire. (2) Jenny Boland '00 (finance) and Dan Flowers '97 (accounting), representing the COBAA Chapter at the alumni pre-game party, Oct. 10. (3) Nursing students enjoy the Homecoming Blue Flu Barbecue. (4) During Homecoming Week the School of the Arts hosted the second annual Arts Night Out throughout the Church Fine Arts Building, including a concert with the Alison Brown Quartet with Joe Craven. (5) A student band entertains the masses at the Homecoming Bonfire. (6) Nevada Alumni Association Homecoming Gala attendees Martin and Tiffany Gastanaga, Matt '93 (political science/English) and Melissa Francis, Tim Crowley '92 (geography), Dave '93 (finance/economics) and Jessica LaPlante '94 (civil engineering), Leilani Schweitzer and Lanning Andrews. (7) Alumni Award winners at halftime during the Homecoming football game Oct. 18, a Wolf Pack victory over Utah State. (8) The Nevada Athletic Hall of Fame's Class of 2008 (see page 22). (9) 2008 pre-game sponsor Sierra Pacific Federal Credit Union—Tania Roberts, Ivhie Miguel, Jim Hunting, Shirley Hunting, Teri Detrick, John Demuth and Heather Demuth. (10) Arts Night Out attendees enjoy the Glow Show. (11) Alumna of the Year, Annette Whitemore '74 (elementary education/special education) with Milton Glick and Cindy Buchanan '95 (finance). (12) Rondalyn Langhans, Sara Langhans, Class of 2020, John Langhans '77 (business education), and Doug Armstrong hang out at the Oct. 10 pre-game party. (13) Cheerleader Rebecca Wallstrum, right, elementary education, at the Homecoming Tailgate. (14) Wolf Pack fan, Larry Pizorno.

LOOK ONLINE

For more photos from Homecoming Week, visit: www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

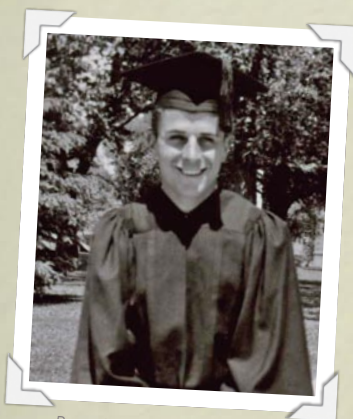
Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas and Tyler Keck.

Guisti Family Tree



Marshall Guisti

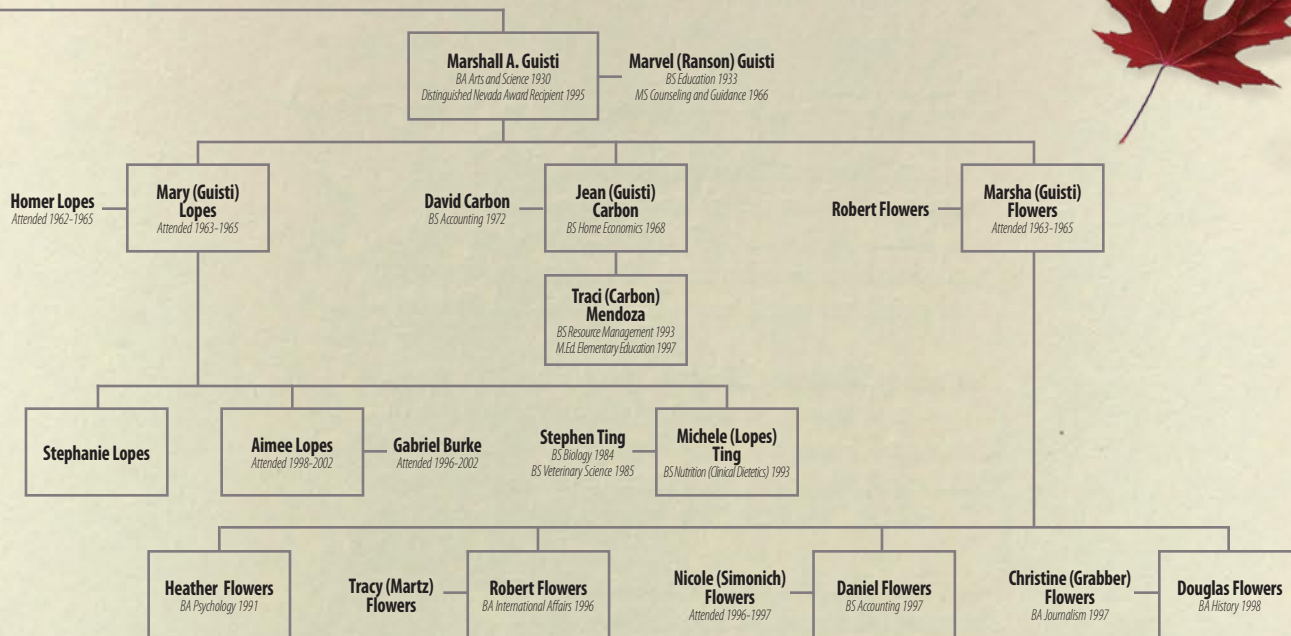
Marshall Guisti (front right) with father Vernerio, mother Geny, sister Lillian and brother Peter in front of the Grand Hotel in Tonopah circa 1926.



