

# NEVADA

Silver&Blue

The magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno • Summer 2010



## Davidson Mathematics and Science Center

transforming the campus

**GREAT FACULTY**

MAKE THE CAMPUS PROUD

**DAVID WESTFALL**

FOUNDING DEAN. TEAM PLAYER.

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Contact us by mail, phone or fax:  
Morrill Hall/0007  
University of Nevada, Reno  
Reno, Nevada 89557-0007  
address changes: (775) 682-6541  
fax: (775) 784-1394

Class Notes submissions: [chatter@unr.edu](mailto:chatter@unr.edu)  
Address changes: [silverblue@unr.edu](mailto:silverblue@unr.edu)

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## From the President

### An investment in a building, and much, much more

"We're not investing in the building. We're investing in the people inside of it,"—Jan and Bob Davidson, May 2010.

Recently, during a tour of the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, I was reminded of Jan and Bob Davidson's words. The building was still empty. Last-minute touch-ups were the order of the day. But soon, when classes begin in August, its brightly-lit halls and stairwells will be filled with our students, its classrooms and laboratories ably manned by our faculty.

Jan and Bob have graciously shared their dream with our institution to develop the talents of what our nation needs most right now: more top-flight mathematics, science and engineering students. Whether it has been through the establishment of The Davidson Academy of Nevada—a free public school for profoundly gifted middle and high school students located on our campus—or providing the lead gift for the construction of the University's newest building, the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, Jan and Bob have been pivotal figures in the evolution and growth of our campus.

They've already touched the lives of too many to count. In the fall, as the Davidson Academy begins its fifth year of instruction, the academy's numbers will have grown to more than 100 students—a record. It is estimated that 70 percent of our student body, at one point or another during their academic careers, will take at least one course in the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, making it one of the busiest and most productive buildings on our campus.

And there are other benefits as well.

Jan and Bob's words of investing in people, in addition to investing in bricks and mortar, certainly ring true—particularly as they relate to our faculty.

Great faculty truly do give a campus its heartbeat. Great faculty are like a team of talented soloists who know how to collaborate to create the most memorable symphony imaginable. They have an innate ability to stretch themselves and others. They encourage their students to follow their passions and to take risks.

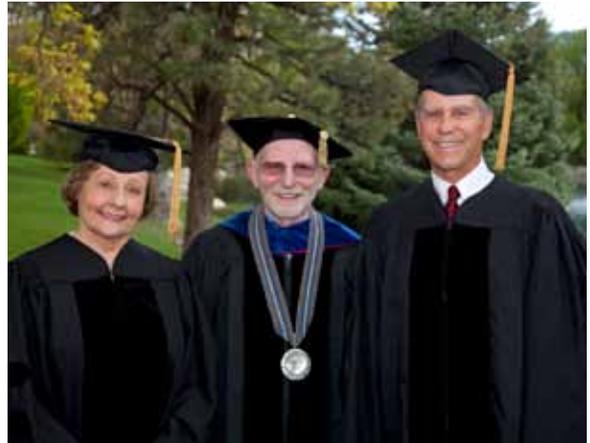
The Davidson Mathematics and Science Center will prove to be an inspiration for our students and our faculty. As the years pass, I believe it will become an incubator of human achievement. It will spur our current faculty to great heights. And, it will attract new minds from across the country, new professors who will join us here to teach, research, create and inspire within a sparkling, 105,000-square-foot building.

All campuses need a "magnet" building that will grab the attention of the brightest students and the best faculty. The Davidson Center will provide our campus with such a needed anchor in mathematics and science. More than anything, though, the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center will be the symbol that a commitment to human aspiration, as Jan and Bob Davidson so aptly noted, is the wisest investment any person can ever make.

Sincerely,

**Milton D. Glick**  
President

[www.unr.edu/president](http://www.unr.edu/president)



*President Milt Glick stands with lead donors to the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, Jan and Bob Davidson, after they received honorary doctorates in May.*

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

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### About the cover

This issue's cover, shot by Jeff Ross, shows students, alumni and faculty from the College of Science posing in front of the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center. FRONT: Lauren Baker, Christian Klimczak, MIDDLE: William Taylor '10M.S., Jason Man, Jordan Clements (entering freshman from Manogue High School), Nichole Peterson '10, Christopher Thomas, BACK: Professors Mario Alpuche, mathematics and statistics, and Richard Schultz, geological sciences and engineering.



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**Gatherings** – For more photos from all of our events.

**What I've Learned** – For the full interview with David Westfall.

**Remembering Friends** – For the full obituaries.

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# Davidson Mathematics and Science Center

transforming the campus



By Melanie Robbins '06M.A. Photos by Jeff Ross.

The new, 105,000-square-foot, four-story Davidson Mathematics and Science Center that opened this summer is “not just a building,” according to President Milton Glick, speaking at the June 3 VIP opening, “... it is a transformational building” that will change the nature of how faculty teach and students learn.

The building’s namesakes and major donors, Jan and Bob Davidson, did not merely invest in bricks and mortar, Glick continued, “They are investing in the people inside.” Calling them “true visionaries,” Glick noted that the Davidsons have dedicated their lives’ work to education, thinking always of the future, even in challenging economic times. “Every generation wants their children to have a better life than they had. This building is a part of making that happen,” Glick said.

Bob Davidson noted that the first talks about developing the new, four-story center began just five years ago. “One of the reasons that Jan and I moved to Nevada—besides Lake Tahoe—was the can-do spirit of Nevada.” With support from other donors, as well as the Nevada Legislature, Nevada showed its spirit and made the dream of the first new science building on campus since the 1970s a reality.

Bob also noted that the issues that face our nation and state often require top-rate scientific knowledge to solve. “70 to 80 percent of our population is completely out in left field about the science that underlies our problems,” he noted, adding that the new center will be used to train the problem-solving scientists and leaders of the future.

With regard to the University itself, Bob said, “You can’t have a first-rate university without a strong foundation in math and science. This has been true for 500 or 600 years.”

Jan Davidson said that completing the building was “wonderful,” and added, “We will do good things with this school and this facility.”

Jan and Bob Davidson received honorary

doctorates from the University at the May Commencement ceremonies, to honor them for the many contributions they have made to Nevada and the nation. In addition to providing funds for the Davidson Center, they have been national leaders in the education of profoundly gifted children and have been at the forefront of nationwide efforts toward creating a knowledge-based economy. On the Reno campus, they founded The Davidson Academy of Nevada—a free public school for profoundly gifted middle

*“Every generation wants their children to have a better life than they had. This building is a part of making that happen,”*

*University President Milton Glick*

and high school students located in the Jot Travis Building. At that ceremony, Glick said, “It is clear that Jan and Bob are two individuals who have had a profound impact on our campus, the state of Nevada, and our country.”

With some 70 percent of students henceforth slated to attend classes in the new facility on the southeast side of campus, the Davidson Center looks to have a long-term impact on all who teach or study there. But it’s merely a vessel, Glick noted, albeit a vessel built with a forward-thinking design that incorporates open spaces to promote student-to-student and student-to-

teacher interaction, as well as state-of-the-art technology throughout.

The Davidson Center’s major features include the new 464-seat Nell J. Redfield Foundation Auditorium, the largest teaching-centered auditorium on campus, as well as the E.L. Cord Foundation wing with four, 80-seat, high-tech classrooms and a computer lab featuring leading-edge digital technology. The University of Nevada, Reno Foundation provided funds for the west wing, which will be the new home for the College of Science Dean’s Office, as well as the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The center includes a host of new laboratories: 11 for physics and bioscience, including one astronomy lab and a dedicated biology lab; four organic chemistry labs and eight general chemistry labs. All the new labs include top-of-the-line equipment and instrumentation that promise to upgrade the learning experience for students, as well as give faculty the ability to teach in novel ways. As one example, Mario Alpuche, assistant professor in chemistry, noted that one of the labs will be dedicated to analytical chemistry and will have equipment for mass spectrometry, gas and liquid chromatography, as well as electrochemistry instrumentation.

“Analytical separations are going to be a big emphasis in the new lab—the principle is that you take a complex mixture, you separate it into individual parts and then analyze the parts separately,” Alpuche said. “This type of equipment is widely used in many labs, such as an environmental lab or a pharmaceutical lab. The equipment will be very much like what students will encounter if they go to work in a lab that uses that technology.”

Jeff Thompson, dean of the College of Science, noted that the students he’s led through tours of the building “were in awe” at the prospect of taking classes in the new labs.

*College of Science professors David Zeh, biology; Peggy Lakey, mathematics and statistics; Roberto Mancini, physics; Mario Alpuche, chemistry; Richard Tracy, biology; Swatee Naik, mathematics and statistics; Richard Schultz, geological sciences and engineering; Mary Peacock, biology; look forward to teaching classes in the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center’s modern labs and classrooms, as well as its state-of-the-art, 464-seat Nell J. Redfield Foundation Auditorium.*



*The 105,000-square-foot Davidson Mathematics and Science Center incorporates sustainable materials throughout: brick, coil anodized aluminum panels, zinc panels and polished concrete floors. Some 70 percent of the student body will be attending classes in the facility on the southeast side of campus.*

“It’s not just a modern feel; the building has modern equipment.”

In addition, the building itself is “much more open than older buildings,” Thompson said. “It’s designed to make people want to stay. The idea is to give them a home. There are places for people to sit down and talk to each other, work with each other. It’s designed so you easily gravitate toward those places. Currently, students waiting to get into their labs are sitting on the floor in hallways.”

The outside of the center is the same: open spaces, informal seating and gathering spaces, Thompson added. New landscaping shows off the stately columns on the back of

the Paul Laxalt Mineral Research Building that were previously only visible from a back parking lot, and, instead of asphalt, new paved walkways serve as a conduit from Fleischmann Agriculture to Palmer Engineering and the lower Quad in front of Scrugham Engineering and Mines.

The Davidson Center will also serve as the new anchor for science and engineering, Thompson said. In addition to science students and many others who take Core Curriculum courses, all first-year engineering students will take classes in the center, he noted.

Before the Davidson Center was built, the College of Science was housed in various

buildings across campus. This summer, the Dean’s Office will move from Ross Hall and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics will move from the Ansari Business Building into the college’s new headquarters. Mathematics and Statistics will be on the second floor with the dean’s suite on the fourth floor. The suite includes the Robert Z. Hawkins Foundation Dean’s Conference Room, an outdoor patio, a break room and a reception area.

All offices, halls and most classrooms have panoramic views of the Reno skyline or the surrounding “old Reno” neighborhoods, as well as nearby mountain ranges.

Swatee Naik, professor of mathematics and



Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglas / Photo Illustration by Patrick McClelland

# Major Donors to the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center

## **Pt** Platinum

Bob & Jan Davidson  
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statistics, said it's "quite exciting" to be moving to the new building. She also loves that the center's name includes the term "Mathematics." "It will help us have an identity," she said. "We're in what's called the 'business building.' It doesn't sound right." Naik also believes that science and mathematics are a natural pairing. Growing up in India, mathematics was not separated from science, said Naik, who has taught at Nevada since 1994: "We did physics along with math and it was coordinated quite well so that what you were learning in physics was proved in the mathematics class. So the beauty of mathematics came to me through science." The new center will help the reputation of the college and the University, and will lead to attracting more students., Naik said. "Given

the times, it is especially nice that we have something happening here that will benefit the University. I'm really grateful for the gifts that made this possible." Richard Schultz, 2010 Foundation Professor, will be happy to shift from using labs as classrooms. "We're squeezed here in the geological sciences and engineering department for lab space and classroom space," he said while sitting in his office in the Laxalt Mineral Engineering Building. "Having the Davidson Center so close by means we can move our classes out of our laboratories and have classes where they should be: in 'smart' classrooms." He noted that his department has had an "enormous flux" of students into its programs and is at capacity, thus the need to hold classes in laboratory spaces. "We've done



## Davidson Mathematics and Science Center Facts at a Glance:

- Construction began: **April 28, 2008**
- Square footage: **105,000**
- Nell J. Redfield Auditorium: **464 seats**
- **Four, tiered smart classrooms with seating for 80 students**
- Computer classroom: **48 seats**
- **21 science labs, all with exterior windows**
- Sustainable materials used throughout: **brick, coil anodized aluminum panels, zinc panels, polished concrete floors**
- **All offices have exterior windows**
- **Numerous informal gathering spaces, with comfortable seating**
- **Ground-floor café**
- **Outdoor plaza and informal seating areas with southern exposure**
- **Building designed to add walkway to another, future building**
- Contractor: **PENTA Building Group**
- Architect: **H+K Architects**

—Source: H+K Architects

*LEFT: Lauren Baker, William Taylor '10 M.S., Lauren Smith '10 and Jason Man enjoy the new outdoor space in front of the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center. RIGHT: Karen Lupien, Nichole Peterson '10, Christopher Thomas and Dilek Uz listen to Richard Schultz, professor of geological sciences and engineering, in one of the many informal study nooks in the Davidson Center.*

that for years. We're overjoyed that the new facility has been built."

David Zeh, biology professor, says that a typical Biology 190 class, Introduction to Molecular and Cell Biology, or the Core Curriculum course, Biology 191, Introduction to Organismal Biology, have as many as 250 students, which requires that they be held in a large lecture hall such as the auditorium in Edmund J. Cain Hall or the Jot Travis Building lecture hall—both destinations quite a hike from his office in Fleischmann Agriculture.

"It will be really nice to be able to just walk across courtyard and give our lectures in the new building," Zeh said. Walking to the new food service area, located next to the main, ground-floor entrance of the Davidson Center, will also be a boon. "Right now, the nearest food on campus is in the business building or the Jot Travis Building."

But it's the new laboratories that will really make a difference, Zeh noted. "We're really crunched for laboratory space for teaching undergraduate biology classes." With biology courses required to advance within all health sciences fields, let alone biotechnology and biology majors, undergraduates pack the current lab spaces in Fleischmann Agriculture.

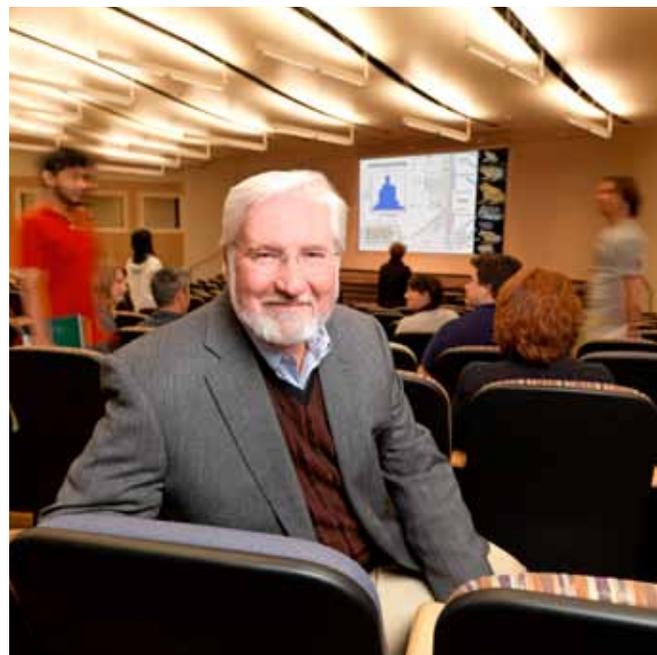
A laboratory course, Biology 192,

supplements both introductory 190 and 191 classes, Zeh explained. But the new building will allow the biology department to transition so that lab classes will be associated with both introductory courses. "We'll double the number of labs and we'll be able to effectively double the number of students."

The new laboratory space is welcome indeed to the physics department, said Professor Ron Phaneuf: "One of the issues we are having now is trying to accommodate all the students that we have in undergraduate labs in this building."

The Leifson Physics Building is more than 30 years old, he said. "We've managed to rearrange some of the furniture and squeeze a few more students in, but we're limited to about 18 students per lab section. And with the numbers of students that we have now, it creates scheduling problems. We're looking forward to the new accommodations."

The physics department will move all lower-division undergraduate labs to the new building. Like the other professors, having a new, large-capacity auditorium is a welcome addition. "The Schulich Lecture Hall [the round building next to Leifson Physics] is uncomfortable. There's always a few empty seats, but students come in late and don't want to crawl over people, so they end up sitting



LEFT: Chemistry assistant professor Mario Alpuche talks to students Lauren Baker, Jason Man and Neluni Perera in one of the new chemistry laboratories, while Ashantha Fernando and Christian Klimczak measure liquids. RIGHT: Biology professor Richard Tracy looks forward to teaching large, lecture classes in the 464-seat, state-of-the-art Nell J. Redfield Foundation Auditorium.

in the aisles. We're looking forward here to moving some of those large lecture classes to the Davidson Center."

The department is also planning, as funding allows, to replicate and/or upgrade the demonstration equipment currently housed in Schulich Hall. "These demonstrations are important, especially in introductory classes," he said, in order for students to conceptualize ideas such as accelerating an electron beam within a magnetic field.

Physics has a large teaching service load because many other disciplines require introductory physics. The department teaches three levels of introductory physics, calculus-based, which is for scientists and engineers; algebra and trigonometry-based, for general physics students, "and what we lovingly call 'Physics for Poets,'" he said. "Physics 100, which requires a minimum of mathematics, is probably one of the more important classes we teach because a lot of future politicians and people who will be making important decisions take this class. I hope we are giving them a little bit of insight," he said, echoing Bob Davidson's sentiments about the importance of understanding scientific principles.

Students and alumni are excited about the possibilities in the new building.

Westfall Scholar Nichole Peterson '10 (geography), saw the Davidson Building for the first time in June: "My first impression of it was that the design of it is so much different than what I expected. Typically, you

*"In here, the atmosphere is very clean, but without the sterility. It's very modern and exciting."*

*Westfall Scholar Nichole Peterson '10*

just see white walls and square rooms—the design seems to be an afterthought. In here, the atmosphere is very clean, but without the sterility. It's very modern and exciting." Peterson will attend the University of Alabama this fall, having won a fellowship.

Jason Man, Class of 2012, a geography major,

noted that the campus' center of gravity will shift once the Davidson Center is in full swing: "We're going to see the weight of the student population shift over to this side of the campus, which will be nice. It's closer to the dorms, so it's less of a walk. The building is a nice addition to the University."

Christopher Thomas, a physics doctoral candidate, likes that the building will consolidate classes and labs: "Instead of having to jump building to building, you can come to one central location for them all."

President Glick noted that the facility "replaces buildings built when the campus was barely computerized," so the innovations in the building are not only welcome, but profound in their impact. "Generations of Nevada students will benefit immensely from this wonderful facility," he said. 

*The Davidson Mathematics and Science Center was designed by H+K Architects, a Reno-based firm specializing in government, military, educational, and state and municipal building projects. PENTA Building Group, a commercial contractor headquartered in Las Vegas, constructed the building.*

# Great faculty make the campus proud

Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas.

**D**ynamic, inspiring, outreaching faculty are of paramount importance to not only student success, but also the success of the community at large. Faculty serve in many roles. In addition to teaching, they conduct vital research that expands the body of knowledge in their fields. They also serve the public by using their expertise to directly solve problems via applied research, as well as by providing expert analyses and assessments in consultation with members of the public, business leaders and community and state leaders.

To honor and acknowledge top faculty, annual awards are given by the University and the Board of Regents, as well as by national organizations. This year's slate of award winners typifies the extraordinary faculty at Nevada.

## Tom Nickles

*Nevada Professor of the Year, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching/Council for Advancement and Support of Education*

Philosophy professor Tom Nickles is one of only 38 professors in the nation to receive the State Professor of the Year honor this year, and he is the seventh professor from the University of Nevada, Reno to receive the honor in just the past 10 years.

"The Carnegie Foundation's State Professor of the Year awards are among the most prestigious teaching awards in higher education," University President Milton Glick says. "We are extremely proud of our most recent recipient, Professor Tom Nickles. Our students have been privileged to have had the opportunity to learn from Professor Nickles for the past 33 years, and I expect that he will continue to set the bar for the quality of instruction here at Nevada for many more years to come."

The Professor of the Year program honors "the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country—those who excel as teachers and influence the lives and careers of their students," according to the Carnegie Foundation.