Peter Guisti at 1939 graduation.

A love of learning. A passion for Nevada.

Marshall Guisti and Marvel Ranson began a family tradition of graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno when they met as students in the 1930s. Since then, there have been nineteen other family members to graduate from Nevada, going on to enjoy successful careers in nursing, teaching, finance, accounting, law, journalism, nutrition, psychology, fundraising and veterinary medicine. Today, even the youngest family members are walking the path toward a future at Nevada by attending University kid camps and athletic events, wearing Wolf Pack gear, and playing in the quad.



Marshall and Marvel Guisti, circa 1972.



Top Row: Samuel Harvey, Karen Thompson, Nicholas Harvey; 2nd Row: David Carbon, Judith Harvey, Nicole Flowers (Holding Charles Flowers), Daniel Flowers; 3rd Row: Traci Mendoza, Jean Carbon, Marsha Flowers, Heather Flowers; 4th Row: Steve Ting, Michele Ting, Aimee Lopes, Gabriel Burke, Christine Flowers, Douglas Flowers; Bottom Row: Kiel Mendoza, Matthew Flowers and Natalie Flowers.

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 or call 888.NV ALUMS.

N **FAMILY**
ALUMNI **TREE**
ASSOCIATION **CHALLENGE**

Remembering Friends

Ruth (Hadley) Donovan, former associate director of University Libraries, died on July 16, 2008. Born in Lincoln, Neb., she grew up in Wisconsin and earned a bachelor's in library science at the University of Wisconsin where she was Phi Beta Phi. She returned to Lincoln for her first professional position as a reference librarian from 1950-1954.

She arrived at the University of Nevada in 1954. It was here that Ruth Hadley married and became Ruth Donovan in 1956. After eight years as a reference librarian, Ruth assumed the position of assistant director of Libraries. With the exception of four years in the 1960s when she took off to be a full-time wife and mother. She served as assistant and associate director, primarily responsible for public services, for the rest of her 30-year career in the University Libraries. She retired in 1988.

Ruth was instrumental in shepherding the growth of University Libraries from a closed stack collection in the basement of Clark Hall to more than 800,000 volumes in Getchell. Throughout her long career in library leadership, Ruth served with grace, strength, and dedication. Her contributions were immense.

Ahmed Essa, English professor emeritus, died on June 15, 2008. Dr. Essa was a professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, from 1967 to 1991, teaching multicultural literature and creative writing. He was known for his expertise in African and Middle Eastern literature.

Dr. Essa was born in Jodiya, India, the fifth of nine children. His family left India when he was an infant, and he spent his early years in Pietermaritzburg and Durban, South Africa. His experiences growing up in apartheid South Africa gave him much of the inspiration for his creative writing.

Dr. Essa was also the founder of the Northern Nevada Muslim Society, bringing the group from its early days of a few members in the 1960s to an organization that includes several thousand today. In 2003, he received the World Citizen Award from the Northern Nevada International Center. Dr. Essa was also an accomplished photographer. His photographs were often exhibited in Reno and were a record of his passion about the people and places of many cultures.

Dr. Essa is survived by his wife, Eva, University professor and chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies; daughter, Fiona (Christopher); and son, Eugene (Kristie). While he was the last of his siblings, he is survived by numerous nieces and nephews and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, most of them in South Africa.

Erwin A. Jaffe, former University of Nevada professor of political science, died Sept. 5, 2008. Born in 1928, he studied at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., where he earned his doctorate. Professor Jaffe joined the history and political science department faculty at the University of Nevada in 1961, during a transitional time. He, with history Professor Wilbur Shepperson, was a driving force behind a successful effort to split the department into separate political science and history departments. He added to scholarship on political philosophy through writings and lectures in the United States and abroad. Of his time in Nevada, he was proudest of relationships he maintained with former students, in whom he ignited an interest in the political process, its organization and the philosophies that drive politics. Professor Jaffe is survived by his wife of 51 years, Marianne, his sister, Geraldine, and many students and friends whose lives he touched and influenced. Remembrance contributions may be sent to Doctors Without Borders, as Erwin believed in people without borders.

Chester Frank Pinkerton, professor emeritus of mathematics, died on March 19, 2008 at the age of 91. He was born in Oshkosh, Wis. and graduated from Oshkosh High School. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1939. During World War II, he was present at the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Midway, and was on board the battleship Missouri when the Japanese surrendered. After the war, Chester met Marilyn Edwards and married her in 1946. Chester retired from the Navy in 1959, earned a graduate degree in mathematics from Purdue University and taught at the University of Nevada, Reno from 1960 to 1979. Upon retiring from his second career, Chester spent more time playing golf, fishing, print making and pursuing his interests. He was active in the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, the Mathematical Society of America, the National Wildlife Association, the Audubon Society and Kiwanis International.

Chester is survived by Marilyn, his wife of 62 years, his daughter, Adele (Thomas), his son, Daniel (Jane); grandchildren, Adrian, Lauren, Robin, Kelley, Cecily, and Anne; great-grandsons, Rohan and Varun.



Ruth (Hadley) Donovan
(middle)



Ahmed Essa

Thomas J. Scully, M.D., the second dean of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, died on Sept. 16, 2008, at the age of 75. Dr. Scully, a native New Yorker, came to Nevada in 1969 as a founding faculty member for the newly formed "School of Medical Sciences." With a flair for bringing people together and forming relationships, Dr. Scully was able to solicit support from northern, southern and rural physicians to throw their collective backing behind the idea of establishing a Nevada medical school. He was a driving force behind discussions across the state as to how the school should function, its relationship with area hospitals, and identifying physicians willing to teach students. Dr. Scully was instrumental in the development of its curriculum, establishing the basic departments, formulating its teaching philosophy and setting up preceptorships with community physicians.

By his retirement in 1997 after a distinguished career of 28 years with the School of Medicine, he had served as professor of pediatrics, associate dean for academic affairs, student affairs, basic sciences and research and alumni affairs and, finally, as dean.

Described in Phyllis Cudek and Anton Paul Sohn's book, *Better Medicine: The History of the University of Nevada School of Medicine*, as "the teaching dean," Dr. Scully was twice selected as outstanding teacher of the University of Nevada School of Medicine and was known as a strong and empathic student mentor and advocate.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Celia; brothers Robert and James; sisters Mary, Rebecca and Evangeline; sons Christopher, Peter, Geary; and daughter, Leslie, as well as numerous in-laws, grandchildren and extended family members.

JohnD Winters '32 (agriculture) died March 30, 2008 at his home in Dayton, Nev. Born May 18, 1909 to Ira and Mary Winters, he attended Carson City schools and graduated with a degree from the University in 1932. He was active in Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the varsity boxing team where he earned a Block N.

A rancher by occupation, JohnD was noted statewide for his work on water resources conservation and served on the Nevada-California Interstate Compact Commission.



Thomas J. Scully, M.D.



Richard "Red" Henry Payne '71

JohnD was a strong believer in education and recreation and gave the Carson City School District land to build a new high school in 1954. He also gave land near Cold Springs to the City of Carson which in turn was developed into the Carson Eagle Valley Golf Course.

Carson City honored him in 2000 when it renamed the Centennial Park, at the golf course, the JohnD Winters Centennial Park. He was also grand marshal of the Nevada Day Parade in 1995. Along with his wife, Kathleen, he established the Winters Family Scholarship in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR). He also donated numerous books and documents to Special Collections at the University of Nevada Library.

JohnD is survived by his wife, Kay, four daughters, one son, 14 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

John K. Carr '37 (journalism) died Oct. 20, 2008. John was born in May, Idaho on December 6, 1914, to Minnie and John Carr. He was his mother's ninth son.

John moved with his parents to southeast Missouri. In 1927 the family moved to Fallon, where John graduated from Churchill County High School in 1932. He graduated from the University of Nevada in 1937. While at the University he served as editor of the Sagebrush newspaper. Upon graduation, he entered the Army Air Corps flying school at Randolph Field and Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. He remained on active duty until his retirement in 1964 with the rank of colonel. From 1967 until his retirement in 1975, he served as Chief of Revenue for the Nevada Department of Taxation.

In September 1938, John married Elizabeth Juniper of Reno. During their marriage, they raised two children, Carol and Walter. Before and during World War II, John flew many missions in all areas of the world. He was stationed for two years in India. From there he flew the "Hump" into China in the CBI (China, Burma, and India) operations. His flights across the Atlantic Ocean into North Africa earned his first Air Medal, to which were later added two Oak Leaf clusters. He also received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Presidential Unit Citation, the Star of China, and other decorations.

John's first wife, Elizabeth, died in 1973. In 1974 John married Margery McKnight, a Washoe County school administrator. They spent 34 wonderful years together. During that time John was active in many community organizations.

John will be greatly missed by his family and his Air Force associates. He leaves his wife, Margery (McKnight) Carr; his daughter, Carol; his son, Walter; three grandchildren Elena, Kristin and Matthew. He also will be missed by two nieces and two nephews.

John "Johnny" Knemeyer '42 (electrical engineering) died on July 17, 2008 at Sentara Williamsburg Hospital. Johnny was born "on the Fourth of July", 1920 in Yerington. His early years were spent in Nevada and California. In 1942, he graduated from the University of Nevada where he participated in various collegiate sports and would remain an avid tennis player. He went east to Pittsburgh to work for Westinghouse Electric Corporation. After two years, he moved to the Hampton Roads area where he took a position at NACA (now NASA) as an engineer. His career at NASA-Langley spanned 46 years, retiring in 1990 as the chief of facilities engineering. He was a longtime member of Grace United Methodist Church.