Nickles also received the Nevada System of

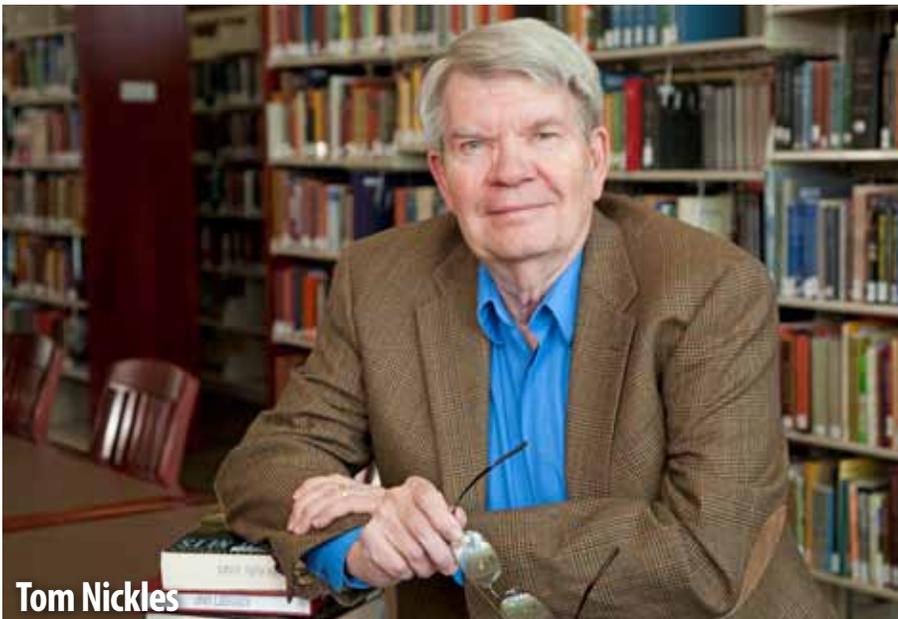
Higher Education's Regents' Teaching Award three years ago. He says he "feels rather modest" about his Professor of the Year award, recognizing the excellence of his colleagues at Nevada, but his students clearly feel the honor is well deserved.

"He's incredible," said Kaleb Wartgow, a senior majoring in biology and philosophy. "He's incredibly knowledgeable and has a unique background. He's internationally known for some of his expertise, so it makes me feel very privileged to get to interact with him."

## Eric Rasmussen

*F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teacher Award*

English professor Eric Rasmussen is an internationally recognized scholar of Shakespeare and the Renaissance, with publications including The Royal Shakespeare Company's *Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (co-edited with Jonathan Bate), 2006 and William Shakespeare and John Fletcher's *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (co-edited with Richard Proudfoot),



Tom Nickles



Eric Rasmussen

## Foundation Professors

**Scott Casper** is a professor and chair of the Department of History. Throughout his career he has won several awards, including the Nevada Board of Regents' Teaching Award (2005), the Carnegie/CASE Professor of the Year Award (2008), and the Dr. Donald Mousel and Dr. William Feltner Award for Excellence in Research and/or Creative Activity (2009). He is also an award-winning author.

**Yvonne Stedham** is a professor of management. Her research explores cross-cultural differences in business ethics and management practices and is focused on understanding issues of fairness and equity in the workplace. She is actively engaged with the Society of Human Resource Management; co-founded WeAct, an area nonprofit organization that provides mentoring, development and networking for women in business; and she teaches managerial skills to presiding judges through the National Judicial College. In 2004 she received the University's Adviser of the Year Award, and has been a College of Business senior scholar faculty mentor four times.

**Richard Schultz** is a professor of geological engineering and geomechanics. He specializes in geological engineering, structural geology and planetary science. He works closely with graduate students to develop strong and supportive research teams that have produced scientific contributions, as well as alumni who today hold positions in academia, industry, government and private industry around the globe.



**Scott Casper, Yvonne Stedham and Richard Schultz**

### Carol Parkhurst

*Distinguished Faculty*

In her 30 years at the University, Carol Parkhurst, emerita librarian and senior director of University Libraries, made a significant difference in the development of the University as a whole, not just the libraries. She played a key role in the development of the University's technology infrastructure, as well as in the planning and design of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, an award-winning facility that is one of the most technologically advanced libraries in the country. She is a national leader within her profession, where she has chaired and participated in major initiatives of the American Library Association.

### William Sparkman

*Distinguished Service*

Since 1998, William Sparkman has served as the dean of the College of Education. During his tenure, the College of Education has earned notable national recognition in several different areas, including literacy studies, where our faculty continue to be among the nation's leaders. Sparkman's work in meeting the needs of our state's underserved learners has been groundbreaking. In 2000, he created the Dean's Future Scholars program, a pioneering K-12 outreach program that provides students from first-generation, low-income families with a formal support system in their desire to become teachers.



**Carol Parkhurst**



**William Sparkman**



**David Ake**



**David Fenimore**



**Jamie Anderson**



**Hugh Shapiro**

2005. Rasmussen's teaching honors include Senior Scholar faculty mentor recognition in 2004 as well as the 2004 Alan Bible Teaching Excellence Award and the 1999 Dr. Donald Mousel and Dr. William Feltner Award for Excellence in Research and/or Creative Activity. Since 1973, the Tibbitts Award has been bestowed upon the campus' top teacher.

## David Ake

*Regents' Teaching Award*

Associate professor of music David Ake authored the highly regarded book *Jazz Cultures* for the University of California Press, and his articles have appeared in such publications as *Jazz Perspectives*, *American Music*, the *Journal of Musicological Research*, and the *Cambridge Companion to Jazz*. Among his honors are the Society for American Music's Wiley Housewright Dissertation Award, the University's Mousel-Feltner Award for Outstanding Research, as well as the 2009 F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teacher Award.

As pianist and composer, Ake's recordings include "In Between," his first solo CD, and "Once and Again," the latest release from The Collective. He has played with such outstanding musicians as Ravi Coltrane, Charlie

Haden, James Newton and Bud Shank. He has several conference papers and invited lectures to his credit.

Ake is known throughout the University community as an excellent teacher with an astounding depth of knowledge. His lectures are described as engaging and electrifying, and his peers note that his students often comment on the many ways he has changed their lives through his mentorship and teaching.

## Jamie Anderson

*Regents' Academic Advisor Award (graduate) and University Graduate Advisor Award*

Jamie Anderson, director of the Division of Interdisciplinary Medical Education in the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine, has been advising and serving the students of the School of Medicine for the past 21 years. She received Nevada Business Journal's Health Care Heroes Educator award in 2007. Her role at the School of Medicine allows her to work in two areas that she loves—student clinical rotations in rural areas of the state and patient care courses that incorporate community physicians to help teach students. In addition, Anderson oversees seven courses in

the School of Medicine curriculum requiring her to work extensively with medical students, advising and guiding them through their science and clinical courses.

## David Fenimore

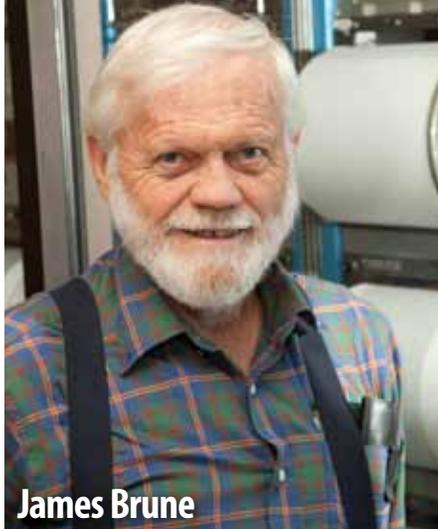
*University Undergraduate Advisor Award*

David Fenimore, director of undergraduate studies in the English department, has instructed countless courses at the University since joining the faculty in 1989. He has worked with undergraduate English majors and minors, providing course, program and career advice. For the benefit of University students, he has developed several innovative techniques to provide up-to-date advising and career information. These include an e-newsletter, an advisement blog, and a brochure entitled "What Can I Do With An English Major?"

## Hugh Shapiro

*Outstanding Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor*

In building Asian Studies at Nevada largely from scratch over the past 15 years, associate professor of history Hugh Shapiro has mentored dozens of research students in myriad



**James Brune**



**Manoranjan Misra**



**Jonathan "Josh" Baker**



**MaryAnn Demchak**

ways, and in the process has helped launch their careers in academics, public service, and other fields. Shapiro's philosophy as a mentor seems simple but requires immense work: awaken students to their own potential, then give them the tools and support necessary to achieve that potential.

## **Manoranjan Misra**

*Regents' Researcher Award*

Professor of chemical and metallurgical engineering Manoranjan Misra's research has been recognized nationally and internationally, and has brought distinction to Nevada and the University. His recent research in renewable energy, more specifically in using coffee grounds and chicken feathers to produce biodiesel fuel, has garnered the attention of national media such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *Science Daily*. Misra's work in the removal of arsenic from drinking water has earned him national recognition, as well as three patents.

## **Jonathan "Josh" Baker**

*Regents' Rising Researcher Award*

As an assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology,

Jonathan Baker's research has focused on bridging the gap between his graduate and postdoctoral work, studying how the physical chemistry of single molecules scales up to explain the physical chemistry of muscle. He team-teaches medical biochemistry, is a guest lecturer for other courses in the School of Medicine, and serves on the Medical School Admissions Committee.

## **James Brune**

*Outstanding Researcher of the Year*

Professor James Brune served as the director of the Nevada Seismological Laboratory at the University and has obtained more than \$22 million in research grants. His prestige as one of the top seismologists in the world brings recognition to the University's seismology programs. Brune was awarded the Medal of the Seismological Society of America in 1997, a top honor in his field. He has more than 200 publications to his credit, perhaps best known for his studies of the earthquake source. His 1970 paper on stress drop in earthquakes is one of the most influential papers of all time in seismology.

## **MaryAnn Demchak**

*Distinguished Outreach Faculty*

Professor of special education educational specialties MaryAnn Demchak has provided expert consultation to school districts throughout Nevada regarding students with moderate to profound cognitive impairments and with behavioral issues. Through her work in directing the Nevada Dual Sensory Impairment Project, she provides consultation in home and educational settings to assist families and service providers of children who have impairments in both vision and hearing. In addition, she has served on multiple state committees and task force groups related to special education. Examples include serving on the Nevada Special Education Advisory Committee, the Nevada Alternative Assessment Advisory Committee, co-chair of the continuous improvement monitoring program (Project IMPROVE), and various task force groups to revise the Nevada Administrative Code. In addition, she has maintained a rigorous agenda in research and publication.

— *Melanie Robbins '06M.A., John Trent '85/'87, '00M.A. and Claudene Wharton '86, '99M.A. contributed to this story.*



Sherif Elfass, Chad Lyttle, Darcey Donovan, Ian Buckle and Patrick LaPlace



Jane Detweiler



Betty Dodson



Diane Barone



Sarah Cummings



Rachel Dolbier



Eric Marchand

## Faculty Awards and Accomplishments

*In addition the faculty featured on the preceding pages, excellent faculty across campus have distinguished themselves recently with notable accomplishments.*

**Palwasha Ahad**, psychology: College of Liberal Arts Dean's Special Award for Professional Excellence in Service.

**Dr. Miriam Bar-on**, graduate medical education: elected to the membership of the American Pediatric Society.

**Diane Barone**, educational specialties: Albert Kingston award from the National Reading Conference; John Manning Public School Service Award from the International Reading Association.

**Phillip Boardman**, English: Faculty Senate's Award for Outstanding Committee Service.

**Ian Buckle, Sherif Elfass, Patrick LaPlace and Chad Lyttle**, civil and environmental engineering: 2009 NEES Outstanding Service Award University of Nevada, Reno Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation Team. Darcey Donovan '06M.S., principal investigator for the straw-bale house project, nominated the team.

**Sudeep Chandra**, natural resources and environmental sciences: American Fisheries Society California-Nevada Chapter Award of Excellence.

**Dr. Diane Chau**, internal medicine, Reno: Hartford Leadership Scholar 2007-09, Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs; and the Health Resources and Services Geriatric Academic Career Award 2010.

**Sarah Cummings**, chemistry: College of Science LeMay Award for Excellence in Teaching.

**Jane Detweiler**, English: College of Liberal Arts Dean's Award for Service.

**Rosemary Dixon**, women's studies: College of Liberal Arts Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Member of the Continuing Faculty.

**Betty Dodson**, gerontology academic program: Fellow for the

Association for Gerontology in Higher Education.

**Rachel Dolbier**, Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering: Mackay Award for Excellence.

**Dr. John Fildes**, surgery, Las Vegas: named trauma medical director of the American College of Surgeons Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care.

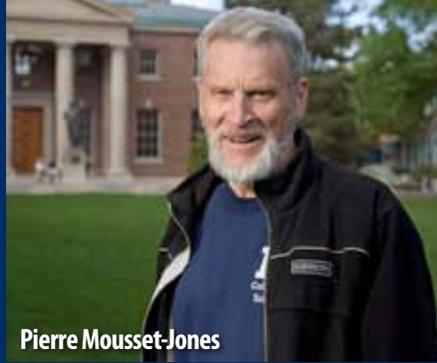
**Dr. Murray Flaster**, internal medicine, Las Vegas: 2009 Neurologist of the Year, Nevada branch of the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association.

**Alan Fruzzetti**, psychology: Mikawa Award, Nevada State Psychological Association.

**Darren Griswold**, foreign languages and literatures: College of Liberal Arts Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching and Service by a Member of the Continuing Faculty.



Judy Hammock / Alina Solovyova-Vincent



Pierre Mousset-Jones



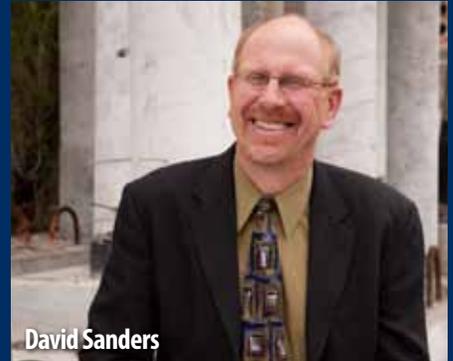
Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio



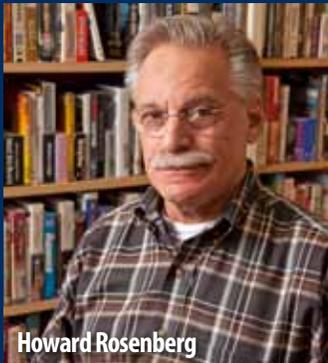
Andrea Lenz



Jonathan Price



David Sanders



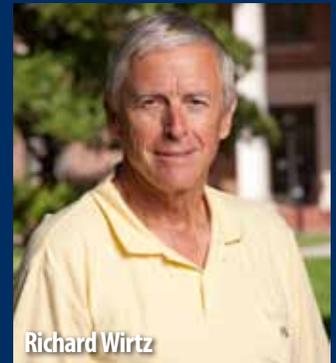
Howard Rosenberg



Alla Safronova



Erin Stiles



Richard Wirtz

**Mary Groves**, managerial sciences: Business Student Council's Most Outstanding Professor 2009-2010.

**Judy Hammock**, instructor, independent learning: BlackBoard Exemplary Course for her social work course "Disability: Social and Health Issues," in collaboration with **Alina Solovyova-Vincent**, instructional designer, Teaching and Learning Technologies.

**Dr. Daniel Kirgan**, surgery: elected to the board of governors of the American College of Surgeons as governor-at-large representing the college's fellows in Nevada.

**Andrea Lenz**, music and dance: College of Liberal Arts Dean's Award for Outstanding Research and Artistry.

**Chunlin Liu**, managerial sciences, and **Alexander McLeod**, accounting and information systems: College of Business 2009-2010 Beta Gamma Sigma Researchers of the Year.

**Kenneth Maehara**, pathology: Division of Health Sciences Teaching Award 2009.

**Eric Marchand**, civil and environmental engineering: Distinguished Service Award, Association of Environmental Engineering

and Science Professors, for exceptional service from 2006-2009.

**Bruce Moran**, history: Dibner Distinguished Fellow in the History of Science and Technology at the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif. for 2010-2011.

**Pierre Mousset-Jones**, mining engineering: Honorary Life Fellow for the Mine Ventilation Society of South Africa.

**Elliott Parker**, economics: College of Business 2009 B.J. Fuller Teaching Excellence Award.

**Daniel Enrique Pérez**, foreign languages and literatures, and **Jonathan Weinstein**, physics: Dr. Donald Mousel and Dr. William Feltner Annual Award for Excellence in Research and/or Creative Activity.

**Jonathan Price**, Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology: Medal in honor of Ian Campbell for Superlative Service to the Geosciences.

**Dale Rogers**, managerial sciences: appointment at a Brazilian research institute as Leader of Sustainability Research and Practice.

**Howard Rosenberg**, art: Wells Fargo/KRNV Jefferson Award.

**Alla Safronova**, physics: College of Science Hyung K. Shin Award for Excellence in Research.

**David Sanders**, civil and environmental engineering: American Society of Civil Engineers Fellow.

**Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio**, music and dance: Alan Bible Teaching Excellence Award

**Erin Stiles**, anthropology: Eleanor Roosevelt Global Citizenship Award.

**Judith Sugar**, School of Community Health Sciences: Connecting our Community Award, Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition, for her course, "Aging: An Interdisciplinary Approach." Certificate of Commendation from Senator Harry Reid.

**Jim Taranik**, geological sciences: Service to Mackay Award.

**Scott Tyler**, geological sciences: Mackay Researcher of the Year and was appointed to National Academy of Sciences panel on water research and hydrology funding.

**Richard Wirtz**, mechanical engineering: American Society of Mechanical Engineers Lifetime Member Award.



## Davidson Mathematics and Science Center Grand Opening

The Davidson Mathematics and Science Center opening ceremony took place on June 3 with approximately 165 friends of the University in attendance. Speakers included lead donors Bob and Jan Davidson, State Senator William Raggio '48 (political science), Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Chair James Dean Leavitt, University President Milton Glick, and College of Science Dean Jeff Thompson. Tours of the new building along with lab demonstrations were also featured.

- (1) Bob Davidson addresses the VIP audience at the Davidson Center's grand opening.
- (2) Jan and Bob Davidson display the gift University President Milton Glick gave them.
- (3) David and Shirley Westfall pose with Jeff and Michele Thompson.
- (4) John Carothers, Russell and Peggy Boynton, and Tod Colgrove.





## 2010 Mackay Mines Banquet

More than 225 Mackay students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends attended the 2010 John W. Mackay Banquet held April 30 in the Joe Crowley Student Union ballroom. The banquet was sponsored by Newmont Mining Corporation. Barrick Gold Corporation provided additional funding so that all students could attend for free. This year's banquet featured a raffle organized by the Department of Geography with proceeds benefiting the Geography Student Travel Fund.

- (1) Katie Ryan, Serena Waters, Patricia Capistant, Dana Pray, Molly Hunsacker, Eve Marie Hirt and Brooke Mills.
- (2) Tommy Thompson, Gene McClelland and John Livemore.
- (3) Jackie Reeves, John Reeves and Dean Jeff Thompson.

## Pathways to Aviation

The Reno Air Racing Foundation, University of Nevada, Reno and Raggio Research Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education partnered together to develop the Pathways to Aviation Program in a continuing effort to educate Northern Nevada's youth about the world of aviation. The second "Pathways to Aviation" seminar was held on April 14 in the Joe Crowley Student Union Theater at the University.

- (4) Pathways to Aviation speaker Jack Schofield.
- (5) Doug Ritter, Mark Maley, Andy Solum and Charlie Gillespie.



**LOOK ONLINE**

For more photos of all of our Gatherings visit: [www.unr.edu/silverandblue](http://www.unr.edu/silverandblue)

Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas / Tyler Keck

# David Westfall

David Westfall, emeritus dean of the College of Science

During my nearly 30 years at the University of Nevada, Reno, I held three jobs: I came to Nevada in 1982 to serve as the first permanent chair of the Department of Pharmacology in the School of Medicine, a position I held for 15 years. The opportunity allowed me to develop and direct the program. My second job was as President Joe Crowley's vice president of academic affairs, a post I held for five years. Following that I returned to pharmacology until President John Lilley asked me to take on my third job as the first dean of the College of Science, which also included the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering.

What I have learned at Nevada is that its major strength has always been its dedication to undergraduate education. The University also needed to focus on developing scholarly research, which it has done, and it took many people to accomplish that. Nevada always had pockets of excellence, but it now has spread that excellence across campus. I believe the leadership of President Crowley and his administration played a key factor in this, especially in the careful hiring of first-rate scholars. I remember as a vice president and dean that we almost always attracted our first choice when conducting faculty searches. That requires teamwork.