John was preceded in death by his parents Edward and Mae. His memory is left to be cherished by his wife of 59 years, Louise; two daughters Linda and Karen (Daniel); two sons Neal and Ken; a grandson, Kevin (Jennifer); a granddaughter, Elizabeth (Brian); four great-grandchildren Brody, Jake, Emma and Andrew; one brother, Franklin and a host of loving relatives and faithful friends. The family will be forever grateful to the staff of Dominion Village of Williamsburg and Sentara Williamsburg Hospital for their kind and loving care. Condolences can be posted online at www.dailypress.com/guestbooks.

Dwight J. "Duke" Lindeman '49 (economics) died Aug. 13, 2008. Duke was born to Irving and "Brownie" Lindeman in St. Paul, Minn., and grew up in Rock Island, Ill. He received a football scholarship to the University of Iowa and played there for two years. World War II interrupted his schooling and he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a drill instructor and served on prisoner transport ships. After the war, he followed his old Iowa football coach, Joe Sheeketski, to the University of Nevada, where he played football from 1946 to 1948. One of Duke's finest moments came on Oct. 4, 1947, when he intercepted a pass by future Hall of Famer Norm Van Brocklin and ran it in for a touchdown, sealing a win against the University of Oregon 13-6. It was during his

time at Nevada that he met his wife, Joyce Edwards. They were married in 1950.

After various jobs, he settled in with the City of Reno. During 32 years with the city, he became the head of the Parks and Recreation Department. He was instrumental in the purchase and development of many of today's parks and golf courses in Reno. Duke never met a stranger and always took great interest in the people around him.

Duke is preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Riley, his son, Dwight, and his beloved wife of 54 years, Joyce. He is survived by his daughters, Kerry and Beth and by his grandchildren, Marie and Christopher. Please share thoughts, memories and condolences in the family guestbook at www.waltonsfuneralhome.com.

Richard "Red" Henry Payne '71 (marketing), '80MBA died July 31, 2008. Red was born July 16, 1939, in Marysville, Calif. to Lewis William Payne and Wauhilla May McClellan Payne. He graduated from Mineral County High School in 1957, received his undergraduate degree in at University of Nevada, Reno in 1970 and later his MBA in 1980. Education was very important to Red as he continued to take college classes until his death. He was affectionately known as one of the "butcher boys" during graduate school and was a true friend, willing to help whenever needed. Red was a cowboy at heart; he and his handlebar mustache will be truly missed.

Red is preceded in death by both parents and brother, William. He is survived by his sister, Victoria (Cliff), niece Tonya, great nephews Tyler and Todd; nephew, Lewis, niece Jennifer (John), great nephews Josh and Gabe, and his godson, Michael.

Deron Thorp '96 (journalism) died Nov. 4, 2006 unexpectedly from a heart arrhythmia. He was on the Pack football team from 91-96. He received his MBA from San Jose State in 2002. Deron was a marketing analyst with Cisco Systems. After his passing, he was inducted into the Cupertino High School Hall of Fame in May 2008. His selection was based on his athletic achievements and his endeavors with the humanitarian organization ShipAid, which he founded. Through his efforts with ShipAid, Deron personally delivered medical and educational supplies, along with clothing and athletic equipment, to the African people of Lesotho.

LOOK ONLINE

For the full text of Remembering Friends, visit: www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue



You can't just start a fraternity!

It all started at "Night on the Sixth Floor II" in the fall of 1977. There were almost 20 of us, who after a full year of living together on the sixth floor of Nye Hall came back for a second year. We had formed an unusual bond and displayed a true zest for college living. With a delay in finding an R.A. (resident assistant) willing to take on the infamous men's side of the dorm, we wasted no time having a party. It was so successful that two weeks later we held the aforementioned gathering, which featured almost 400 party-goers, a live band in the laundry room, complaints from as far away as Sparks and an exciting night for the campus police. Despite all of those memorable aspects, it was the comment of one now forgotten coed who said to me in passing "This is so great up here, you guys are like your own independent fraternity!"

While I had rushed fraternities my fresh-

man and sophomore years, I did not join one, primarily due to the fact that we had formed our own "band of brothers" on the sixth floor. However there were some things that fraternities had that we didn't. Organized intramural teams, regularly scheduled social events, fun pledge rituals, and, if you believe the ridiculous brochures, a strong study environment. All of which sounded appealing. However, it was the lack of recognition from sorority girls that reigned supreme. Thus, the journey began to give birth to a new and independent fraternity.

When I first began to float the idea to my sixth floor brethren there was almost unanimous scoffing amid multiple refrains of "You can't just start a fraternity." Undaunted, I inquired with the Dean of Students Robert Kinney, who said, "It's never been done and I'm not sure it will work, but there are no rules against it." That's all I needed to hear. So in the

spring semester of 1978, I put posters all over the campus inviting male students to a meeting introducing the University's first independent fraternity.