Although I was not involved in forming the College of Science, I knew many players through my role as vice president of academic affairs. President Lilley thought I could help with the structural changes. The science faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences wanted their own college and dean to help advance their mission. Administration did not want to add a new college so it decided to combine the College of Science with the Mackay School, which was one of Nevada's marquee programs and had very loyal alumni, but also suffered from low enrollment. The Mackay alumni really came

forward to make the joining of earth sciences and natural sciences work. They became very supportive of the College of Science. There was some uneasiness about the change, but the more we worked together, the more the fears were allayed. Today, the College of Science and Mackay prosper.

What I learned as the college's first dean is that one must communicate a lot, and especially listen to faculty. We looked at several ideas, fielded the best, and kept working with people. We treated all suggestions with respect. I also learned that I needed good associates to assist me in administering the college.

As for the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, the vision for a new building started in the 1990s while I was vice president of academic affairs. We badly needed a new building since the last science building was built in 1972. We needed help from the legislature to fund the building, which meant getting the regents and Chancellor Jim Rogers on board. I became involved with the planning process. Eventually the state legislature was amenable and we worked with the Public Works Board to get money allocated. We also needed philanthropic support and the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation was highly involved. President Lilley should be credited because of his friendship and contacts with Bob and Jan Davidson. Ultimately, the Davidsons promised the largest gift in the University's history, which made the building a reality.

Other groups came forward. We had support from the Mackay Advisory Board as they talked with their peers about the importance of the building. The Nell J. Redfield Foundation helped fund a large auditorium which was not part of the original plan. John Carothers, vice president of development and alumni relations, and his office were integral in getting that fund-

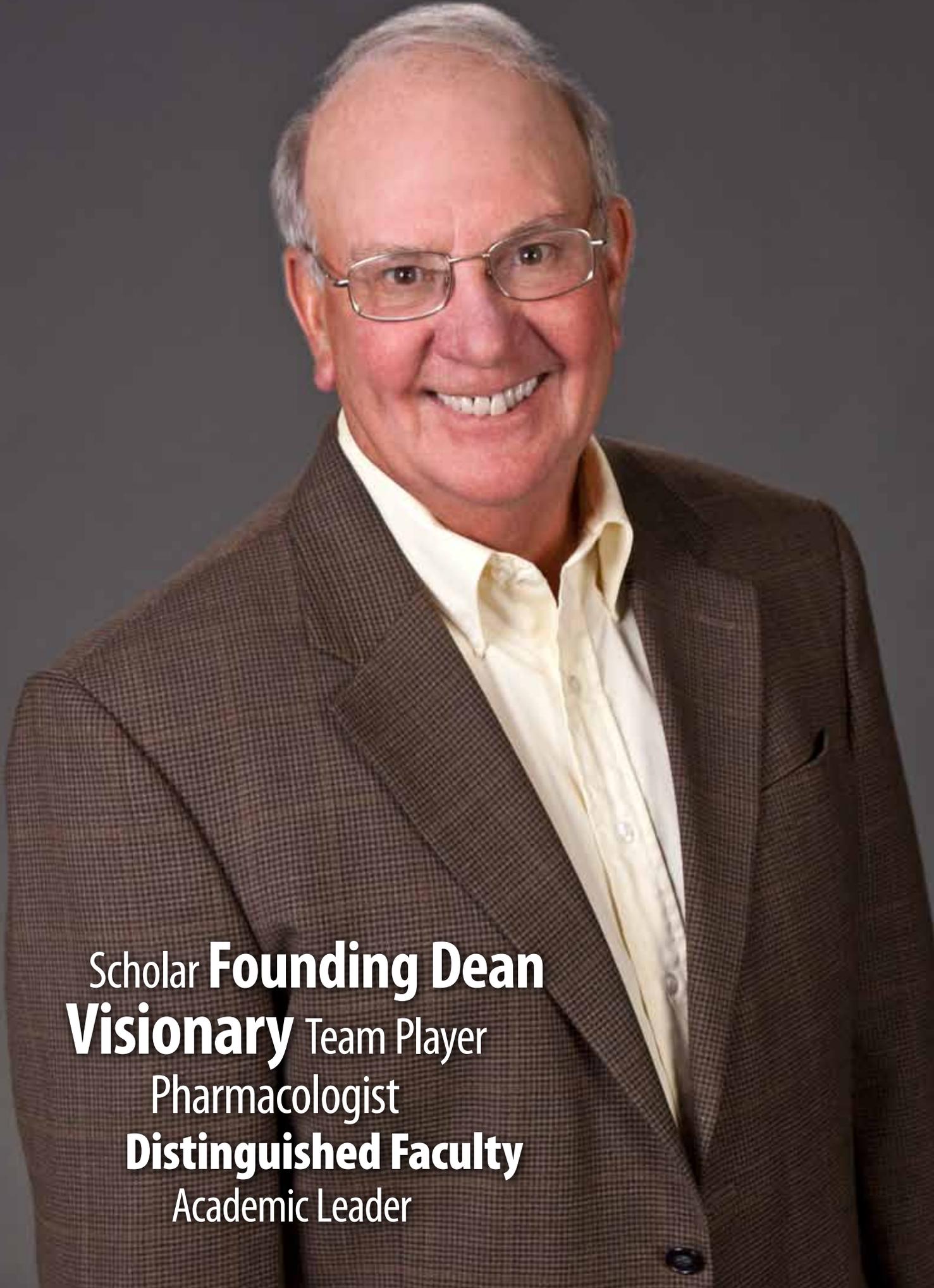
ing. What I learned about this entire process is that it takes teamwork.

Ultimately, what I've learned over the past 30 years is that Nevada has educated some amazing, talented people who have gone on to do great things. Nevada has maintained its focus on undergraduate education, but we have also become a powerful University in scholarly research. We are very competitive. We continue to attract students from Northern Nevada and California, but we are also recruiting outstanding National Merit Scholars from across the country because of our competitive edge.

Many of the faculty employed here hardly ever leave because it is a great place to work and, despite problems from time to time, a nice place to build a career. Throughout my three decades at Nevada I continued to teach and run my lab so my feet were firmly grounded in faculty life. That helped when making administrative decisions involving faculty because I knew what they experienced. Sometimes I had to make painful decisions, but most times, I gained a better perspective.

*From a conversation with Crystal Parrish, director of foundation operations. David Westfall, emeritus dean of the College of Science, retired as the college's first dean in 2007. During his career at Nevada, he was recognized as a Foundation Professor, Outstanding Researcher and Distinguished Faculty. A student award for academic excellence is named in his honor and is awarded each year to graduating seniors with the highest GPA from each College of Science department. Westfall received his undergraduate degree in biology from Brown University and his masters and Ph.D. in pharmacology from West Virginia University.*

**LOOK ONLINE**  
For the full interview, visit: [www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue](http://www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue)



Scholar **Founding Dean**  
**Visionary** Team Player  
Pharmacologist  
**Distinguished Faculty**  
Academic Leader



Photo by Theresa Janna-Douglas

## Keef wins \$1.2 million grant to study the ‘unspoken affliction’

*Fecal incontinence affects 15 percent of adults over 50 and costs \$26 billion annually*

*Kathleen Keef, professor of physiology and cell biology, is good-natured about discussing her research on the internal anal sphincter muscle.*

The jokes are inevitable considering her area of research, but Kathleen Keef, professor of physiology and cell biology at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, has developed a thick skin and takes it in stride.

Anne McMillin, APR, is the public relations manager for the School of Medicine.

“My immediate

colleagues have been known to tease me on occasion, but I recognize it is all in good fun,” she says. “The more difficult situation arises when I interact with those outside the scientific community.”

Keef’s research focuses on the internal anal sphincter muscle and the causes of fecal incontinence.

“The degree of social stigma and crude

jokes that surround defecation and the anus is most unfortunate and is a major reason why so many who are afflicted do not seek medical help,” she says, adding that studies published on this topic suggest that more than half of those afflicted do not seek medical attention.

Fecal incontinence is the inability to control one’s bowel movements, causing unexpected leaks. It may result from a

weakening of the internal or external anal sphincter muscles or from injury to the nerves that control these muscles.

Approximately five percent of the general community and 15 percent of adults over the age of 50 suffer from fecal incontinence. This disorder greatly reduces the quality of life for millions of Americans and can lead to depression, anxiety, social isolation, loss of employment and institutionalization. It can affect both children and adults but is more common in women and older adults. Obesity, decreased physical activity, diabetes and neurologic disease such as stroke are also known to increase the risk of fecal incontinence.

The combined financial burden for treating fecal and urinary incontinence in the United States exceeds \$26 billion per year. However, even in 2010, fecal incontinence remains the “unspoken affliction” rarely discussed by patients and under-reported to physicians. In spite of both financial and quality of life issues, the scientific community’s understanding of the causes underlying this disorder, and the ability to prevent or treat it, remain poor.

When Keef joined the School of Medicine’s Department of Physiology and Cell Biology in 1987, her interest was in cardiovascular research. Since the focus on the internationally known department was on the gastrointestinal tract, she gradually shifted her area of research to the GI tract. She became interested in the IAS (internal anal sphincter), a specialized ring of muscle located at the end of the gastrointestinal tract that plays a central role in maintaining fecal continence.

In spite of its clear clinical relevance, the IAS is the least studied muscle in the GI tract, representing approximately 0.3 percent of the scientific literature devoted to that physiological system.

The social stigma attached to the IAS and the lack of research being done were two of the reasons Keef decided to pursue research on the muscle, in addition to her background as a cardiovascular physiologist.

“Surprisingly, I found that the IAS shares

more features in common with the muscle of blood vessels than any other part of the GI tract. Thus, I have been able to apply insights from my work on blood vessels to my current work on the IAS,” she says.

Keef was recently awarded a four-year, \$1.2 million grant from the National Institute of Health to study the control of motility, or contraction, in the IAS. This is her second

*“The degree of social stigma and crude jokes that surround defecation and the anus is most unfortunate and is a major reason why so many who are afflicted do not seek medical help.”*

*Kathleen Keef, professor of physiology*

major NIH Research Project Grant (RO1) grant in the last 10 years for research with significant implications for fecal incontinence.

Most muscles of the GI tract behave somewhat like the heart in that they contract rhythmically. This is essential for the mixing, digestion and absorption that occurs through much of the GI tract.

In contrast, the IAS muscle remains contracted most of the time, relaxing only during those brief periods of time when defecation occurs. This unique property of the IAS is associated with its anatomical and

functional properties. Specifically, the muscle is organized into countless “minibundles” that each contain a set of nerves and pacemaker cells. Keef’s research has found that loss of pacemaker cells may be an important factor contributing to the development of fecal incontinence.

“By gaining a better understanding of how these unique cells maintain continence we will be in a better position to diagnose disease and devise new therapies to improve continence when it becomes compromised,” Keef says.

Her newly funded grant seeks to further explore this issue by focusing on several unique properties of the IAS including differences in the structural design of this muscle, differences in the types of cells that participate in the control of muscle contraction and differences in the mechanisms by which nerves regulate contraction of this muscle. Such information is critical for an improved understanding of the unique functional role of this muscle and for devising new strategies to help prevent, diagnose and treat problems associated with IAS dysfunction.

“Once you distance yourself from the social stigma, it turns out that the process by which this muscle manages to stay closed most of the time and open when required is unique and fascinating,” Keef said.

While at the University, Keef has obtained five major RO1 grants as well as other grants from the American Heart Association. For the past 20 years she has also served as director of the cell and tissue core of a program project grant on regulatory mechanisms in intestinal motility.

During her career, Keef has supervised 26 undergraduate students, seven medical students and has supervised the thesis projects of four graduate students. Since 1992, she has served as course coordinator of systems physiology, a course taught to first-year medical students. 



Photos courtesy of Cooperative Extension

## Cooperative Extension experts win \$1.1 million grant to help kids stay fit

Most university researchers know a thing or two about interdisciplinary programs. But how many would find a way to combine their music skills—in the form of searing guitar riffs—with their understanding of exercise physiology? That’s taking the idea of “interdisciplinary” to a whole new level.

But that’s just what University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Exercise Physiologist Anne Lindsay was able to do when she teamed up with two other Cooperative Extension faculty to develop their groundbreaking All 4 Kids: Healthy, Happy, Active, Fit program.

All 4 Kids tackles the growing problem of obesity in children from low-income families in Nevada by combining dance, games, books and food tasting to teach children about health and the importance of movement and a good diet.

It is the first program of its kind to tailor its message to preschoolers, who are forming

eating and exercise habits that will last a lifetime. The program recently received a \$1.1 million National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant to study the behavioral factors that affect childhood obesity.

Lindsay developed the program with Cooperative Extension Southern Area faculty Madeleine Sigman-Grant, a specialist in maternal-child health and nutrition, and Teresa Byington, an early care and education specialist. The three have brought their diverse skills together to design a curriculum that is rapidly spreading across the country.

“(The program) has just kind of evolved,” Sigman-Grant says. “Each of us knew we couldn’t tackle the program with just nutrition education or just exercise education. We needed both and we needed to be able to deliver it to a preschool audience. So everyone’s expertise was essential to making the program work.”

The music videos produced for the program—one of which features Lindsay, a professional musician, on lead guitar—have been sold to Cooperative Extension educators in 10 states, and links to the program’s popular YouTube videos have been forwarded to First Lady Michelle Obama, who has made childhood obesity one of her top priorities. The \$1.1 million NIFA grant, in addition to funding research on why some families adopt healthy eating and exercise habits while other don’t, will also help expand All 4 Kids to other states.

“The program is a great example of how three different faculty members can bring together their expertise in different areas to design a program that can have tremendous impacts,” says Cooperative Extension Dean and Director Karen Hinton. “What Anne, Madeleine and Teresa are accomplishing with All 4 Kids is truly amazing.”

LEFT: Cooperative Extension Exercise Physiologist Anne Lindsay plays guitar during the taping of one of the dance DVDs produced as part of the All 4 Kids curriculum. RIGHT: One of the lessons in the All 4 Kids curriculum involves helping children learn to accept others, including children with different body types. Karla Cota holds a doll. FAR RIGHT: A big part of the curriculum is tasting new and different foods so children learn to ask for tasty fruits and vegetables instead of less-healthy food. Tasiya Travis savors a healthy snack.



## How does the program work?

A 2007 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found that Nevadans' consumption of fruit and vegetables was declining and that the prevalence of overweight children from 2 to 5 years old had increased from 11.6 percent in 1997 to nearly 15 percent in 2006. A survey by Byington of all licensed child care workers in southern Nevada revealed that nine out of 10 felt the issue of overweight children in America is a problem.

All 4 Kids focuses on lower-income preschoolers, who are twice as likely to be overweight than higher-income preschoolers. Extension educators go into child care centers three times a week for eight weeks to teach 3- to 5-year-olds and their teachers a 30-minute lesson on healthy food and the importance of staying active. Each lesson utilizes dance to introduce children to specific movements. Parents attend family events three times during the course of the program and preschool teachers learn ways to extend the All 4 Kids information into their daily curriculum.

The percentage of All 4 Kids children eating fresh fruit at least three times a week has increased from 83 percent to nearly 92 percent, and children eating fresh vegetables three times a week has jumped from 62 percent to 92 percent.

Along with healthy eating, preschoolers enrolled in All 4 Kids learn healthy living habits too. Head Start Center Director La Tanya Polk Johnson said after her son Terrence participated in the program, she noticed he became much more active, even when

watching television.

"My son gets up and moves at home," she says. "During commercial breaks, he'll get up and move around. The kids learn to stay active and not just sit around."

Byington says preschool is the ideal time for children to learn "good lifetime habits."

"The program encourages children to eat fruits and vegetables every day and to choose healthy snacks," Sigman-Grant adds. "Children learn to eat when they are hungry and to stop when they are full. They learn how physical activity will help keep their hearts, muscles and bones strong."

A family pack is sent home once a week with activities the child can share with the rest of the family, Byington said. One activity is the "TV Moves Me" coloring book, which encourages families to move together during television commercials, and the "Healthy Snack Hunt" game, which teaches children and their parents healthy snacks are affordable and tasty. During family events, which are held at the preschoolers' child care centers, the parents and children try new foods and dance together.

## Program videos are a big hit

The All 4 Kids CD/DVD produced specifically for the program has also been popular with participants. Lindsay enlisted the help of many Las Vegas performers to record different dance music videos, including one with a country-western tempo, another with a Latin beat and one with hip-hop music. Lindsay helped write the video script and compose the songs. All told, more than 100

volunteers worked on the videos.

The dance choreography incorporates movements that help children meet Pre-Kindergarten standards for physical development. "Preschoolers learn to move their whole bodies, building confidence to promote more successful physical activity experiences when entering grade school," Lindsay says. As part of the \$1.1 million grant, a preschool movement assessment developed to measure movement skills will be tested for reliability. Accelerometers are also used to measure changes in children's physical activity levels.

The aim of the program is to tackle obesity before it occurs. Sigman-Grant notes that most eating and activity behaviors are established in childhood, and that inadequate and inappropriate food consumption can retard growth, cognitive development, learning and the immune system.

"All you can do is expose them to new foods," Lindsay says. "We like to say, 'you may not like the taste of it now, but as you get older, you'll get an adult taste and then you'll like it.'"

"There's actually a funny story we like to tell about a little girl who said she didn't like broccoli when she was 4, but she told us, 'now that I'm 5, I like it.'" ■

*Robert Mills '09 (journalism) is a public relations intern at University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. He is enrolled in the Interactive Environmental Journalism master's program. Jim Sloan is the communications specialist for Cooperative Extension.*



*A student works with a mentor and a 4-H leader in an after-school program.*

## Cooperative Extension ‘Tools of the Trade’ curricula trains after-school program teachers and staff

Each day, hundreds of thousands of children in the United States leave school and go into some kind of after-school program. Sometimes the program is led by a teacher, parks and recreation employee or 4-H staffer.

Staff and volunteers at the programs may be committed to youth but may have little or no training. Some staff may view the job as something to do until something better comes along. They may not realize that youth development is an important profession that has a big impact on children.

Jackie Reilly, a University of Nevada Cooperative Extension child and youth development specialist, is trying to change that. “Studies have shown that the training

of the teachers and staff in after-school programs affects the quality of the experience children have,” she says. “But most of the time the staff are high school or college students with small budgets and no training. For most of them, it’s a stop-gap job. They don’t look at it as a profession. But it’s such an important job. What they do impacts kids for the rest of their lives.”

Reilly and colleagues Eric Killian from Cooperative Extension and Sharon Junge and Sue Manglallan from University of California Cooperative Extension, have developed two curricula to provide training to help after-school staff. One teaches core competencies to youth development professionals while

the second provides science-rich learning environments in out-of-school-time settings.

“Tools of the Trade I: Giving Kids a Lifetime Guarantee” (TOT I) brings after-school workers the training they need to develop effective after-school programs. The TOT I curriculum uses a hands-on, interactive approach to teaching after-school workers child development and guidance, better management, communication and other skills that are vital to a successful after-school program.

Tools of the Trade II: Inspiring Youth to be SET\* Ready for Life (\*science, engineering and technology) curriculum provides hands-on learning opportunities for after-school workers to learn skills and knowledge to provide science-rich learning environments and activities.

The Tools of the Trade I curriculum is used across the country, and is mandatory for any after-school program that receives funding from the MetLife grants from National 4-H Council. This year the module will be taught in 13 states and is expected to reach more than 5,500 after-school workers.

The curriculum is also used by many extension professionals, public schools and private organizations across the country. Virginia Tech Cooperative Extension recently contracted with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension to train nearly 70 new TOT teachers who will bring the course to hundreds of after-school workers in that state. Reilly and her colleagues have trained other future TOT instructors at conferences in Baltimore, New Orleans, Penn State, Arizona, Reno and Las Vegas.

By emphasizing to after-school workers that their jobs carry weighty responsibilities, Tools

Photo courtesy of Cooperative Extension

of the Trade may encourage young adults and teens to go into child or youth development as a career. Just as importantly, it also convinces some to find a new line of work. For those who are working in the field, TOT training can provide them with skills and knowledge to provide positive experiences for the youth in their program and to view themselves as youth development professionals with a very important job.

“You learn what it means to be a youth worker, a youth development professional,” Reilly says. “You learn about development levels and how to respond to them in a positive way.”

After-school teachers who take the class are presented with different common scenarios and invited to discuss ways to handle them. This process involves acting out the scenarios and giving after-school workers practice that pays off later when they are confronted with

the real thing. There are other sections on building strong relationships with parents, and practical help on designing strong programs.

“If kids are occupied and creatively engaged, there will be fewer problems to deal with,” Reilly says.

Ultimately, the goal is to help the many young after-school teachers to become skilled and effective.

“Kids love having teens (as teachers),” Reilly says. “It’s a win-win situation as long as the teachers have the training and support they need.”

And the demand isn’t expected to lessen any time soon. Reilly says more children are in after-school programs than ever before, and the number of middle school and high school after-school programs is growing as many students seek to improve their scores on standardized tests.

According to the National 4-H Council, 15 million children are left alone and unsupervised after school. A Nevada study found that 28 percent of the state’s school children are on their own in the afternoons, and another 18 percent are in the care of their brothers or sisters.

In 2009 Reilly and Manglallan from California’s Cooperative Extension and Claudia Mincemoyer from Penn State began work on an online version of Tools of the Trade curricula. The first lesson will be completed this year, with many more expected to follow to make the learning modules available to an even broader audience of youth workers. 

*Jim Sloan is the communications specialist for Cooperative Extension.*

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Photo by Mike Wolterbeek '02

## National Geothermal Institute established at University of Nevada, Reno

### \$1.2 million grant from Department of Energy for first-ever geothermal energy training program

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded the University a \$1.2 million grant to develop and operate the National Geothermal Institute, a consortium of top geothermal schools, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, Stanford University, the Oregon Institute of Technology, the University of Utah and possibly others as the program expands.

The national institute for geothermal science and technology will attract students, professors and industry professionals from around the country to learn everything from the basics to the latest in geothermal energy production with a series of short courses and other curriculum. The institute is envisioned to augment the University of Nevada's Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy by providing relevant research and trained graduates for the geothermal industry.

"The University is a natural location for

this new national institute since so much of the current U.S. geothermal production is centered in Nevada, and since the University is becoming a leader in discovering new technologies for exploration, production and development of geothermal resources," Gina Tempel, associate dean of the College of Science, said.

For the past 20 years, the schools in the consortium have all been at the leading edge of geothermal research and education. Separately, no one institution has had the critical mass to have a geothermal degree program, so this new venture will effectively be the first university training program of its kind in the country, including industry collaboration to ensure specific expertise in geothermal can be developed.

The consortium is designed to transform and grow the national energy infrastructure to utilize America's vast geothermal resource base. It creates a centrally located, convening organization for developing and conducting geothermal instructional programs.

A series of eight, one-week courses with additional field trips and a project is expected. Courses could include:

*Student Dustin Hanson samples spring water for geothermal properties in Columbus Salt Marsh in Esmeralda County. The new National Geothermal Institute will augment the University's field work with new curriculum and programs to help build geothermal infrastructure in Nevada and throughout the United States.*

Introduction to Geothermal Energy Utilization; Geothermal Business Principles; Public Policy, Permitting and Environmental Issues; Exploration; Reservoir Engineering and Management; Power Plant Design and Construction and Direct Use.

The Redfield Campus of the University, with its state-of-the-art classroom facilities, conference centers and laboratories, will serve as the institute's hub.

The National Geothermal Institute will educate and train the next generation of scientists, engineers, plant operators and policy makers. There will be broad participation of faculty, staff and students from the consortium of universities, along with scientists and other professionals from industry and national laboratories.

—Mike Wolterbeek '02



Photo by Jean Dixon

Leslie Anne Serra is the first Dean's Future Scholars participant to graduate from the University.

has come full-circle in several regards. Many of the program's mentors were part of the program prior to their own graduation from high school. Leslie Anne Serra is the first Dean's Future Scholars participant to graduate from the University. After earning her degree in December 2009, she is pursuing a master's degree through the College of Education.

"A lot of us have experienced what they go through, and we are really passionate because of it," Serra said. "We know mentors can have a big impact. If it wasn't for Dean's Future Scholars, I wouldn't be here today."

The Dean's Future Scholars Program is made possible through the generous financial support of Phil and Jennifer Satre, Nevadaworks, USA Funds, AT&T Aspire Program, Nevada's GEAR-UP Program, Washoe County Education Alliance, Robert Thimot and the Nevada Public Education Foundation.

—Jane Tors '82

## Mentors help regional youth succeed

A specialized, intensive mentoring program continues to help young people from low-income families set their sights on college and become the first in their families to earn a degree. The University's Dean's Future Scholars Program is seeing 75 to 80 percent of its participants graduate from Reno-area high schools each year, which is nearly double the overall, county-wide graduation rate.

Most Dean's Future Scholars are identified in sixth grade. As they progress through middle and high school, they attend on-campus programs and activities to gain a familiarity

with the surroundings. The highlight for many is the summer academic opportunities at the University. Through the summer program, about 25 current University students work as mentors and tutors, supporting the nearly 225 Dean's Future Scholars on campus.

"The 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," said College of Education Emeritus Dean William Sparkman, who founded the program in 2000.

Over its history, Dean's Future Scholars

University of Nevada, Reno

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## Nevada students find experience, success in national competitions

University students earned top-10 finishes and several trophies in a round of competitions held this spring around the country, providing students with the chance to build strong teamwork skills and real-world professional experience.

Nevada nearly swept the Governor's Cup awards in April, with teams from the University taking home six of the seven awards presented in the statewide annual collegiate business plan competition presented by Nevada's Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology. The winning business plans ranged from an environmentally friendly recording label to a process that turns recycled paper into ethanol. The first- and second-place winners of the graduate and undergraduate competitions travelled to Las Vegas to compete against students from Arkansas and Oklahoma for awards totaling \$90,000 in the Tri-State Awards May 18.



First-place Governor's Cup graduate student team Glyzen Technologies celebrates with University President Milt Glick.

Photo provided by NCETI

Strong backs and strong engineering propelled Nevada students to a win at April's Mid-Pacific Conference concrete canoe competition in Chico, Calif. After dominating the race portion of the contest with three first-

place finishes and two second-place finishes, the team took first in the final product portion, second in the oral presentation and third in the technical paper portion of the event. The team travelled with their canoe, "Battle Born," to San Luis Obispo, Calif., for the 23rd Annual ASCE National Concrete Canoe Competition June 17-19. The team battled 21 teams in wind and choppy waters to finish second place overall, the highest average overall placement of any team in the history of the National Concrete Canoe Competition following their fifth consecutive year of national competition.

The University's Integrated Marketing

Communications team placed first in their regional competition for the sixth time in 11 years, earning a spot in the national competition held in Orlando, Fla., June 10-12.

The team's task was to create an advertising campaign for State Farm Insurance Company that changes the perception of the company in the eyes of 18- to 25-year-olds. They prepared a 20-minute presentation enhanced by multimedia elements including social networking, videos, flash animation and even iPhone applications.

Nevada's student debate duo of Max Alderman and Matt Hogan earned ninth place out of 186 teams at the National Parliamentary Debate Association's Championship Tournament in March. In addition, Alderman took second and Hogan took fourth in the individual speaking category, competing against 370 other debaters. Hogan was one of three students chosen nationally to represent the United States in the annual "U.S. vs. Irish" debate that kicked off the tournament. Two Nevada pairs—Alderman and Hogan and teammates Elia Pirtle and Travis Salley—were also chosen to compete in the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence, which accepts only the top 64 debate pairs in the country. Alderman and Hogan took seventh in that competition.

Students from all four successful competition teams valued the chance to use their education for projects that reflect their intended careers, and for the opportunity to work as a team to continue Nevada's tradition of excellence in the competitions.

As IMC team adviser and assistant journalism professor Bob Felten said, "We're preparing these students to be the best professionals in the nation."

—Skyler Dillon '10



The Integrated Marketing Competition team celebrates their first-place regional win.

Photo provided by the Integrated Marketing, Communication Team



Nevada's concrete canoe team paddles to victory at the regional competition.

Photo provided by the University Concrete Canoe Team

## Faces on the Quad

**LINA CASTANO**, originally from Colombia, moved to the United States nearly four years ago with her family to escape political persecution. Both an Honors Program and McNair Scholars program participant, Castano has excelled at Nevada, studying biochemistry and molecular biology and earning a bachelor's degree in May. During her time at the University, she worked in several research labs on campus. She completed her McNair research project under John Cushman, biochemistry and molecular biology professor. The study focused on the genetic engineering possibilities offered by the plant *Selaginella lepidophylla*, which could improve or retain agricultural production in the face of global warming. Castano will continue her studies at Penn State University in the fall.



**STUART GREENFIELD**, a 27-year-old business student, graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in economics and business management. Greenfield entered the Marine Corps in 2001 after graduating from Galena High, and served three tours in Iraq before enrolling in the University in 2006. While in the military, he served with distinction and rose to the rank of sergeant. Once back home, he became a founding member and leader of Wolf Pack Veterans, a support group for students who have served in the military. This spring, Greenfield received the University's Outstanding Senior Award, the Henry Albert Senior Public Service Award and the Regents' Scholar Award (undergraduate). He now works as an associate business analyst for Sierra Nevada Corporation in Sparks, Nev.



**NARASIMHARAO KONDAMUDI** is a graduate assistant working toward his doctorate degree in materials science and engineering. His research explores biodiesel fuel production from non-food sources such as feathers and coffee grounds, and he has published a number of articles on his work in leading journals. He received the University of Nevada, Reno's Outstanding Graduate Student Researcher award in 2009 and this spring was named the Nevada Board of Regents Scholar (graduate) and received the Graduate Student Association's 2010 Outstanding International Graduate Student Award. Kondamudi has been involved in award-winning Governor's Cup competition teams since 2008 and is a member of the American Chemical Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.



**PATRICK WOODARD**, University of Nevada School of Medicine student, is one of only 20 medical students nationwide to receive the American Medical Association's Leadership award for 2010. The award provides training to medical students and new doctors in community affairs, and recognizes nonclinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service and education. Woodard recently completed a year as a government relations advocacy fellow with the AMA. He wrote legislation on behalf of medical students and health care policy for U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, as well as lobbied Congress for issues related to science, technology, engineering and math education. He plans to complete a family medicine residency after graduating in 2011.



—Skyler Dillon '10

## Researchers to test renewable-energy system at local treatment plant

A successful University renewable-energy research project is moving from the lab to the real world in a demonstration-scale system to turn wastewater sludge into electricity.

The new patent-pending, low-cost, energy-efficient technology is scheduled to be set up in the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility this summer following the recent signing of an interlocal agreement with the cities of Reno and Sparks, operators of the wastewater plant.

"We're designing, building and assembling a continuous-feed system that will ultimately be used to generate electricity," Chuck Coronella, principal investigator for the research project and an associate professor of chemical engineering, said. "We'll run experiments throughout the summer, creating a usable dried product from the sludge."

The experimental carbon-neutral system will process 20 pounds of sludge per hour, drying it at modest temperatures into solid fuel that will be analyzed for its suitability to be used for fuel through gasification and, in a commercial operation, ultimately conversion to electricity. The refrigerator-size demonstration unit will help researchers determine the optimum conditions for a commercial-sized operation.

"The beauty of this process is that it's designed to be all on-site, saving trucking costs and disposal fees for the sludge," Victor Vasquez, a University faculty member in chemical engineering, said. "It uses waste heat from the process to drive the electrical generation. It also keeps the sludge out of the landfill."

Estimates, which will be further refined through the research, show that a full-scale system could potentially generate 14,000 kilowatt-hours per day to help power the local reclamation facility.

"Economically, this makes sense," Coronella said. "Treatment plants have to get rid of the sludge, and what better way than to process it on-site and use the renewable energy to lower operating costs." Coronella added, "This demonstration gives the University an opportunity to involve students in development of waste-to-energy technology, which ultimately will benefit the community. It's a win-win for everyone involved."

The project is one of many of the University's renewable-energy research areas that have commercial potential to help Nevada's economy grow. The project is supported in part by the University's Technology Transfer Office.



*Chuck Coronella and Victor Vasquez, have developed a patent-pending fluid-bed system to dry wastewater sludge to be used for conversion to energy through a gasification and generation process.*

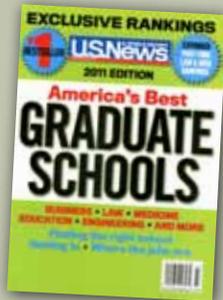
Photo by Mike Wolterbeek '02

—Mike Wolterbeek '02

## U.S. News and World Report ranks University schools and programs among the nation's best

The University achieved its strongest showing ever in the annual rankings of the best graduate programs by U.S. News and World Report. The College of Engineering and School of Medicine are ranked among the best schools. Twelve additional University graduate programs are ranked, with five placing in the top 100 of their field.

"These rankings reflect the quality of faculty and the caliber of their teaching and research, and our peers across the country are taking notice," said Marc Johnson, University provost.



The College of Engineering was ranked 126th in the list of "best engineering schools." Among the public universities listed, the College of Engineering ranked 86th.

The University of Nevada School of Medicine was ranked number 89 in the list of "best medical schools—research." Among the public university medical schools listed, the School of Medicine ranked 54th.

"These graduate programs and our research portfolio serve many of our state's major industries, including geological and earth resource industries, mining, engineering industries, gaming and gaming manufacturing," Johnson said. "They are important to the continued emergence of future-oriented industries, such as renewable energy and health care, which can provide the foundation for a stronger, more sustainable economy."

—Jane Tors '82



Photo by Mike Wolterbeek '02

## Students attend Nevada from Europe via live-Web classroom

Scientists and students in the highly specialized world of plasma physics virtually attended the University from around the world this spring to learn the latest in plasma spectroscopy from Roberto Mancini, professor and chair of the physics department. He used an interactive, real-time, web-based classroom.

Sixteen students attended the graduate-level, high-energy density plasma spectroscopy course in the classroom on campus, while 30 participants attended from such prestigious institutions as Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; the University of Rochester; University of Las Palmas in Spain; Ecole Polytechnique in France; Trinity College in Ireland; Imperial College in England; University of California, San Diego; Colorado State University; University of Texas, Austin; and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Mancini said a group in Japan wanted to take the class, but due to the time difference, they would have needed to be awake at 2 a.m. to participate. The students in Europe took the class at 6 p.m. their time.

Mancini's research interests and accomplishments include atomic and radiation physics of high-energy density plasmas, radiation transport, X-ray spectroscopy of plasmas and multi-objective spectroscopic data analysis. He is well-known in the international physics community for his plasma spectroscopy work.

*Roberto Mancini, professor and chair of the Department of Physics, stands next to the experiment chamber of the 2-terawatt Zebra accelerator—one of the two most powerful University-based, pulse-power generators nationwide—at the University's Nevada Terawatt Facility, where researchers come to conduct high-energy density plasma experiments.*

"This course is a testament to the caliber and expertise of our faculty, known and respected worldwide," Marc Johnson, University provost, said. "It's a prime example of how we attract students from around the world to our state, whether on-site or virtually, and build a base of knowledge that can help our economy grow."

Mancini showed graphs, equations and other content over the Web while explaining how to measure the fundamental properties of plasma or how a spectrometer can distinguish temperatures in the 100,000-plus degree range.

"All the students needed was a browser, and with a microphone and web camera, they could ask questions and participate in class discussions," he said. "The system made it easier to conduct class in a more traditional style over the Internet. It was a very rewarding teaching experience."

The course content was based on experience Mancini gained from 20 years of research and teaching.

"Not many institutions have this kind of class," he said.

—Mike Wolterbeek '02

## The Art of Print

Opening late May and running through August, University Libraries Special Collections in conjunction with Artown presents “The Art of the Print.”

Experience printmaking as a vibrant contemporary art form through two related exhibits: “Prints from the Book Arts Collection” and “Human Mannerisms: Prints and Book Arts” by Eunkang Koh, assistant professor of printmaking at the University since 1986.

“Prints from the Book Arts Collection” portrays examples of different types of prints and printmaking found within the Special Collections Book Arts Collection, some bound into books and other from collec-



One of Eunkang Koh's prints titled “Preserved, intaglio.”

tions of related prints in portfolios, including work by artist Leonard Baskin. The exhibit includes a selection of prints and artists’ books by one of Nevada’s rising stars, along with tools and plates she uses in her work. Koh holds a bachelor’s and master’s from Hong-Ik University in Seoul, Korea and a master of fine arts from California State University, Long Beach.

Her narrative prints center on human/animal combinations of fantastical new creatures, participating in a world where

“they exist without knowing who and how they are.”

Curator of the exhibit and director of Special Collections Donnelly Curtis says “Artown gives the University the opportunity to share art from our book collection with the larger community.” Exhibits will be located in the Whittemore Gallery on the first floor of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and in the Special Collections gallery on the third floor.

—Angela Bakker

## Chris Cheney named dean of College of Education

Chris Cheney has been named dean of the College of Education. Cheney is professor of special education and chair of the department of educational specialties, a role she has filled since the department’s founding in 2003.

Cheney’s commitment to her students and to teaching is exemplified by her award-winning teaching record. In 2002 Cheney was awarded the F. Donald Tibbitts Memorial Distinguished Teacher Award, which is presented annually and is considered the University’s most prestigious teaching award. Cheney was awarded the Regents Undergraduate Advisor Award in 2001 by the Nevada Board of Regents. She is also a past winner of two important College of Education awards, the Outstanding Outreach, National Education Week Award and the Cashell Outstanding Instructor Award.

“Chris has dedicated her career to preparing tomorrow’s teachers, and she is an outstanding teacher herself,” said Marc Johnson, University provost. “She has contributed to the body of knowledge for her field of study through grant-supported projects and numerous publications, and she has an impressive record of University service and leadership within the College of Education.”

Cheney earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s degree in special education from The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. She spent five years working in public school systems, and earned her Ed.D. in special education from Indiana University. She came to the University of Nevada, Reno in 1984 as an



Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglass

Chris Cheney, dean of the College of Education, has won numerous awards for outstanding teaching.

assistant professor of special education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and went on to help create the department she chairs today.

Cheney’s appointment as dean is a two-year appointment. She replaces William Sparkman, who has served as the college’s dean since 1998 and announced his decision to step down and return to the faculty as of July 1, 2010.

—Jane Tors ’82

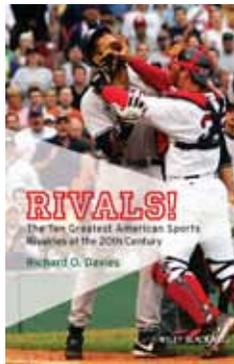


Photo by Jean Dixon

## Richard Davies: *Rivals! The Ten Greatest American Sports Rivalries of the 20th Century*

History Professor Richard Davies spent almost four years researching and writing *Rivals! The Ten Greatest American Sports Rivalries of the 20th Century*, published recently by Wiley-Blackwell.

Davies top-10 rivalries include: Ohio State-Michigan and Harvard-Yale football, Duke-North Carolina men's basketball, Red Sox-Yankees, Bears-Packers, Dodgers-Giants, Celtics-Lakers, Chris Evert-



Martina Navratilova, Joe Frazier-Muhammad Ali, and Jack Nicklaus-Arnold Palmer.

Davies spends a chapter on each one, weaving in personal information on athletes and coaches, providing a glimpse of American culture and history, and illuminating little-known facts and feelings behind each rivalry. He teaches a course, titled "The History of American Sports," and was one of the first to offer sports as a way to bring American history and pop culture to life in the classroom.

"Our sports stadiums are like Europe's cathedrals," he said. "Decades and centuries from now, visitors to the United States will make sure to see Wrigley Field and the Superdome. They will serve as examples of what American life and culture was like."

Besides *Rivals!*, Davies has authored, edited or co-edited about 15 other works on sports history and 20th-century American history. He says the research he does for his books helps keep his teaching up to date after 50 years in the classroom. And, he still gets great fulfillment from his writing.

"At age 72, it's still a thrill. I take great pride in my work," Davies said, "I like to think my legacy will be my books and my students."

— Claudene Wharton '86, '99M.A.

## Geography departments and DRI: *The Mojave Desert: Ecosystem Processes and Sustainability*

*The Mojave Desert: Ecosystem Processes and Sustainability*, a book edited and composed in part by faculty from the Department of Geography and the Desert Research Institute, earned the University of Nevada Press an Honorable Mention in the 2009 American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE).

"It's neat to be recognized," said Jill Heaton, assistant professor of geography and one of the chief editors of the book. "PROSE recognizes state-of-the-art entries, and it's great to be alongside them."

The book is the result of a 2004 conference, the third Mojave Desert Science Symposium hosted by the geography department. The scholars at the symposium, specially selected by department organizers, pooled their presentations along with work from other Mojave Desert experts to create the book. It's a collection of 38 essays detailing threats to the Mojave Desert ecosystem as well as options for its restoration.

"We were getting a lot of good science," said Heaton. "It just made sense to publish it together."