Ten minutes after the meeting was to start, a few guys came in, followed by a few more until we hit an unimpressive total of less than 20, all but two from the sixth floor of Nye Hall. But with a vision, relentless persistence and the stupidity of not knowing any better, I launched into a 20-minute speech describing what this new fraternity would be like (as I had no clue what I was talking about, I emphasized the sorority angle). Thinking I had spun a web that captured everyone's heart, I asked for questions, knowing the first one would be, "Where do I sign up?" But alas, the first and only question was a cynical "What you described, Scott, sounds pretty good, but without a frat house it's just a club, and a club is lame. Find us



TOP: The original Omega Xi fraternity in 1978 on the Ninth Street steps leading to Morrill Hall, on the southern edge of campus. LEFT: Omega Xi 2008 reunion (about half were present for the original photo): FIRST ROW: Glen Daily '84 (civil engineering), '08 (construction management); David Durst '81 (business management); Bruce Hicks '82 (business management); Mat Waddington '83 (business management); Greg Carry '86 (accounting), Jerry Eykelbosh '87 (geology); Karl Riebeling '86 (geology), Ed Martins '01 (civil engineering). SECOND ROW: Eric Riebeling '88 (geology); Rick Havenstrite '80 (mining engineering); Bart Fisher '81 (business administration); Patrick O'Day '81 (business), '93MBA; Scott Addison (geological engineering); Peter McAllester '85 (mechanical engineering); Curtis Ellis (biology); THIRD ROW: Mitch DeValliere (biology), Jeff Rouse '82 (business management); Roger Lancaster '82 (mechanical engineering); Guy Gansert '80 (biology), '86M.D. BACK ROW: Charlie Niggemyer '80 (mining engineering); Warren Kocmond '82 (mechanical engineering); Ken Lancaster '83 (mechanical engineering); Joe McGinley '80 (geological engineering); Geoff Williams '85 (mechanical engineering) TOP, SITTING: Jack Lyons '83 (business management) TOP, STANDING: Tyler Regan '80 (journalism) and Scott Koepf '80 (business/music).

a house and then you might have something." Everyone else shook their heads in agreement and shuffled out, except my friend Tyler, who simply said, "They are right, but I'll help you find a house, because this could be so cool." With one believer I was emboldened. The search began.

We spent a few weeks looking at every house for sale or rent within a mile of the University. Not only did we not find anything remotely feasible, but even if we had found a suitable house, we had no money or credit. After about a month, things looked bleak and I was about to give up when I heard about a boarding house on Lake Street across from Evans Park, one half block from campus. When Tyler and I walked up we both knew it was the perfect house—ugly, old and the next-door neighbor was the freeway. Mrs. Young, the new owner,

was there, and somehow we convinced her to entertain our idea. She set up a breakfast meeting with her husband, who was not only an attorney but also State Senator Cliff Young.

Had I thought about how ridiculous my request was, I would have probably no-showed. Instead, I told him I wanted a one-year lease at a reduced price for a bunch of college kids with no money who would be in a fraternity that did not yet exist. No matter how much I poured on my enthusiasm and embellished the reality it was still an outrageously bad story. However, for reasons that will forever be a mystery to me (and given it was a breakfast meeting, adult beverages could not even be blamed) not only did he offer a two-year lease at a fair price with no upfront deposit, but he proceeded to draw up incorporation papers so that I wouldn't have personal liability when I

signed the lease. Rest assured adult beverages did come into play later that day.

Against the odds we now had a house and it was time to show it off. Through word of mouth, as well as Tyler and I promoting door-to-door in the dorms, we had about 30 guys interested in a tour of the house. Expectations were high. As we walked to the house, there was universal excitement about the location. Then we went inside.

As I mentioned, this was a boarding house and, unfortunately, most people have no ability to see what could be instead of what is. However, this little tour even had me questioning if this was

indeed the perfect house. The smell inside was almost as thick as the dirt and grime on the walls—both of which caused some physical reactions in the group. In two rooms, there were at least five or six people sharing the space in pretty awful conditions. The crowning touch was answering the pay phone at the top of the stairs two times during the tour. Both calls were to check on Trixie's availability in room 202. I don't remember if we actually checked with her, but she had a good business going! From the more than 30 guys who took the tour, fewer than 15 could see past the disaster and actually signed up (two signed up contingent upon Trixie not being evicted when we moved in).

We did not have a big group, but it was enough to keep the dream alive. Tyler and I met in the summer, and after hours of research

came up with our fraternity name. I would love to tell you it had special secret meaning in Greek, but we just thought it sounded good. And so with the University's approval, Omega Xi was born. Little did we know that the challenges were just beginning!