—Skyler Dillon '10

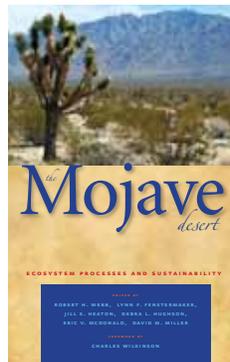


Photo by Jean Dixon

## Greta de Jong: *Invisible Enemy*

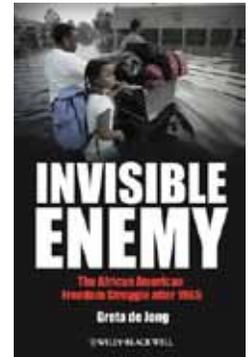
After nearly three years of work, Greta de Jong, associate professor of history, is publishing her second book, *Invisible Enemy*, on racism in the post-civil rights era. *Invisible Enemy* is part of a larger book series by publisher Wiley-Blackwell called "America's Recent Past," which focuses on developments since the 1960s and 1970s.

This book focuses on the systems that disadvantage African-Americans today and on the way African-Americans struggle against those continuing forms of racism. De Jong sees the black freedom struggle as something more than a fight against discrimination.

"When I talk about the freedom struggle, that refers to the idea that black struggles are not just about legalized discrimination or Jim Crow or political rights or civil rights," she said. "They're also about economic justice, and that's the area of the struggle that policy makers have neglected since the 1960s."

De Jong's hope is that people will be able to read and enjoy her work while learning more about racism in America.

—Mary Hunton, Class of 2011



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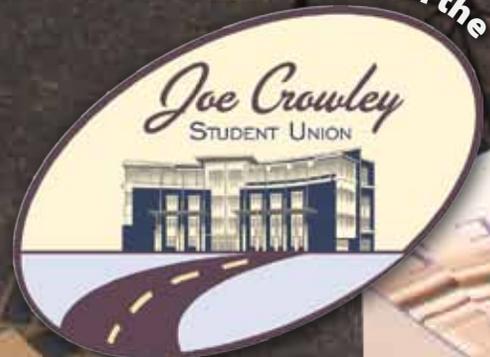
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Photo by Jean Dixon

## Industry supports faculty positions in Mackay School

A talented and dedicated faculty is the University's most precious—and most costly—resource. Recruiting and retaining a faculty of gifted educators is paramount. Recognizing the very important need to invest funds as a way of providing more opportunities for faculty to advance their creativity and research and to inspire and transform students, the mining industry has provided generous funding for faculty positions in the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering.

Goldcorp Inc., Newmont Mining Corporation and Barrick Gold of North America have recently funded the Goldcorp Endowed Chair, the Newmont Endowed Professorship, and the Barrick Gold of North America Visiting Professorship, the latter a term position. The Goldcorp and Newmont professorships are among 24 endowed positions at the University. Endowed professorships provide funding in perpetuity for the position, while term professorships are funded for a specific period of time.

“By funding these professorships, the min-

ing industry has strongly signaled its commitment to its future workforce and environmental sustainability,” said Jeff Thompson, dean of the College of Science.

Named chairs and professorships are the highest honor the University can bestow on a member of its faculty and are a coveted and widely recognized accolade, signaling a professor at the top of his or her field. The support monies for each position enable the holder to further their work with support for their teaching and research activities. The Goldcorp Endowed Chair in Minerals Engineering is held by Carl Nesbitt, the Newmont Endowed Professorship in Minerals Engineering is held by Maurice Fuerstenau, and the Barrick Gold of North America Visiting Professorship is held by Thom Seal. Seal also holds the John N. Butler Endowed Professorship in Extractive Metallurgy, which was established in 1986. The other named position in the Mackay School was established in 1991, the Arthur Brant Endowed Chair in Geophysics, and is held by James Taranik.

Nesbitt and Seal were recently named to

their professorships and the two new faculty members bring extensive and important research experience from both higher education and industry. A Nevada graduate, Nesbitt, '80 (chemical engineering), '85M.S. (metallurgical engineering), '90Ph.D. (metallurgical engineering), has been teaching metallurgical engineering courses for more than 20 years and has conducted research for more than 18 years, resulting in a number of patents. Seal, who earned his bachelor's in environmental chemistry from Oregon State and his master's (mining engineering) and Ph.D. (mining engineering – metallurgy) from the University of Idaho, spent more than 30 years working in the mining industry, retiring in 2008 as Newmont's manager of metallurgy technology. Nesbitt's research focus is in carbon and recovering metals, such as removing mercury from processing streams, while Seal's research is in enhanced metal extraction. The two are working and teaching in tandem—and their enthusiasm is contagious. This spring they employed distance-education technology to reach students across the state and beyond.



Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglas



Photo by Jean Dixon

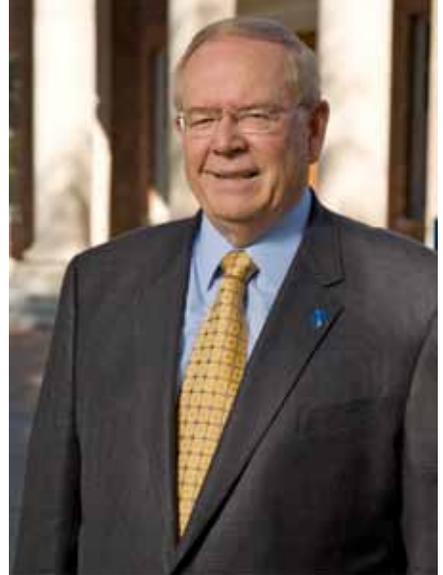


Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglas

*OPPOSITE: Carl Nesbitt, Goldcorp Endowed Chair in Minerals Engineering and associate professor of metallurgical-minerals engineering in the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, teaches undergraduate students in the crushing and grinding lab on campus. LEFT: Maurice Fuerstenau, Newmont Endowed Professorship in Minerals Engineering and professor emeritus of metallurgy. MIDDLE: Thom Seal, Barrick Gold of North America Visiting Professor and John N. Butler Endowed Professor of Extractive Metallurgy, teaches an online mineral processing class to mining engineering students across the country and in Canada in one of the Knowledge Center's "smart" classrooms. RIGHT: James Taranik, Arthur Brant Endowed Chair in Geophysics and Regents' Professor.*

"Eventually, we're hoping to team up online with experts at other universities who could teach their specialties in mineral processing," Seal said. "The online method of teaching allows each one of us to take our specialty worldwide and add it to the knowledge base of the future."

Professor Emeritus of Metallurgy Maurice Fuerstenau, who earned his bachelor's from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and his master's and doctoral degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the only University of Nevada, Reno faculty member to have been elected to the National Academy of Engineering for his contributions to mineral processing, hydrometallurgy and engineering education.

In another measure of support, the mining industry initiated an increase to the mining claim fee in Nevada to support higher education in Nevada. The additional fee, collected

through the Nevada Commission on Minerals Resources Division of Minerals, now supports the University's mining engineering program. "We're grateful for the wonderful and continued support we have from these mining companies, and the industry as a whole," Thompson said. "Their contributions allowed us to expand and develop the mining engineering portion of our academic offering, with more to come for the future. It is successful partnerships such as this between higher education and the mining industry that help build the education base and sustain local and state economies."

—Keiko Weil '87

*To learn more about how you can help support professorships in the Mackay School, contact Development Director Char Hagemann at (775) 682-8791 or [chagemann@unr.edu](mailto:chagemann@unr.edu).*

## Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering Chairs and Professorships:

### Goldcorp Endowed Chair in Minerals Engineering

Dr. Carl C. Nesbitt

*Research focus: Carbon and recovering metals*

### Barrick Gold of North America Visiting Professorship John N. Butler Endowed Professorship in Extractive Metallurgy

Dr. Thom J. Seal

*Research focus: Enhanced metal extraction*

### Newmont Endowed Professorship in Minerals Engineering

Dr. Maurice C. Fuerstenau

*Research focus: Surface chemistry/froth flotation, hydrometallurgical processing, kinetics and environmental remediation*

### Arthur Brant Endowed Chair in Geophysics

Dr. James V. Taranik

*Research focus: applications of aerospace remote sensing and geophysics to the study of the Earth*



LEFT: Colin Kaepernick. RIGHT: Natalie Ratnavira. FAR RIGHT: Kylie Harrington.

Photos by John Byrne

## 'One Community, One Pack' highlights 2010 football campaign

When University of Nevada Athletics adopted the mantra "One Community, One Pack" last year, it became much more than a marketing slogan for the Wolf Pack.

"One Community, One Pack has really resonated with our fans, coaches and staff and student-athletes," Nevada Senior Associate Athletics Director Rory Hickok said. "Regardless of where we all came from, we have chosen Northern Nevada as our home and share the common trait of being part of the Pack."

As part of its commitment to One Community, One Pack, Nevada has embarked on a year-long community relations campaign that began this spring with the Silver and Blue Game on April 3 at Mackay Stadium. Approximately 1,500 Wolf Pack fans were in attendance for the event, which featured a game-type atmosphere, including performances by the cheer and dance teams, the firing of the cannon by the ROTC after each score, music and public address.

After the game, the Wolf Pack held an Easter Egg Hunt on the field for children in attendance, and the Wolf Pack offense and defense clashed in the Battle of the Boneyard with the offense winning the rib-eating contest. Fans also enjoyed autographs and photos with their favorite Wolf Pack players and coaches and food and drinks provided for free by Bully's, Carolina Kitchen BBQ, Carson City BBQ and Men Wielding Fire BBQ.

Nevada coaches, staff, cheerleaders, mascots

and student-athletes are also making public appearances at events throughout the summer to get out into the community and meet Wolf Pack fans. Some of the events include the Reno River Festival, Cinco de Mayo Festival, Spring Vibrations, Fiesta on Wells, as well as forming official community partnerships with the Reno Rodeo and the Reno Tahoe Open.

The Wolf Pack has also embarked on a comprehensive marketing plan in anticipation of the 2010 Wolf Pack football season which promises to feature the most talented team Nevada has ever had. Nevada returns 15 starters in 2010, including all of its skill players. Top returners include 2009 Western Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year Dontay Moch, WAC Freshman of the Year Brandon Wimberly, and All-WAC players Colin Kaepernick, Vai Taua, James-Michael Johnson and Virgil Green.

Nevada will play seven home games in 2010, including featured matchups against California and Boise State at Mackay Stadium, as part of a 13-game schedule. And for the first time in the school's 18-year history as a Football Bowl Subdivision institution, the Wolf Pack will open the season with three consecutive home games.

"We're all looking forward to the opportunities this 2010 schedule presents," said Nevada head coach Chris Ault. "The road games as well as the seven home games will challenge us in many different ways."

The season begins under the lights on

Thursday, Sept. 2, as Nevada will play host to Eastern Washington at Mackay Stadium. On Sept. 11, Colorado State will visit Mackay Stadium, while Nevada concludes its three-game homestand to open the year with a historic game on Friday, Sept. 17 against Cal on ESPN2. This will mark the 25th meeting in history between the teams but it will be the first game ever played in Reno.

Additional home games include the team's WAC opener on Oct. 9 with San Jose State, Utah State (Oct. 30), New Mexico State (Nov. 20) and Boise State (Nov. 26). The Wolf Pack and Broncos will face off on Friday, Nov. 26 under the lights in a game that will be televised on ESPN2.

Season tickets for the 2010 Nevada football schedule are available now by calling (775) 348-PACK. Season tickets start as low as just \$95, and Nevada has kept prices at same levels as recent years, meaning that fans will watch seven games for the price of six in 2010.

## Soccer, volleyball feature lower ticket prices

Nevada's soccer and volleyball teams have announced new, lower season ticket prices for the 2010 season.

Season tickets for the 2010 soccer and volleyball seasons will be \$40 each. Children 12 and under and seniors 65 and older can order season tickets for \$20. Individual game ticket prices remain the same, \$7 for adults and \$4 for children and seniors.

Soccer opens the 2010 season with an exhibition game against Chico State on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at 10 a.m. in Mackay Stadium. The team will play its regular-season home opener on Friday, Sept. 3 against Montana at 2 p.m. Nevada will also hold its Silver and Blue Classic Sept. 3 and 5 and the Wolf Pack Invitational Sept. 16 and 18.

The Wolf Pack soccer team returns all but three letterwinners from last year's team that set a program record for conference wins in a



season (five) and advanced to the final of the WAC Tournament for just the second time in school history.

“Overall, we have a challenging schedule of games this fall. We feel a strong non-conference schedule will prepare us for our matches in the WAC,” first-year Nevada head soccer coach Missy Price said. “There is a good balance of home and away games as well as some new opponents we have not played before. It will be an exciting fall season for Wolf Pack soccer.”

Volleyball will open its season on Aug. 21 with the Silver and Blue Scrimmage at 7 p.m. in the Virginia Street Gym. The team will play its first regular-season home match on Friday, Sept. 3 against Weber State at 6 p.m. in the Nevada Invitational. The Wolf Pack will host its Nevada Invitational Sept. 3-4 and the Wolf Pack Invitational Sept. 10-11.

“I am extremely pleased with our non-conference schedule for fall 2010,” said head volleyball coach Devin Scruggs. “We play two Pac-10 teams - Arizona and Oregon State - with Arizona at home in our second home weekend. In addition, Big East powerhouse Notre Dame will be here in Reno for our opening home weekend. We certainly have some very challenging matches this preseason combined with a balanced number of matches that we should see success in the in the win column.”

Tickets are available by calling the Wolf Pack Ticket Office at (775) 348-PACK (7225), while information about tickets and all of the Wolf Pack teams is available at [www.nevadawolfpack.com](http://www.nevadawolfpack.com).

—Rhonda Lundin, associate athletics director for communications

# 2010 Nevada Fall Schedules

## Football Schedule

<b>Sept. 2</b>	<b>Eastern Washington</b>
<b>Sept. 11</b>	<b>Colorado State</b>
<b>Sept. 17</b>	<b>California</b>
Sept. 25	at BYU
Oct. 2	at UNLV
<b>Oct. 9</b>	<b>San Jose State</b>
Oct. 16	at Hawai'i
<b>Oct. 30</b>	<b>Utah State</b>
Nov. 6	at Idaho
Nov. 13	at Fresno State
<b>Nov. 20</b>	<b>New Mexico State</b>
<b>Nov. 26</b>	<b>Boise State</b>
Dec. 4	at Louisiana Tech



Photo by John Byrne

## Women's Soccer Schedule

<b>Aug. 17</b>	<b>Chico State</b>
	<b>(Exhibition)</b>
Aug. 20	at St. Mary's
Aug. 27-29	at Montana Tournament
Aug. 27	vs. Gonzaga
Aug. 29	vs. Iowa State
<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>Montana</b>
<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>South Dakota State</b>
Sept. 10	at Sacramento State
Sept. 12	at San Francisco
<b>Sept. 16-18</b>	<b>Wolf Pack Invitational</b>
<b>Sept. 16</b>	<b>Idaho State</b>
<b>Sept. 18</b>	<b>Eastern Michigan</b>
Sept. 24	at UC Irvine
Sept. 26	vs. UC Riverside
	(Irvine, Calif.)
<b>Oct. 1</b>	<b>New Mexico State</b>
Oct. 3	at Louisiana Tech
Oct. 8	at Utah State
<b>Oct. 15</b>	<b>Idaho</b>
<b>Oct. 17</b>	<b>Boise State</b>
Oct. 22	at San Jose State
Oct. 24	at Fresno State
<b>Oct. 29</b>	<b>Hawai'i</b>
Nov. 4-7	WAC Tournament
	(Ruston, La.)

## Volleyball Schedule

<b>Aug. 21</b>	<b>Silver/Blue Scrimmage</b>
	<b>(Exhibition)</b>
Aug. 27-28	at Missouri Tournament
Aug. 27	vs. Utah Valley

Aug. 28	vs. Missouri
Aug. 28	vs. Maryland
<b>Sept. 3-4</b>	<b>Nevada Invitational</b>
<b>Sept. 3</b>	<b>Weber State</b>
<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>Belmont</b>
<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>Notre Dame</b>
<b>Sept. 10-11</b>	<b>Wolf Pack Invitational</b>
<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>Northern Arizona</b>
<b>Sept. 10</b>	<b>Arizona</b>
<b>Sept. 11</b>	<b>Pacific</b>
Sept. 17-18	at UC Davis Tournament
Sept. 17	vs. Portland
Sept. 18	vs. UC Davis
Sept. 18	vs. Oregon State
Sept. 24	at Hawai'i
Sept. 27	at UNLV
<b>Sept. 30</b>	<b>San Jose State</b>
<b>Oct. 2</b>	<b>Fresno State</b>
Oct. 7	at Boise State
Oct. 9	at Idaho
<b>Oct. 15</b>	<b>Utah State</b>
Oct. 17	at New Mexico State
<b>Oct. 21</b>	<b>New Mexico State</b>
<b>Oct. 23</b>	<b>Louisiana Tech</b>
Oct. 28	at Fresno State
Oct. 30	at San Jose State
<b>Nov. 4</b>	<b>Idaho</b>
<b>Nov. 6</b>	<b>Boise State</b>
Nov. 12	at Utah State
<b>Nov. 14</b>	<b>Hawai'i</b>
Nov. 18	at Louisiana Tech
Nov. 22-24	WAC Tournament
	(Las Vegas)

(Home Games in Bold)

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



Photo by John Byrne

## Nevada skier accepted to School of Medicine

For All-America skier Katie Lyons, life is not about focusing on one thing and doing it well, but rather focusing on doing many things well—all the while, keeping a smile on her face. Lyons has accomplished many feats throughout her time here at Nevada, despite roadblocks along the way.

Lyons has been accepted into the University of Nevada School of Medicine, the crowning achievement in her collegiate career. After graduating summa cum laude with her degree in biology in May of 2009, she continued her collegiate career by pursuing a second

degree in nutrition science this year while serving as the president of Nevada's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Lyons was also honored this spring with a prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship.

The Reno native says that she was brought up skiing, going to the slopes almost every weekend with her dad. "I found out that I was actually kind of good at it," she said.

Despite being diagnosed with scoliosis and having back surgery when she was 15, Lyons began to earn awards for skiing. She was chosen as the top skier at Mt. Rose and won races at the Junior Olympics and the Whistler Cup.

Lyons enjoyed a successful collegiate skiing career at Nevada despite battling injuries. A three-time NCAA qualifier, she earned All-America honors in 2008 after finishing seventh in the women's slalom at the NCAA

Katie Lyons

Championships. She turned in five top 15 finishes in 2009 and was named an *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-District selection that year.

Lyons also was invited to join the U.S. Olympic Ski Team several times, but every time she came close to joining the prestigious team, an injury stopped her.

"Every time I was invited to the U.S. team I blew out a knee or had back surgery," she said. "It was so frustrating, but it just wasn't meant to be."

All the injuries and time spent around doctors through multiple surgeries and physical therapy helped Lyons realize that she wanted to help people overcome injury and illness and give other patients hope through her own story.

"My doctors would ask for a video of me skiing after scoliosis surgery to show other patients who were in the same situation that they could do anything," she said. "This is when I fell in love with medicine. I wanted to show people that they do have options after injury."

So begins a new phase in the life of Katie Lyons as she prepares to enter medical school.

—Jorgan Staker, Athletics Media Services intern

## Outstanding academic year for Wolf Pack athletics

Forty-seven Wolf Pack student-athletes representing 13 teams applied for graduation at the University of Nevada this spring and summer. Ceremonies for the 120th University Commencement were held on the University Quad with the processional for bachelor's degree candidates taking place on Saturday, May 15.

The 47 spring graduates joined 32 student-athletes who earned their degrees this winter for a total of 79 members of the Wolf Pack graduating in the 2009-10 academic year. "Wolf Pack student-athletes are committed to excellence in the classroom and on the field

of competition, and we congratulate them and wish them the best as they enter the next phase of their lives." Nevada Director of Athletics Cary Groth said.

In addition, a total of 105 Wolf Pack student-athletes earned Western Athletic Conference All-Academic honors this year, while Nevada's student athlete graduation success rate is at its all-time high of 73 percent. In addition, Nevada had three of its student-athletes earn academic all-district honors in 2009-10: Luke Babbitt (men's basketball), Taylor Coffman (men's golf) and Margaret Doolittle (women's swimming and diving), while Babbitt earned



Men's basketball's Ray Kraemer, Joey Shaw and Adam Carp were among the Wolf Pack student-athletes who earned their degrees this spring.

Photo courtesy WolfPack Athletics

second-team *ESPN the Magazine* Academic All-America second-team honors, the first Academic All-American in the history of the Nevada men's basketball program.

—Rhonda Lundin, associate athletics director for communications



Photos by John Byrne

## Lippincott, Holverson win Doc Martie & Ruth Russell Awards

Football's Luke Lippincott and softball's Katie Holverson have been named the 2009-10 Doc Martie & Ruth I. Russell Award winners as the University of Nevada's top male and female senior student-athletes.

"Luke and Katie are very deserving recipients of our athletics department's most prestigious awards and have had outstanding collegiate careers," Groth said. "Both student-athletes have made significant contributions to their teams and our entire department and have excelled in competition, the classroom and the community."

The awards were named for J.E. "Doc" Martie, a former Nevada men's basketball coach and administrator, and Ruth I. Russell, a former director of women's athletics. Student-athletes are nominated by their head coaches and must be in their final year of eligibility and in good academic standing. The award winners are chosen in a vote by the athletics department staff.

A senior running back from Salinas, Calif., Lippincott made NCAA history when he reached 1,000 rushing yards in 2009, making Nevada the only school in the history of college football to have three 1,000-yard rushers in the

same season. He tallied 1,034 rushing yards in 2009, his second career 1,000-yard season.

Lippincott finished his career ranked fifth at Nevada with 3,014 career rushing yards and sixth with 34 career rushing touchdowns in his career. In all, he ranks in the top 10 in the Nevada single-season and single-game records books in 13 different categories. Lippincott was the recipient of the Humanitarian Award at the 2008 Roady's Humanitarian Bowl for his community service efforts. He earned first-team All-Western Athletic Conference honors and won the Golden Helmet Award as the team's Most Valuable Player in 2008 after leading the WAC in rushing with 109.2 yards per game that year. A two-time winner of Nevada's Striker Award for consistent and dominant play over a period of time, Lippincott graduated with his degree in psychology and a minor in health ecology in May of 2009 and started graduate work while finishing his playing career in 2010.

"I'm very proud of Luke. He is very deserving of the Doc Martie Award," Wolf Pack football coach Chris Ault said. "He has enjoyed an outstanding career here at Nevada. He is, without question, a great representative of our University and football program."

A senior pitcher from Anthem, Ariz., Holverson has helped Nevada to a pair of WAC championships and NCAA Tournament appearances so far in her career. She was one of 50 players on the watch list for the 2010 USA Softball National Collegiate

2009-10 Doc Martie & Ruth I. Russell Award winners Luke Lippincott and Katie Holverson.

Player of the Year Award and tossed her first career no-hitter in a 1-0 win over Colorado on March 19, 2010, the fourth no-hitter in school history. Holverson was named the 2009 WAC Pitcher of the Year and earned Louisville Slugger/NFCA All-Pacific Region honors after one of the finest single-season performances ever by a Nevada pitcher. She went 28-11 with a 1.70 earned-run average and one save last year and notched a career-high 237 strikeouts in 251.2 innings. Holverson has set the school single-season record for wins, ERA, opponents' batting average (.212), ranks second in appearances (46), starts (38), complete games (26), shutouts (5), innings pitched and strikeouts and will be at or near the top in virtually every career pitching record at Nevada when her career is over.

"I am so excited for Katie to be recognized for the contributions she has made to the University of Nevada during her career," Nevada softball coach Matt Meuchel said. "Katie has had a wonderful career here at Nevada, not just individually but in leading our team to two WAC championships. She is such a tough competitor and has elevated our program to another level during her four years in silver and blue."

—Rhonda Lundin, associate athletics director for communications



# GLORY DAYS

*are here again!*

## HOMECOMING 10



- Oct. 7** Homecoming Gala • Joe Crowley Student Union Ballroom
- Oct. 8** Blue Flu Free Community BBQ • Joe Crowley Student Union Plaza
- Family Pep Rally & Bonfire • North of Peccole Park, University of Nevada Campus
- Old Guys' Night • Amendment 21
- Oct. 9** Homecoming Breakfast • Joe Crowley Student Union Plaza
- Homecoming Pregame Party • Legacy Hall
- Nevada vs. San Jose State Homecoming Football Game • Mackay Stadium



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# HOME MEANS NEVADA

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Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

**From the President**

Dear Nevada Alumni,

In May the Nevada Alumni Association celebrated not only alumni returning to campus for their 50-year Golden Reunion and the more than 1,900 new graduates at the Commencement Ceremonies, but also prospective students for the University of Nevada.



**Lauren Sankovich '98**  
President

The association partnered with the Office for Prospective Students on several recruitment receptions this spring—one in Sacramento and three in Las Vegas. Students who had applied to Nevada and their families were invited to meet University administration, including college deans as well as many alumni. In total, nearly 1,500 attendees talked with Nevada graduates about campus, classes, living in the dorms, and life after graduation. The impact alumni involvement had on these receptions is critical to the success of recruiting students for the fall.

This summer don't forget to bring family and friends to campus for one of our most popular events, Pack Picnics on the Quad. These free family-friendly activities run every Wednesday, July 7 through Aug. 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. As always, there will be bounce houses, face painting, balloon animals and more!

Although the fall seems distant, Wolf Pack football is right around the corner. The association's first pregame party will be Sept. 2 as Nevada takes on Eastern Washington. This year our event location has changed and you will find us in Legacy Hall two hours prior to kick-off before every home game.

If you live in Las Vegas or are planning travel south for the Nevada vs. UNLV football game this fall, we invite you to get fired up in support of the Pack on Oct. 1, the night before the game. Join us at Pete's Dueling Piano Bar in Town Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for a fun-filled Wolf Pack rally!

Also this fall, return to campus and celebrate Homecoming 2010 Oct. 5-9! Traditional activities such as the Homecoming Gala and Awards Dinner, the Scholarship Reception, Old Guys Night, various chapter events and the football pregame party are on the schedule.

Finally, I'd like to thank all of our dues-paying members. Your support is critical to the success of the Nevada Alumni Association. If you're not a member or your membership has lapsed, please visit our website at [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) or call 888. NV ALUMS.

Sincerely,

Lauren Sankovich '98  
President, Nevada Alumni Council

**Nevada Alumni Council  
Executive Committee**

- Lauren Sankovich '98  
President
- Michael F. Dillon, Jr. '94  
Past President
- Julie Rowe '94  
Treasurer/President-elect
- Seema Donahoe '02  
Vice President for Chapter Development
- Kelly Bland '91  
Vice President for Community Outreach
- Jeff Pickett '99  
Vice President for Marketing and Membership
- Rita Laden '96  
Vice President for Student Outreach

**Board Members**

- Chad Blanchard '93, '03, '09
- Cindy Buchanan '95
- Nicholas Butler '02
- Tim Crowley '92
- Roger Diedrichsen '71
- James Eason '95
- Jill Fielden '91
- Cary Groth (Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, ex officio member)
- Stephanie Hanna '96
- Samantha Hudson '94
- Caesar Ibarra '00
- Laura Jenkins '99
- Robert Jones '70
- Ro Lazzarone '03
- William Magrath '73
- Patrick Martinez '95
- Marlene Olsen '74
- Michael Pennington '95
- Erin Russell Hayes '00
- Charlie Jose (ASUN President)
- Jason Sterrett '02
- Ty Windfeldt '01

**Staff Members**

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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

Class

**Class Chat submissions are due  
July 14, 2010. We edit all submissions  
for style, clarity and length.**

**'50s**

**Jim Morrison '51** (arts and science), **Judy (Morrison) Woodham '52**, **Georgia (Ames) Fulstone '52** and **Richard Fulstone '50** (agriculture and resource economics) attended the first non-annual meeting of the non-existent UNR Alumni Club of South Carolina. The club met for dinner in Tryon/Columbus, N.C. at the end of March. The four octogenarians had a great reunion as Jim, Judy and Georgia all graduated from Piedmont High School in California and came to the University of Nevada in 1948.

**'60s**

**William "Bill" Tafuri '67** (geology) has joined the Liberty Silver Corporation management team and board of directors as vice-president of exploration. Bill has more than 35 years of successful and diverse exploration and mine development experience. Prior to joining the company, he worked for both major and junior mining companies and has held positions worldwide.

**Alvin William Maupin '68** (political science), retired chief justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, has joined Lionel Sawyer & Collins' Litigation Department. His practice focuses on litigation, arbitration, appellate work and legislative advocacy.

**Robert Trimble '68** (elementary education), **'74M.Ed.** (school administration) spends his time traveling with his wife, **Reneal Trimble '93** (elementary education), and recently visited Puerto Vallarta, Mexico after retirement from Washoe County School District in 1998.

**Esther (Calkins) McKinley '69** (zoology) retired in January after 38 years with Cottage Health Systems in Santa Barbara, Calif. Esther spent the last 20 years as administrative director of the Clinical Laboratories.

**'70s**

**Ronald "Ron" Cooney '72** (foreign affairs) has just published his first book, a collection of humorous pieces loosely based on "items of great historical insignificance." Titled *Lost Lies of History, Volume 17*; it is available

# As Chat



Jim Morrison '51, Judy (Morrison) Woodham '52, Georgia (Ames) Fulstone '52, Richard Fulstone '50



Ronald "Ron" Cooney '72



Marvin Grulli '72



Wayne A. Frediani '72



Beth Gabriel '82

through bookstores and Amazon.com. Ron credits retired University professors George Herman, Roberta Coon, Anne Howard and Bob Diamond as great teachers from whom he learned a ton.

**Marvin Grulli '72** (accounting) has joined Ancora West Advisors LLC in Reno as a registered investment adviser. Marvin previously worked 12 years in small commercial and residential development and sales in Reno.

**Ritch Van Duzer '72** (social psychology) has joined the Reno office of BTI Mergers & Acquisitions as an associate. Ritch, who has more than 35 years experience in banking and credit unions, was most recently chief executive officer of Clearstar Financial Credit Union.

**Wayne A. Frediani '72** (management), executive director of the Nevada Franchised Auto Dealers Association, was honored as the recipient of the 2009 Membership Automotive Trade Association Executive of the Year award. Wayne was chosen amongst 110 Automotive Trade Association executives nationwide at this year's National Automobile Dealers Association convention in Orlando.

**Louis Bonaldi '75** (biology) of Plastic Surgery and Dermatology in Reno, has been listed as one of America's Top Plastic Surgeons by the Consumers' Research Council of America for the ninth consecutive year. Additionally, the International Biographical Centre named Dr. Bonaldi a Leading Health Professional of the World in the arena of plastic surgery.

**Ron James '78** (history), **'81M.A.** (history) has been appointed Nevada's state historic

preservation officer by the Obama administration for a four-year term to the National Park System Advisory Board. The nomination by Senator Harry Reid will allow Ron to serve as a historian and folklorist on the Advisory Board.

**Paul Ochs '79** (criminal justice) has been named director of security at John Ascuaga's Nugget. Paul previously held patrol, investigative and management positions with the Sparks Police Department. He began his career with the federal protective service in Reno. He also attended the FBI's 13-week National Academy in Quantico, Va.

**Henry "Hank" O'Neill, Jr. '79** (physical education) was recently recognized on "America's Top 1,000 Advisors: State-by-State" list in the Feb. 22 issue of *Barron's* magazine. Quantitative and qualitative measures used to determine the financial advisor rankings include: client assets, return on assets, client satisfaction/retention, compliance records and community involvement, among others.

## '80s

**Beth Gabriel '82** (business management/French) has recently become a local childcare coordinator for Cultural Care Au Pair in Las Vegas, combining her love of travel, business, teaching and being a mom! She also continues to work as a substitute teacher, is the mother of two teenage daughters (with husband, Andy) and rescuer of one dog and two cats.

**Theresa (Ponton) Jempsa '82** (social work) and her husband **James Jempsa '79** (premedical) are proud to announce that Heather Jempsa, their daughter, graduated from Nevada on May 15, 2010 with a degree in early childhood education.

**Benjamin Rodriguez '82M.D.** (medicine) continues with his surgery missions. He completed three missions in 2009 to Jordan, Vietnam and Kenya and has missions to Cambodia, Ecuador, Russia, Bolivia scheduled in 2010.

**Fred Redfern '83M.D.** (medicine) was elected secretary of the Board of Councilors of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons at the 2010 annual meeting in New Orleans. The BOC represents the grassroots of the orthopaedic profession and explores health policy, education, research, advocacy and communications functions within the Academy.

**Tom Putney '85M.S.** (geology) received an Excellence in Engineering Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies for his work on developing a GIS database for the USS Yorktown exhibit of the Patriots Points Naval and Maritime Museum. Tom, his wife, **Anne (Hall) Putney '86** (education), and their two children live in Charleston, S.C.

**Tracey A. Mimno-Wirshing '88** (accounting) has been named general manager of Red Hawk Casino, located near Shingle Springs, Calif. Most recently, Tracey served as CEO of Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno.

**Lisa Evatz '89** (elementary education), **'93** (counseling and educational psychology) is proud to have provided K-4 counseling support to the Winnemucca Grammar School for 17 years.

**Christopher Mathis '90M.D.** (medicine) has joined Saint Mary's Regional Health Center as a physician at Saint Mary's Medical



Kristen (Shields) Crookshanks '92 and Clint Crookshanks '93



Kris Kirkland '92



Sandy Tedsen Hellman-Horton '93 and Earl Horton '91



Tony Illia '96M.A.

Group. Chris, a bilingual, board-certified family practice physician, has been practicing in Nevada since 1994. Chris completed his residency and internship in family practice at Scottsdale Memorial Hospital.

**Stephen Barrett '92** (speech communications) has rejoined the *Reno Gazette-Journal* as an advertising sales manager. Stephen will manage the digital sales, classified real estate, Careerbuilder Employment and legal, obituary and voluntary telephone sales teams.

**Kristen (Shields) Crookshanks '92** (geography) and her husband, **Clint Crookshanks '93** (mechanical engineering), are bringing Wolf Pack spirit to Denver. Clint is an aerospace engineer investigating the structural aspects of airline accidents for the National Transportation Safety Board reporting to the NTSB in Washington, D.C., but located in the Denver office. Kristen is happy to be back in the West and both would be glad to connect

with other University alumni in the greater Denver area. The couple has two daughters, Calla, 2, and Taryn, 4.

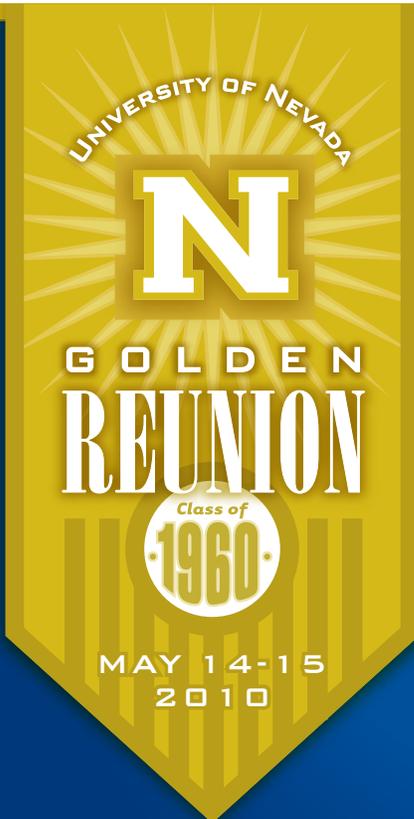
**Kris Kirkland '92** (economics) is currently a lieutenant colonel, brigade aviation officer with the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team stationed in Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. His grandfathers served in World War II, one flying B-17 Flying Fortress bombers and the other flying P-38 Lightning Fighters. The latter also saw service during the Korean War flying helicopters. Kris is responsible for coordinating the movement of personnel and equipment by fixed and rotary wing assets throughout his area of operation, he also prepares and coordinates attack helicopter support of ground maneuver forces when required and has worked closely with the Shadow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle unit to provide aerial intelligence and surveillance of the battlefield.

**Kristi Strawick-Mulrean '92** (criminal justice) obtained her MBA in accounting from Colorado Technical University in September 2009. Kristi is currently the accountant for Quantum Communications and resides in El Mirage, Ariz. with her four children.

**Sandy Tedsen Hellman-Horton '93** (criminal justice/psychology) and **Earl Horton '91** (psychology) '94M.S. (social work) are enjoying their 11 children together.

**Nancy (Nails) West '94** (music education), high school guidance counselor in Las Vegas, appeared on Jeopardy on April 5. After some grueling questions, Nancy walked away with \$1,000 in her pocket.

**Christopher Ferrari '96** (international affairs) has launched Ferrari Public Affairs, a lobbying and consulting firm in Reno and Las Vegas. He previously served in the administration of former Governor Kenny Guinn and as



IT WAS A CELEBRATION 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING.



THANK YOU CLASS OF 1960, ALUMNI AND GUESTS FOR A MEMORABLE GOLDEN REUNION.

ONCE NEVADA. ALWAYS NEVADA





Brian Feleciano '97



Sandra Gerstner-McEwan '99



Douglas Buck '01



Ryan Aeschlimann '03



Cindy Armentrout '03



Lindsay Mastrodonato '05

a lobbyist for R&R Partners.

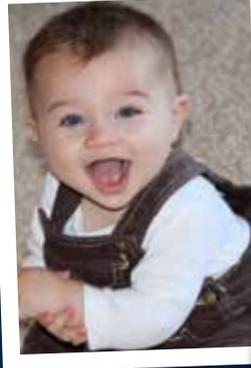
**Stephanie (Beck) Herrera '96** (journalism) has been named public education and information officer for the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada. Stephanie previously worked as a principal with the Sambooka Group, a Reno company that provides marketing, corporate messaging and production services to national clients.

**Tony Illia '96M.A.** (English) received three 2010 Bronze Quill awards for Best Feature Writing, Best Tabloid Publication, and the Judge's Choice Award for Best Overall Writing from the Las Vegas chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators.

**Brian Feleciano '97** (political science) has joined Comstock Insurance Agencies in Reno as an employee benefits producer. He previously worked more than 10 years as an employee benefits producer for Wells Fargo Insurance Services in Reno and the Lake Tahoe / Truckee region.

**David Chain '98** (international affairs) has been promoted to global project manager of

### Wolfcubs



**Diane (Walters) Wentworth '97** (health science/pre-medicine) and her husband, Kevin, would like to announce the birth of their son Grant James. Grant was born on June 25, 2009. He joins his proud big brother, Tyler Paul, 4.



**Hannah (Zive) Serrano '02** (political science) and her husband, Nick, would like to announce the birth of their son, Landon Noah, on Sept. 17, 2009.



**Erin (Schaffer) Wallace '02** (political science) and **Daniel Wallace '01** (business), '06MBA are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Delaney Jae, on Dec. 11, 2009. She joins big brother, Riley, 20 months.

Authentication, Authorization and Security for Hewlett Packard Enterprise Websites.

**Sandra Gerstner-McEwan '99** (marketing) was recently promoted to executive director of

Strategic Integration for the MGM MIRAGE Strategic and Relationship Marketing department, formerly Loyalty Marketing. Sandra will be responsible for leading and providing direction for all corporate loyalty programs.

# DO YOU BLEED SILVER & BLUE?

**THE NEVADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IS NOW ACCEPTING ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINATIONS**

**DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2010** – The council meets three times a year and is the governing body of the Nevada Alumni Association. Contact 888.NV.ALUMS, 775.784.6620 or nvalumni@unr.edu for more information.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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

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ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

Nevada Alumni Association  
Morrill Hall Alumni Center  
University of Nevada, Reno/0164  
Reno, Nevada 89557-0164

*Please use a separate sheet for additional nominations.*

# Writings on the Wall

facebook

What's on your mind?

Share



**Nevada Alumni Association** Who was the professor who made the biggest difference in your life? (in 150 words or less)



**Liza Lat '86 (geophysics, seismology) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.** Prof. Joseph Lintz was my History of the Earth and Paleontology lecturer. He used to live in Indonesia so he took the Indonesian students under his wing, with one exception—me; I am from Malaysia. We were invited often to his house. I still remember his black cat, named Tumi, short for Bituminous, a type of coal. He made learning Paleontology fun and relevant and showed me that learning was not confined to classrooms, that the student-teacher relationships do not end after the class ended. Now that I am, myself, a lecturer, I strive to be a little like him—caring and compassionate. God bless him.



**Ian Brown '01 (political science) Reno, Nev.** Maria Chang. That lady was awesome. Took in the kid who had upset the entire PSC department to the point that I almost had to change majors. Got me published a couple times, helped me run my independent study between Reno and South Africa, and was the first, and only, professor at UNR who I really felt was in my corner. She didn't let me slide on anything, and when I was out of line, she busted me back into place. She was exactly the right professor to have when I was an arrogant 22-year-old who thought he knew it all.