On Aug. 14, 1978, we took possession of the house. Tyler and I were giddy with excitement as we walked up to the front door. It may be hard to imagine two college boys as giddy, but it only lasted a few moments. The smell and dirt we had seen during the tour had taken on lives of their own and seemed to be breeding as we watched. In some rooms the filth was over a foot thick, but the most interesting surprise was right in the middle of the living room. It seems the tenants were not too happy to have been evicted so they had tried to burn the whole house down. While they failed in that attempt, they did manage to burn a hole in the living room floor about four feet square. The fire had been set in the basement and had destroyed most of the wiring in the house. In seven days, rush would start, and we would be giving tours of this rat-infested, burned-out hovel in the hope of convincing new members and pledges to live here. Suddenly this whole idea just sucked.

We didn't really have a choice, so for the next week we put in 18- to 20-hour days joined by those few good men who had committed to live in the house. A couple of them turned around and walked out the moment they saw the place, but most simply started cleaning. Two days before rush we actually had a house worth showing. With new paneling, paint and carpet, upstairs looked good and downstairs wasn't bad either except for that pesky hole in the living room. We were feeling good until we heard pounding on the front door and it wasn't one of us. I opened the door to see the city building inspector putting the last nail in the "condemned" sign. He informed me that they could not grant a certificate of occupancy unless we had an electrician sign off on the rewiring (we had pretty much arbitrarily stuck the burnt wires back together using duct tape) and have a contractor guarantee to fix the hole



801 Lake Street, as it appeared in the original promotional brochure for Omega Xi. The house still stands today.

in the floor. We were never informed of all of the previous notices sent so he told us we had 24 hours to get the electrical done and the floor work scheduled. Smarter people would have thrown in the towel, but we had gone too far to call it quits.

We found a contractor who would guarantee the floor would be fixed in a few weeks and then after numerous phone calls we found an electrician who would sign off on the paperwork if he could get all of us to do the work. He sat drinking in a corner of the basement while barking orders to 12 of us clueless "journeymen" as we were shocked, burned and branded throughout the night. On the morning of the first day of rush the inspector came back and said he never would have believed it possible, but took down the condemned sign and allowed us to stay.

The rush tours came through all day and as we ushered them into the living room, I would launch into an eloquent speech about having vision and seeing beyond the obvious. Tyler would then, at the perfect moment, pop up through the hole in the floor and describe our plans for a hot tub sunken into the floor. A few naïve freshmen actually believed us and joined "the house with the Jacuzzi."

The house was really not much of a draw, but the word spread about a different and unique fraternity on campus. At our first Monday night meeting we had more than 35 attendees. It was at that meeting that the origi-

nal and true motivation for all of these efforts came to fruition. As we wrapped up our meeting we heard singing in front of the house. We all ran out to the front porch and stood dumbfounded as one of the sororities stood there serenading us with special sorority songs. I have no idea how many girls were there, but it had to be hundreds (age is a wonderful thing when it comes to selective memory). When they finished they stood there and looked expectantly at us to sing back to them. Once again, we had no idea we needed to have a song but I was not about to leave them disappointed. So I pulled everyone together and in what I am sure was Grammy quality, we sang "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" to them in full voice. That did it. We were now not only recognized by sororities, but known as the unique and spontaneous men of Omega Xi.

With no real plan, no national fraternity support and an almost universal chorus of "that's impossible," Omega Xi became the third largest fraternity at the University of Nevada, Reno and won the Mackay Day competition in our first year. The fraternity thrived for almost 10 years, then finally shut down. Staying independent had its price. We were courted heavily by many national fraternities, but chose to stay independent. Without a backer or mature alumni group, it did not survive. But oh, what a ride it was! More importantly, and unknown to us at the time, the men of Omega Xi are still close friends today, more than 30 years after the founding of an independent fraternity born on the sixth floor of Nye Hall. More than 30 brothers came together at Homecoming this year to celebrate the 30th anniversary of this unique fraternity. [N](#)

Scott Koepf, the founder of Omega Xi, graduated in 1980 with a bachelor of arts degree in music and a bachelor of science in business. He currently is president of an association of travel agents, having been in the travel industry for more than 25 years. He is also a motivational speaker who has shared this story and others to thousands of people all over the world.

"I looked at a lot of schools all over the country. In the end, I liked the proximity of Reno to my hometown. I also really liked the campus and my parents liked the price that was possible through the Children of Alumni Tuition Program."

—Maureen Makaiwi, Class of 2009 (social work)



Like Mother, Like Daughter

When Maureen Makaiwi, Class of 2009 (social work), from Lodi, Calif. made up her mind to attend the University of Nevada, Reno on her own, her mother, Karen Hutz-De Jong '79 (criminal justice) was thrilled. Thrilled because she chose to attend her alma mater and thrilled because she would be able to obtain an undergraduate degree for the price of in-state tuition, thanks to the Children of Alumni Tuition Program.



At Nevada, alumni who have moved out-of-state and whose kids are preparing for higher education can offer their children more than sound advice.

Karen Hutz-De Jong receives her degree from President Joe Crowley in 1979.

Children of University of Nevada, Reno undergraduate-degree alumni who reside outside the state of Nevada, are eligible for reduced nonresident tuition when enrolling in undergraduate studies at the University.