**Steve Meerschaert '03 (psychology) Royal Oaks, Mich.** (David) Fenimore Rocks! I surrender my remaining 148 words to the floor.



**Douglas G Adams '92 (social work), '89 (criminal justice) Fernley, Nev.** Ken Braunstein, criminal justice. I was at a point where I was on academic probation, and was ready to give up. He pushed me to go forward so I could finally graduate. He did me no favors, just encouraged me to keep going.



**Matthew Lea '94 (English) Sparks, Nev.** Two. First, David Fenimore. Once I discovered him, I took as many classes from him as I could. He would thoughtfully comment on all of my work and showed me strengths and weakness, of which I was unaware. Second: Gailmarie Pahmeier-Henry. I really enjoyed her poetry workshops. She gave me the confidence to begin sending out my work. She was engaged and exciting and created a "safe" place to expose oneself as a writer.



**Lori Pierce '02 (English) Loveland, Colo.** Richard Davies, in history, who was never my teacher, but who gave me a job, became my mentor, and gave me much needed and appreciated advice over the years. Jenn Hill, in English, who inspired me on to a master's degree in English and pushed me to think outside my comfort zone. Chris Herald, in math, who was always available to answer my questions and discuss the "language" of mathematics with someone who has a brain wired for language development. He helped me develop a worldview where advanced mathematics and writing make sense together.



**Gene Bland '72 (geography) Nocona, Texas** Joe Crowley was my professor of political science during 1970-72 for a minor in comparative politics. Later in life I was able to put what he taught me into use in Southeast Asia to understand political systems and infrastructure of the changing countries. I retired from the federal government and still frequently use the tools he put into my toolbox.



**Lynn Sawyer '91 (secondary education) Sparks, Nev.** For me it's a push between Patricia Tripple and Arleen Otto, home economics professors. Two entirely different styles, but both epitomized high expectations—for themselves as well as the students. Because I've been an educator myself for 35 years, I've seen how important it is to have professors who set the high bar, and don't give in. "No one ever rose to low expectations."

Write a comment...

**Nevada Alumni Association** Like this new feature in Nevada Silver & Blue? Share what's on your mind at [www.facebook.com/nevadaalumni](http://www.facebook.com/nevadaalumni) and your post could be featured in our next issue. [Comment](#) • [Like](#) • [Share](#)

[www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) • 888.NV ALUMS.





## Kickin' it with K-von | MTV's 'Disaster Date' FAQ

Currently you can catch me on MTV's new hidden camera show "Disaster Date." Growing up as a fan of shows like "Candid Camera" and "Punk'D," it's been a blast to actually be a part

of one. The premise of our show is always the same: a best friend gets set up on a blind date with me for some sort of payback, usually for a previous blind date gone horribly awry. I play a different outrageous character—Momma's Boy, Mime, Jersey Shore Guido—in each episode with the end goal of making my poor date run for the door.

The response from *Nevada Silver & Blue* readers has been overwhelming. I love hearing your feedback and favorite moments from the show. In fact, I've been getting some frequently asked questions, so I thought I'd lay some myths to rest, as well as give you an inside look at how our prank show works.

### How did you get on the show?

Executives from MTV dropped in on one of the Los Angeles comedy clubs, saw my act, and brought me in to audition for a few shows. The competition for these shows is fierce so you want to come in and do your best but also look totally relaxed. Not easy.

We were asked to prepare three characters and demonstrate how they would turn a date into a nightmare. My characters were: the Penny Pincher (brandishing a calculator and coupons), the Gym Trainer (who comments on my date's body fat percentage and recommends workout tips), Mr. No-Manners (who does everything your mom taught you not to at the dinner table). The audition went well for me... bad for my pretend date. Next thing I knew I was on the show.

### Are hidden camera shows real, or is it faked for the audience?

Our show is 100 percent real. Our "marks" have no clue that everyone in the restaurant is an actor. Their best friend sets them up on the date and come on... who wouldn't trust their best friend?

### How do you not laugh in those scenes?

I love to laugh and going into it, I wasn't sure how I'd be able to hold back. Truth be told, when you're focused on being your character and concentrating on the task at hand, it doesn't become an issue. That being said, there were two or three times while filming that I had to turn my head for a brief second to hide a smirk. And there was that one exception where my script required me to be a klutz, spill on my pants, and remove them at the dinner table... only to reveal I was wearing fire-engine red, thong underwear. It was impossible to execute that without laughing at myself. I just had to turn my back to my date which, when you see it, looks even funnier on camera.

### How much is scripted and how much is improv?

On average 60 percent of the dates are pre-planned. But the

more you leave yourself open to possibilities, the better. You just can't anticipate some of the things that happen. Often the unknown variables become the true gems and work out better than anything we could have written down.

### Do you ever feel bad for the "mark"?

No comment!

### What was your favorite character?

Each was so different and very fun to play. But I'd say Boy Band, Infomercial Man and Jersey Shore Guido were my top three.

### "I would have left the date right away!"

No you wouldn't. Remember, you're seeing the best, or shall we say, worst, five minutes back-to-back where all the rude and crazy stuff happens. But the date is actually an hour long and since it's getting crazier incrementally, it actually doesn't seem quite so odd to our mark. By the 50th minute everything is going haywire but, while shocking, the dates seem glued to their chairs watching the horror unfold.

### What's next?

I recently found out the show was being picked up for another season! I want to thank all the Nevada alumni for watching! I couldn't have done it without you guys. So look for "Disaster Date" season 3 and keep laughing!

*K-von '03 (marketing) is a Nevada alum and comedian. Watch him daily on MTV's "Disaster Date" (check local listings) or catch him live on the Disaster Tour at a comedy club near you. His schedule is on [www.K-vonComedy.com](http://www.K-vonComedy.com).*

**Ryan Martin '00** (finance), vice president at Colliers International, has been named to the *In Business Las Vegas* 40 Under 40 List. The annual list names the city's top 40 professionals under 40 years of age. A panel of judges selected the 2010 honorees out of more than 250 nominations. Selections were based on evaluations of each candidate's community service, entrepreneurial spirit and impact on their respective industries.

**Frankie Vigil '00** (journalism), has joined Olsen & Associates public relations, creative collaborations, etc. as public relations manager. Prior to joining Olsen & Associates, Vigil served in the same role for R&R Partners and has more than 10 years of experience in public relations. She will oversee public relations for all clients of Olsen & Associates.

**Douglas Buck '01** (civil engineering) has been awarded Civil Engineer of the Year for 2009 by the Truckee Meadows Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Doug joined Bowling Mamola Group in 2009 and has primarily been deputy construction manager for the Curry Street and Roop Street reconstruction projects, two major roadway overhauls in Carson City.

**Ryan Aeschlimann '03** (psychology) joins Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. as staff accountant in the firm's Reno office. In his new role, Ryan will provide clients with auditing and tax preparation services. Ryan is also currently a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

**Cindy Armentrout '03** (journalism) has recently joined Kalicki Law Office in Reno. Cindy is a member of the State Bar of Nevada Young Lawyers Division, American Bar Association, and Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys.

**Dano Kraig Fernandez '03** (criminal justice, COPPS option), a compliance audit investigator for the State of Nevada, has recently moved from Carson City/Reno to Southern Nevada Department of Business and Industry, DIR, WCS office. Dano is staying busy with doctoral studies in public policy and administration with specialization in homeland security policy and coordination at Walden University.

**Teela Hammond '04** (accounting) has been promoted to manager at Barnard, Vogler & Co., Certified Public Accountants in Reno. Teela, a certified public accountant who has been with the Bernard Vogler & Co. since 2005, previously was senior accountant with the firm.

**Lindsay Mastrodonato '05** (accounting) was hired as a senior accountant at Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. for the firm's Reno office. Lindsay brings more than five years of experience to Kafoury. Lindsay will be responsible for

## Wolf mates



Rachel (Balvin) Graffam '07MBA and Dan Graffam '08 (civil engineering) were married Oct. 20, 2009 in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. Rachel is employed at Accelerated Care Plus and Dan works for Nichols Consulting Engineers. They are currently remodeling a home in the Callahan Ranch area of Reno and plan to stay and play in their home town.



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

# Senior Scholars

BACK ROW: Camron Wipfli, Jeffrey Baguley, Allison Beck, Samantha Baldock, Ashley Naughton, Kayli Vallely, Heather Culbertson, David Shintani, Janice Cho, John Klippenstein. FRONT ROW: Bob Felten, Yvonne Stedham, Mel Minarik, Julie Pennington, Cahit Evrensel and LaVerne Jeanne.

Each semester, the University of Nevada, Reno and its 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 member who played the most significant role in their scholastic achievement. The accomplishments of these individuals have helped develop the University as a center of academic excellence.

*"These past four years have been a true blessing and I could not have achieved this award without the great support from my father, excellent professors and advisers, and mentors in the medical community."*

**Scholar: Janice Cho** - GPA 4.0  
Mentor: David Shintani  
College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources  
Herz Gold Medalist. (Please see page 54)

*"My accomplishments at the University would not have been possible without many individuals who provided encouragement along the way. Of course, I must thank my mentor, Dr. Yvonne Stedham, who helped me tremendously with my honors thesis. I look up to her not only as an excellent professor and mentor, but also as an inspiration for women in the business world."*

**Scholar: Samantha Baldock** - GPA 3.96  
Mentor: Yvonne Stedham  
College of Business

*"I can't wait to get out there in the real world and use all the skills I have learned in the last four years. I hope to put all the knowledge to use in order to make a difference for the children I teach."*

**Scholar: Kayli Vallely** - GPA 4.0  
Mentor: Julie Pennington  
College of Education

*"When I started college and took my first engineering course, I wasn't sure what to expect. I soon found out that engineering was completely different from what I had done in the past, but I loved it. At times I was stressed and spent many late nights doing everything from building Lego robots to writing technical papers, but four years later I can't imagine majoring in anything else."*

**Scholar: Heather Culbertson** - GPA 4.0  
Mentor: Cahit Evrensel  
College of Engineering

*"My advertising classes here have been the most challenging and the most rewarding. Long nights and very early mornings have turned into amazing experiences and memories. What's hours of sleep lost compared to an amazing plans book? Advertising is fun, demanding and exciting."*

**Scholar: Allison Beck** - GPA 3.92  
Mentor: Bob Felten  
Reynolds School of Journalism

*"Although at times college was a struggle, I've had many memorable experiences, exciting adventures and positive opportunities to last me a lifetime. From the late nights of endless studying, community service, football games, dissecting cadavers, tedious research papers and laughing with my friends until I cry, I wouldn't change any of it."*

**Scholar: Ashley Naughton** - GPA 3.98  
Mentor: Mel Minarik  
Division of Health Sciences

*"I have been fortunate enough to have several experiences outside of the classroom working in low-income and impoverished communities in the U.S. and abroad. These experiences have led to a deep commitment to social justice on my part. It is my desire to study groups and people that exist on the periphery of societies. I want to examine and better understand the processes that have led to the marginalization and disempowerment of these groups and, more importantly, the ways we can help these communities and reverse these processes."*

**Scholar: John Klippenstein** - GPA 3.99  
Mentor: LaVerne Jeanne  
College of Liberal Arts

*"I have found that my four years at the University of Nevada has been a perfect fit. Choosing a college is a long, thoughtful process and I know that I made the right choice. The classes that are offered and the teaching faculty here have been incredibly supportive of me and my ambition to become a physician. I recently found out that I will be able to stay here, in my home state, for the next four years, as a member of the Class of 2014 at the School of Medicine."*

**Scholar: Camron Wipfli** - GPA 3.99  
Mentor: Jeffrey Baguley  
College of Science



Scott Asselin '06



Kelly Glenn '06



Larry Sage '06MJS



Amy Ozuna '08



Sara Piccola '09



Emily Voshall  
'09M.A.C.C.

managing, planning, scheduling client engagements and developing new staff members.

**Scott Asselin '06** (accounting) has been named Senior Accountant at Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. in the firm's Reno office. Scott has been with the firm since 2006, most recently serving as a staff accountant. In his new role, he will be responsible for managing, planning, scheduling client engagements and developing new staff members.

**Kelly Glenn '06** (management), has been promoted to director of account service for the Glenn Group, a service marketing communications firm in northern Nevada. Kelly, an agency shareholder, began working with the agency as public relations manager and editorial coordinator for the *Reno-Tahoe Visitor* while finishing college, and upon graduation joined the agency full-time. Glenn will continue to service some of the agency's most prestigious accounts including IGT, Grand Sierra Resort and Casino and the National Championship Air Races while overseeing the account service staff.

**Larry Sage '06MJS** (trial judges) is excited to have returned home in March after 2 1/2

years in Afghanistan as part of the Justice and Security Sectors. He is looking for someone to take over the "Wazir Akbar Khan" Chapter of the Nevada Alumni Association.

**Brian Duggan '08** (journalism) was named the business reporter for the *Nevada Appeal* in Carson City after spending a year as the political reporter for the *Bismarck Tribune* in North Dakota.

**Amy Ozuna '08** (accounting) was promoted to senior accountant for Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. in the firm's Reno office. Amy has been with the firm since 2008, most recently serving as a staff accountant. She will now be responsible for managing, planning, scheduling client engagements and developing new staff members.

**Sara Piccola '09** (journalism) has joined The Glenn Group as account coordinator in the public relations division. Sara will provide public relations support for a variety of clients including The Summit, IGT, Project REAL, Boeing and RE/MAX Realty Affiliates and serves as the editorial coordinator for the *Reno/Tahoe Visitor*.

**Emily Voshall '09M.A.C.C.** (accounting) has been promoted to senior accountant at Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. in the firm's Reno office. Emily has been with the firm since 2007, most recently serving as a staff accountant. She will now be responsible for managing, planning and scheduling client engagements and developing new staff members.

**Terence "Terry" Sullivan '81 (biology)** has been deployed to Afghanistan for a year beginning in January. He will be going on active duty from the Nevada National Guard, where he was the director of logistics, and will deploy with the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain) from Vermont. Colonel Sullivan will be part of the Afghan National Security Forces Development Assistance Bureau where he will head up the Future Plans Cell. He is very proud of his daughters, Lyndsey (journalism) and Emily (business), who are currently attending the University and are members of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

*Correction: In the Spring issue, Terence's name, graduation date and major were incorrect.*

## Hydrology alumni enjoy mentoring students

Chief Deputy Water Master Chad Blanchard '93, '03M.S., '09MBA along with fellow graduates Brian Casci '07 and Dave Wathen '97, '03M.S., demonstrate field work at a Truckee River Gage to students as part of the Nevada Alumni Association's Mentor Program.

Through experiences such as these, hydrology students gain understanding of what a "day in the life" of a hydrologist is really like. This experience is invaluable to creating well rounded, career-ready students, besides giving the alumni an opportunity to share wisdom and give back to their alma mater. The Nevada Alumni Association Mentor Program continues to create opportunities for alumni and students to connect and develop relationships that go beyond the classroom.

The Nevada Alumni Association is currently accepting new mentors for the fall semester. For more information about the program and to create a mentor profile please visit: [www.unr.edu/alumni/](http://www.unr.edu/alumni/) volunteering.

—Lindsey Harmon '06



Natural Resources and Environmental Science Professor Mark Walker, Chad Blanchard, Scott Fennema, Brian Casci, Justin Fike, Dave Wathen and Matt Schneider.

## Chapter Updates



International graduates give a "thumbs up" in celebration of the completion of their programs of study at the International Students Graduate Reception on May 7.

### Alumni Band

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

Mark your calendars for Oct. 8-9, 2010! The Alumni Band will be gathering to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the reincarnated Wolf Pack Marching Band. We want Alumni Band members from all years to join us in celebrating this occasion. If you need more information, want to help with planning, need to update your contact information or would like to receive the monthly newsletter, please contact Kiara Wolf.

As funding issues continue to make headlines, the current Wolf Pack Marching Band is seeking new sources of funding. To this end, we have established a Band Booster organization. For more information, to join or to donate, please contact Alan Sullivan at [alan@unr.edu](mailto:alan@unr.edu).

### College of Business Alumni Association

Russ Gardner '96MBA, [41plymouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:41plymouth@sbcglobal.net)

The College of Business Alumni Association held its 19th annual open golf tournament on May 13 at Lakeridge Golf Course. We would like to thank our Gold Sponsor, Wells Fargo Bank; our Photo Sponsor, Muckel Anderson CPAs; our Golf Cart Sponsor, GE Energy; and our Premium Hole Sponsor, Bank of America-Merrill Lynch. We had 31 teams this year, and all who participated had a great time. We look forward to seeing our alumni this summer at the annual Disney-themed Pack Picnic on Wednesday, July 21. As always, check out upcoming events on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages. If you would like to get involved with COBAA or have questions about upcoming events, find us at [www.business.unr.edu](http://www.business.unr.edu). GO PACK!



TOP: Jr. Miss UNR Princess, Leilani O'Doye, watches the action at the 2010 Spring Pow Wow. ABOVE: Head Lady Monica Atlookan '10 (social work) poses with Head Man Gabe Hardin at the 2010 Spring Pow Wow.

### Fallon Alumni Chapter

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

The Fallon Alumni Chapter provided a bus for 49 students who participated in the University's Nevada Bound Program, an event that allows high school students to spend a day on the Nevada campus combining practical information with the experience of real University life.

Three Elmo and Donna Dericco Scholarships were presented in May. The Churchill County High School graduating seniors who received the scholarships plan to attend Nevada this fall.

The annual Western BBQ will be held on Aug. 8 at the Norm Frey Ranch in Fallon. It is a beautiful setting and great fun, as well as a major scholarship fund-raiser. Contact Jane Moon [moongang@cccomm.net](mailto:moongang@cccomm.net) for details. A football rooster bus is scheduled. Check the website for details. For additional information regarding upcoming events, visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) and click "chapters" to find the Fallon Alumni Chapter.

### International Alumni Chapter Update

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

International students celebrated their graduation at a reception hosted by the Office of International Students and Scholars and the Nevada Alumni Association on May 7. Approximately 35 students and friends attended the reception at the home of the International Alumni Chapter coordinator, Susie Bender. Countries represented at the reception included: Indonesia, India, Japan, Canada, China, Colombia, Taiwan, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Slovakia, Turkey, Poland, Brazil and Egypt. 97 international students will graduate during spring and summer 2010, representing 29 nations from around the world!



Photo courtesy of LightRay Studios

TOP LEFT: The Wells Fargo team (Tony Robinson, Vince Scott, Wayne Cameron '91 and Ken Mercurio) came in first place at this year's COBAA golf tournament at Lakeridge Golf Course. LEFT: Ann Weaver-Blough '10, Faye Gomez '10 (with her son), Kaylea Dunn '09 and Monica Atlookan '10 (with her daughter) celebrate graduation during the Native American Alumni Chapter's Graduation Reception.



## Native American Alumni Chapter

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

The Native American Alumni Chapter (NAAC) co-sponsored the 6th Annual Spring Pow Wow May 1-2 at the Manzanita Bowl. The event generated more than 1,800 attendees. NAAC would like to

give a special thank you to Kathleen Wright-Bryan and Chelsea O'Daye, current employees of the Center for Student Cultural Diversity, for their roles in making the annual Pow Wow a success!

On May 5, NAAC coordinated its annual graduation reception. American Indian graduates were recognized for obtaining their degrees and received honorary stoles for their accomplishments. In addition, two \$500 scholarships were awarded: one to a current student and the other to an entering freshman.

Get involved and renew your membership! The chapter meets monthly at various locations. If you are interested in joining, please contact Kari Emm at (775) 682-5928 or [kemm@unr.edu](mailto:kemm@unr.edu), or Sherry Rupert at (775) 687-8333 or [srupert@nic.nv.gov](mailto:srupert@nic.nv.gov).

## Nevada Football Alumni Chapter

Jim Farley '99, [jfarley47@verizon.net](mailto:jfarley47@verizon.net)

The Nevada Football Alumni Chapter teamed up with current Wolf Pack players and coaches to participate in the St. Baldrick's event in Sparks on March 17 and raised more than \$3,000 to fund childhood cancer research. This event was part of the chapter's new initiative

to team up with the Wolf Pack and increase positive exposure of the football team within the community.

Football alumni interested in renewing membership or contacting old football players should visit our new social website at [www.nevadaalumnifootball.com](http://www.nevadaalumnifootball.com) or contact Jim Farley at [jfarley47@verizon.net](mailto:jfarley47@verizon.net).