The Office for Prospective Students is available to answer any questions regarding the Children of Alumni Tuition program and will assist with the application process. Located in the Fitzgerald Student Services Building on the first floor, the office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You can contact the Office for Prospective Students toll-free at (866) 2NEVADA, or locally at (775) 784-4700 or www.ss.unr.edu/residency.



University of Nevada, Reno

Rita (Mann) Laden earned a doctorate in educational leadership at Nevada in 1996, but she has been shaping student leaders at the University of Nevada, Reno since 1984. Rita has served the University and its students in many different capacities: as the University's judicial officer, Greek adviser, Associated Students' manager and as the associate vice president for Student Life Services. She was awarded the Distinguished Service Award and the Thornton Peace Prize in 2006. She was and remains a trusted advocate for Student Life. Students honored Rita for her dedication to their success by naming the Rita Laden Senate Chambers at the Joe Crowley Student Union after her. She currently teaches educational leadership courses at the University.

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

My fond memories start from the day I arrived on campus in August 1984. I had just driven from my home state of West Virginia bringing everything I owned in a 1980 Chevette. It was the opening day of fall semester and things were crazy. But my colleagues made time to make me feel welcome as I transitioned into my role as coordinator of student conduct. When I made the decision to come to Nevada it was with the intent that I would immediately begin my doctoral program while working full time. I got so involved in campus and community life that it took several years to actually start my academic work, but with much encouragement from faculty and supervisors, I completed my doctorate in 1996.

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

The thing that gives me most satisfaction is seeing students I've advised and mentored now in positions of leadership within the state and around the country. I take pride in thinking that I might have influenced them in



Rita Laden '96Ed.D. (educational leadership) was so beloved by students that they named the ASUN Senate Chambers after her.

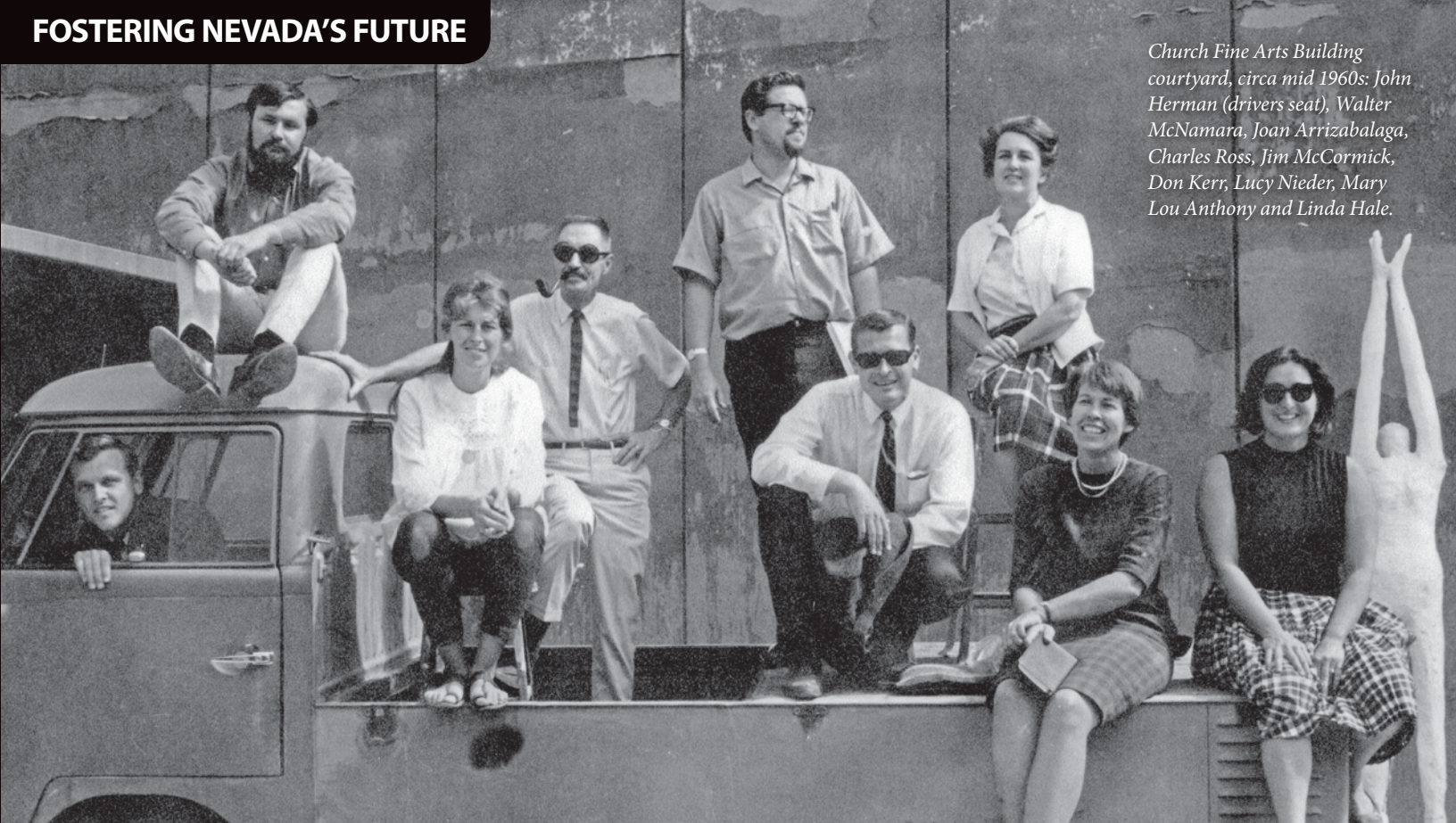
some small way to get where they are today. I see familiar faces as teachers, community activists, lawyers, doctors, business leaders and politicians. I remember the long talks we had about the hard work it takes to accomplish a goal, about always doing the right thing for those you serve. I know that some of it sunk in because I watch them today making a difference in other peoples' lives. I'm also proud of my family and hope that I have had some impact on their success. My husband is generous with his time and talents in the community and I wouldn't trade my son, Aaron, for another in the world.

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

Take the privilege you have as a college graduate and use it to make a difference in your world. Don't think you're entitled to fame and fortune (or whatever you seek) just because you have a college education. You still have to work for it. With a degree from

Nevada—and hard work—you can accomplish a lot. Know your strengths and use them; learn your weaknesses and try to overcome them. When you aren't able to overcome them all (and you won't) then surround yourself with people who are strong in your areas of weakness (and don't be threatened by them). You received a good education, but you still didn't learn everything. Continue to be open to learning. Explore the world and get to know people different from you. You will, at times, need to lean on someone else, whether it be your former faculty adviser, the good friend you made in college, or your God. Don't forget those who helped you through the tough times of college, and don't forget your family! Most importantly, I would hope that graduates would look inside themselves and get a sense of who they are—their faith, their hopes, their dreams—and not let anybody or anything take those away.

Rita Laden



Church Fine Arts Building courtyard, circa mid 1960s: John Herman (drivers seat), Walter McNamara, Joan Arrizabalaga, Charles Ross, Jim McCormick, Don Kerr, Lucy Nieder, Mary Lou Anthony and Linda Hale.

Lucy Simpson Nieder: philanthropist and artist extraordinaire

Born in 1914 in New Jersey, Lucille Marguerite Simpson enjoyed a lifelong love of art. Following marriage to Fred Nieder and move to Reno decades later, Lucy enrolled as an older art student on the Nevada campus. Her creativity caught the watchful eyes of Robert Hartman, who taught drawing and painting in the late 1950s.

He encouraged Lucy to expand from still life to abstract expressionism. "Her flexibility was remarkable," he recalls. "I gave her a nudge and she became much freer." Lucy was grateful for both Hartman's inspiration and having access to studio space. By the early 1960s, she was entering major art shows around the country.

Lucy "adopted" Nevada's art faculty and they adopted her. In her later years, she maintained strong ties with the faculty, welcoming them to her Reno home and gallery.

Upon her passing in 2007, Lucy bestowed a gift of \$1.3 million upon the Department of Art.

Lucy wished to ensure opportunities for future art students. The faculty, in honoring her intent, has placed this extraordinary gift in a Nevada System of Higher Education endowment; available earnings will be used to support the operations of the department, master of fine arts-level scholarships and

innovative proposals for student learning.

James McCormick, emeritus professor of art, fondly remembers working with Lucy. "Lucy's gift is extraordinary, especially since it comes from a 'seasoned' student who did not obtain a degree from the University," he explains.

"She simply appreciated the gift of being able to attend studio classes in the art department with a challenging instructor and a community of welcoming students."

Larry Engstrom, director of the School of the Arts, says the gift will have a significant and very positive impact on the department. "The endowment created by the gift will support students, programs, galleries and guest artists in perpetuity. It will allow the department to offer enhancements that will benefit students, faculty and community members alike."

"Lucy Nieder's gift will be transformative for the Department of Art," said Heather Hardy, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "It will serve as a fitting legacy for an individual who was a passionate supporter of the visual arts in this community."

—This story was contributed by Tim Jones, the associate director of the School of the Arts.



"Lucy Nieder was leading a relatively conventional life until, in the 1950s, she met the faculty in the Department of Art at the University of Nevada. This opened a life of the extraordinary."

—Elly Hale, goddaughter to Lucy Nieder



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College of Liberal Arts

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College of Business

Each semester, the University of Nevada, Reno and the Nevada Alumni Association honor an undergraduate student from each school or college who meets the exceptional Senior Scholar Program standards. The Senior Scholar then selects the faculty mentor who played the most significant role in his or her scholastic achievement.

The accomplishments of these individuals have helped develop the University of Nevada, Reno as a center of academic excellence.



University of Nevada, Reno