The chapter is planning a 20-year reunion at an upcoming home game of the Wolf Pack team that played in the 1990 National Championship game. If you would like to help, look for details on our website soon or contact Matt Clifton at [mclifton@panconinc.com](mailto:mclifton@panconinc.com).

## Nevada Greek Alumni Chapter

Michael McDowell '03, [mdmcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:mdmcdowell@gmail.com)

Calling all Greeks! If you were a member of a Greek-letter organization at the University of Nevada, we encourage you to join the Nevada Alumni Association's newest chapter—the Nevada Greek Alumni Chapter. We plan to provide programming that brings us together socially and professionally, plus raise money for Greek undergraduate scholarships. Do you miss that



## Ride with Pack Pride!

For more than 12 years, alumni, students, friends and fans of Nevada have been able to join the ranks of "licensed" Wolf Pack fans with a University of Nevada, Reno Wolf Pack collegiate license plate.

Currently, **6,514** Nevada drivers have the Wolf Pack plates.

Nevada residents with a vehicle registered in the state can get the special Wolf Pack plate at any Nevada DMV office. A portion of the fee collected is distributed to the University Scholarship Fund. Last year, the fund generated more than \$80,000 for scholarships!

In addition to regular car license fees, the standard Wolf Pack plates are \$61 initially and \$30 at renewal. A personalized Wolf Pack plate is sold for \$96 initially and carries a \$50 renewal. The University of Nevada, Reno receives \$25 of the initial fee and \$20 at the time of renewal.



**For more information or to download an application for a personalized plate, go to [www.dmvnv.com/platescharitable.htm](http://www.dmvnv.com/platescharitable.htm).**



NADEAU — Jim Nadeau '03. TAAAH — Lawrence Tam '03.



Barry White '05 and Eppie Johnson '51 pose in front of the Eppie's Great Race vehicle.

feeling of buying your friends? Well, you're in luck—annual membership dues are only \$20. Visit NevadaGreekAlumni.com today for more information or for online membership registration.

## Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association

Jan (Pritchard) Brady '63, lvcrrswrds@aol.com

OSNAA has exciting news to share! Our immediate past-president, Linda Clift, celebrated a milestone birthday in May. In her honor, friends and family came together and directed their gifts to the OSNAA scholarship fund.

The William N. Pennington Health Sciences Building, which will be completed by summer of 2011, is well underway. OSNAA is planning a hardhat tour of the building, followed by wine and cheese in the existing Pennington Medical Education Building, on Sept. 15 at 4 p.m. Please watch for your invitation and plan to attend this fun and informative event.

Our membership campaign continues through the fall. You should have received a letter from OSNAA earlier this summer, and we hope that you'll choose to join your alumni chapter. An important part of any college is an interested and engaged group of alumni.



Young Alumni Chapter members attend the 16th annual Beer Fest on April 23.

If you don't receive information from us, please visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) and select "Update Your Address."

## Sacramento Alumni Chapter

Steve Park '99, [spark@ccarey.com](mailto:spark@ccarey.com)

Barry White '05, a Reynolds School of Journalism graduate, multimedia journalist at *News 10* in Sacramento and owner of Colinwhite Productions, was commissioned by fellow alumnus Eppie G. Johnson '51 to produce an orientation video for the annual Eppie's Great Race triathlon held in the Sacramento area. The video can be found on YouTube and is called "The Great Race Orientation Video."

Barry is also the chapter's webmaster so please visit his

work at [NevadaAlumniSacramento.org](http://NevadaAlumniSacramento.org) or on Facebook (search "University of Nevada, Reno—Sacramento Alumni Chapter").

The chapter is looking for alumni who live in the greater Sacramento area to get involved. We currently meet on the second Tuesday of each month at noon for lunch. For location and information, contact chapter president Steve Park of Cornish & Carey Commercial at (916) 367-6345 or [spark@ccarey.com](mailto:spark@ccarey.com).

## Young Alumni Chapter

Lea Jensen '05, [yacpresident@gmail.com](mailto:yacpresident@gmail.com)

More than 400 attended the Young Alumni Chapter Beer Fest at the Grand Sierra Resort on April 23. In its 16th year, the event boasted over 60 different beers and raised funds for student scholarships.

Summer Session 2010 presents

# Summer Concerts and Watermelon on the Quad!

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

- July 7: Sol'Jibe
- July 14: HomeMade Jam
- July 21: Disney (Reno Municipal Band)
- July 28: Guitar Woody and the Boilers
- Aug. 4: Jelly Bread
- Aug. 11: Sol'Jibe



Food will be available for purchase.

For more information visit [www.summersession.unr.edu](http://www.summersession.unr.edu).

## Shine with us this summer!



Concerts are presented by Summer Session in partnership with the Native American Alumni Chapter, COBAA and the Honors Program Alumni Chapter.

The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Photos by Sarah Purdy. Produced by Extended Studies Marketing Dept., 6/10.



Extended Studies  
University of Nevada, Reno





**HAVE A BALL.**

*Whether big or small.*

## "ALUMNI BOWLING NIGHT"

**JOIN THE NEVADA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
FOR DINNER, BOWLING, MINIATURE GOLF,  
GO-KARTS AND MORE!**

**When:** Friday, September 10, 2010  
**Time:** 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
**Where:** Coconut Bowl  
Inside Wild Island Family Adventure Park  
250 Wild Island Ct., Sparks, NV

Lifetime Members:	FREE
Annual Members:	\$5
Non-Members:	\$10
Children 12 and under:	\$5

To register, visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni)  
or call 775.784.6620. RSVP by September 7th.

Sponsored by





## 2010 Spring Commencement

The Spring Commencement conferred 1,997 degrees and certificates, the largest number of graduation applicants in the University's history. There were two ceremonies, one for advanced-degree recipients on May 14 and one for bachelor-degree recipients on May 15. Both ceremonies were held on the historic Quadrangle, located on the southern part of campus.

**LOOK ONLINE**  
For more photos of all of our Gatherings visit: [www.unr.edu/silverandblue](http://www.unr.edu/silverandblue)

- (1) *Kinslee Scamaldo and Austin Davisson rejoice.*
- (2) *Family and friends gather by the statue of John Mackay to watch the undergraduate commencement ceremony on the historic Quad.*
- (3) *Temi Oyerinde, Edward Annor, Racheal Adelekan, Jemimah Asiama, Lopie Oyerinde, Dotun Adelekan and Frank Amankona.*
- (4) *Recent grads start job-hunting early.*
- (5) *Randall Sgamma and Courtney Hayes celebrate.*
- (6) *Mother and daughter, Joi David and Janel Davis, graduate together.*
- (7) *Jonathon Bird and his family proudly pose in the Honor Court.*
- (8) *Kyle Bridgewater hugs a fellow graduate.*



Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas and David Calvert



## Golden Reunion '60

The Nevada Alumni Association welcomed the Class of 1960 back to campus May 14 – 15, 2010. Nearly 100 class members, alumni and guests attended reunion events, which included a campus tour, dinner and pinning ceremony. The weekend culminated on Saturday morning, when the Class of 1960 marched in gold robes and mortarboards during the undergraduate commencement ceremony.

**(1)** Nancy (Petrini) Manfredi, Nancy (Hansen) Provin and Bill Provin march with the Class of 1960 during Commencement.

**(2)** Doug Dobson dons a cap and gown as part of the weekend of Golden Reunion activities.

**(3)** Ted Moore, Peter Breen, Fran (Breen) Terras and President Glick chat on the Morrill Hall porch prior to Commencement.

**(4)** Members of the Class of 1960 take an updated class photo following the Golden Reunion dinner and pinning ceremony.



## Herz Gold Medalist

**(5)** The University has named Janice Cho the recipient of the 2010 Herz Gold Medal, presented at each commencement ceremony to the graduating senior with the highest grade-point average. Cho is an Honors Program biochemistry major with a cumulative 4.0 grade-point average and the Senior Scholar for the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources.



Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas



1

## Henderson Recruitment Event

The Nevada Alumni Association and the Office of Prospective Students hosted the last of three student recruitment receptions in Las Vegas. More than 300 attended the May 27 event at DragonRidge Country Club. Alumni, college deans, residential life and housing, financial aid and other University representatives were available to answer questions about the institution and campus life at Nevada.

- (1) Future Nevada alumna and her mom show off her new Nevada t-shirt.
- (2) Jay Kornmayer '74 (economics) and Jeff Rodefer '85 (finance) reminisce about their time at Nevada.
- (3) Eli Reilly '10 (history), past ASUN president, shares recent college life experiences with excited incoming freshmen.



2

## Alumni Skate Night

Alumni and friends joined the Nevada Alumni Association at the second annual Alumni Roller Skating Night on June 6 at Roller Kingdom. The event kicked off the summer season of Association activities.

- (4) Danny Villalobos '08, Jessa Robertson and Alissa Egelin attend Alumni Skate Night.
- (5) Lisa, Mikayla and Vincent Johnson '90, '00 take a break from roller skating to pose during Alumni Skate Night.



3

Henderson Recruitment, photos by Dave Smith



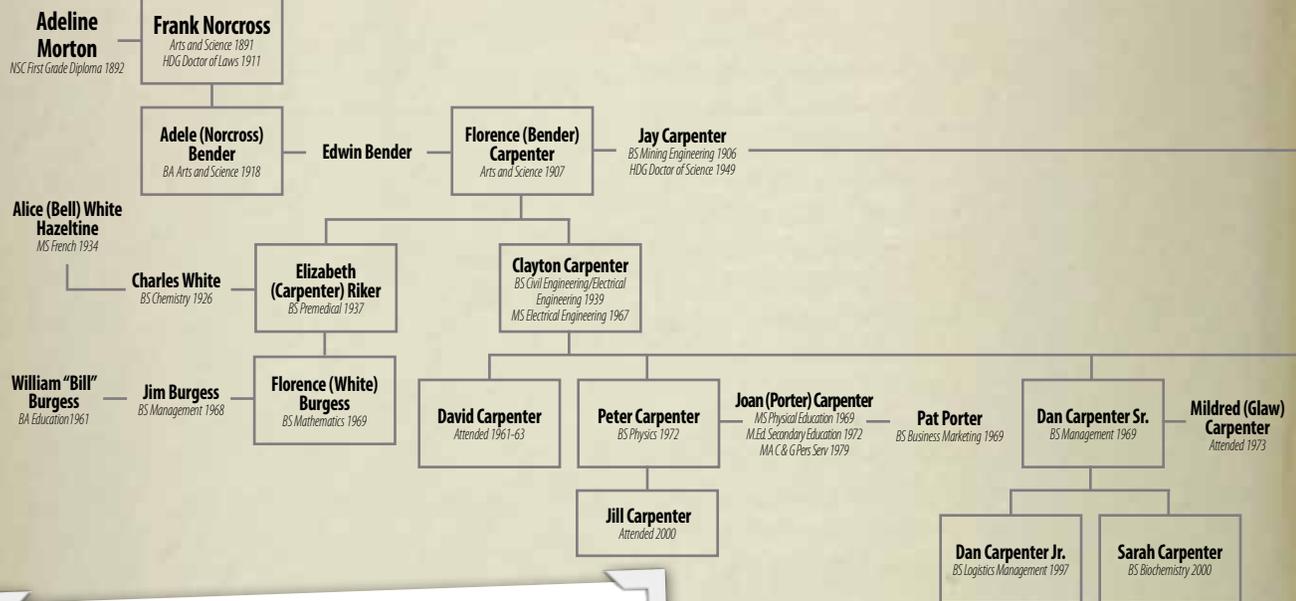
4



5

Photos by Lisa J. Tolda

## Carpenter Family Tree



## Nevada roots don't get any deeper.

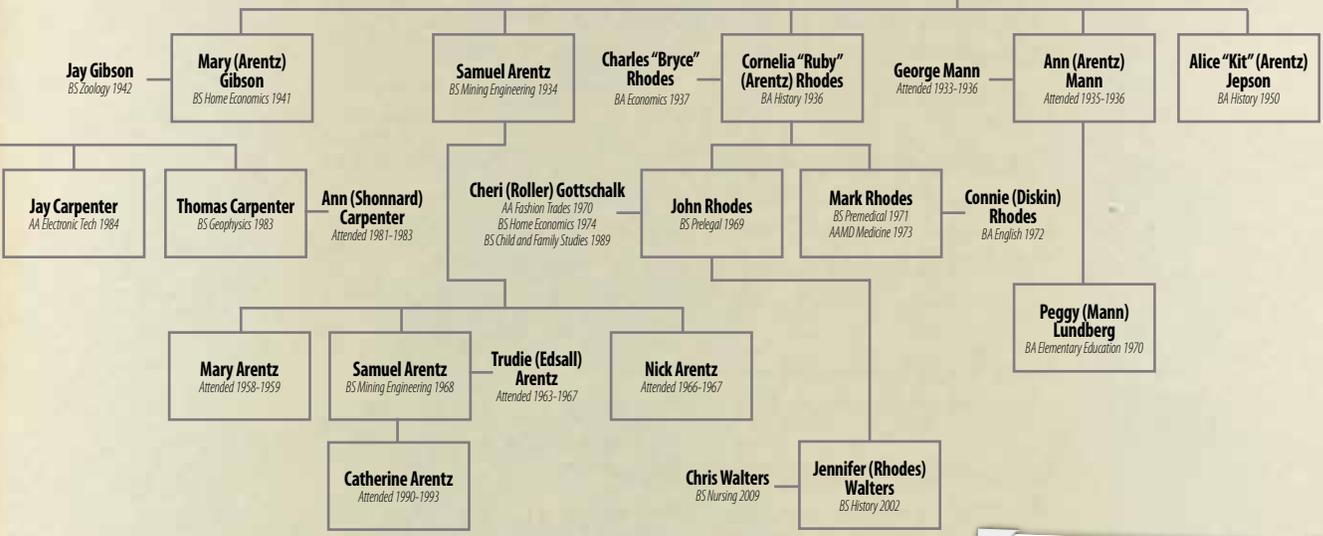
When it comes to family trees, there are quite a few whose branches have intertwined with the University of Nevada over the years. But no other roots extend further than those of the Carpenter/Arentz family, whose ties to Nevada can be traced back to 1891. As a member of the first graduating class in Nevada's history – comprised of just three graduates – Frank Norcross went on to become Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court. He also met and married his wife while attending the University, who graduated just a year after Frank. Since then there have been dozens of new family members to keep the tree going strong and the legacy alive.

FRONT ROW: Jill Carpenter, Millie Carpenter, Sarah Carpenter, Lynn Carpenter. SECOND ROW: Joan (Porter) Carpenter, Peter Carpenter, Dan Carpenter Sr., Dan Carpenter Jr. THIRD ROW: Ann (Shonnard) Carpenter, Tom Carpenter, Anne (White) Burgess



(cousins)

Harriet Keep — Samuel Arentz



Professor Jay Carpenter, circa 1930



Professor Jay and Elizabeth Carpenter, circa 1937



Clayton Carpenter, circa 1939

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



# Remembering Friends

**Norma Jean (Mills) Best '37** (French), lifelong Nevadan and a 42-year resident of Carson City, died April 27 at the age of 95. Norma Jean was born to Fred and Flora Mills on Aug. 26, 1914 in Little Falls, Minn. The youngest of six children (her siblings were Hester, Wayne, Ellen, Betty and Catherine), Norma Jean's family moved to Fallon, Nev. in 1918 where her third-grade teacher was her sister Hester and her eighth grade teacher was her cousin Laura Mills. It was Laura who instilled in Norma Jean her love for wild flowers, botany and an appreciation for natural history.

Norma Jean met her future husband, Bob Best, on the first day of class in the fifth grade in Fallon, Nev. They were married on Aug. 14, 1937, the same year she graduated from the University. The couple moved to Elko, Nev. in 1938 where Bob was the science instructor for Elko High School. Bob supplemented his job by serving as a summer fireguard in Lamoille Canyon; the job afforded them the opportunity to live in a cabin supplied by the U.S. Forest Service. In 1943, when Bob was named principal at Mineral County High School in Hawthorne, Norma Jean was a music instructor in the Hawthorne elementary schools and taught homebound students. She also volunteered as a Girl Scout troop leader, served with the PTA and helped organize the Community Presbyterian Church.

The Bests moved to Yerington in 1956, where Bob was named superintendent of schools for Lyon County. Norma Jean taught first grade at Yerington Elementary School. Her extracurricular activities included singing in the choir at Community United Methodist Church.

When Bob was promoted to associate superintendent of the Nevada Department of Education in 1968, the couple moved to Carson City, eventually settling in a home they built in Kings Canyon a year later. Norma Jean taught in Gardnerville and Carson City for three years before retiring in 1971.

Living in Carson City gave Norma Jean the opportunity to enjoy her recreational passion of hiking and backpacking in the surrounding Sierra Nevada Range and other nearby mountain ranges.

Norma Jean was preceded in death by Bob and their eldest daughter, Jean. She is survived by her daughter Carol and her son, David (Elizabeth); her three grandchildren, Dennis (Jamie), Patty (Robin) and Mike (Annette); her sister-in-law, Caroline; and eight great-grandchildren: Sarah, Kathryn, Ellen, Jillian, Miles, Sydney, Summer and Kimberly.

**Georgianna (Hicks) Perazzo '46** (English) died March 15 in Las Vegas. Georgianna was born Oct. 13, 1923 in Fallon, Nev. She is the daughter of the late Mary Kirk of Sparks, Nev. and lived in Elko, Hawthorne and

various other mining camps in California and Nevada. She is registered with the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians in Elko. She was a graduate of Sparks High School, Class of 1942.

Georgianna received her bachelor's degree from the University plus a separate teacher's degree in elementary and secondary education. She taught elementary, junior high, and high school, plus 12 years teaching English at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Her master of arts degree was awarded in education with an emphasis on English language. Her master of science degree was awarded in general counseling with separate award in substance abuse counseling. She developed original independent research in the linguistic indication markers in addiction recovery.

Georgianna was a reading specialist, a social worker licensed by the state of Nevada and the National Association of Social Workers, and a certified licensed alcohol and drug counselor, also by the state of Nevada. She was employed as a child protective services specialist II with Clark County Family and Youth Services and later in staff development. She served as liaison for the Tenants' Improvement Group of the Cambridge Community Outreach Center, and coordinator for 12 years of the Community Interface Sharing Program of the Positive Link Resource Organization. Other community activities included the American Association of University Women, PTA, Community Concerts, Classroom on Wheels, the Salvation Army and the United Methodist Church.

Georgianna was the widow of architect Frederick J. Perazzo, the mother of four grown children—three boys and a girl—and grandmother of four and great-grandmother of nine. Her hobbies included cooking, sewing, painting, singing, music, concerts including jazz, writing and reading. She was an avid patron of the arts. A post-polio survivor from infancy, she maintained an active lifestyle, moving around in a powered wheelchair and driving a specially adapted van. Her favorite color was sky blue.

**James "Jack" Davis '50** (arts and science), founding president of Nevada's community college system, died Oct. 24, 2009 after a short bout with pneumonia. Jack was president of Western Nevada Community College from 1972 to 1983 and also built extended WNCC rural colleges in Fallon, Gardnerville and Elko during his tenure as president. Born in San Diego, Calif. on Nov. 22, 1925, Jack joined the Merchant Marines during World War II and later was an army company commander during the Korean War.

Jack played as a linebacker on the University's championship football team coached by Joe Sheeketski. He was also a college light heavy-weight boxer.

Jack loved Nevada and its people and served them



**Norma Jean (Mills) Best '37**



**Jon Springmeyer '72**

in an educational capacity for most of his life. He was principal of Battle Mountain Elementary School in 1954, principal of Fallon High School in 1958, and then became superintendant of the Unified Churchill County School District. He became an associate professor at the University after receiving his doctorate from Stanford, and taught here for seven years from 1965 to 1972. He created the Research and Educational Planning Center at the University's College of Education. He was also an educational consultant to many state departments of education and school districts and actively promoted vocational education in Nevada and on a national level. He authored the book, *The Principal's Guide to Educational Facilities*.

He was offered the job as founding president of the still yet to be built, Western Nevada Community College in Carson City in 1972. Jack worked tirelessly for many years to expand the college and its facilities, as well as rural satellite colleges.

In 1978, he was appointed by the governor to the Nevada Athletic Commission. He was the executive vice president of the World Boxing Council, founded the North American Boxing Federation and headed the WBC Ring Officials Committee.

Also in 1978, Nevada governor Mike O'Callahan, proclaimed his "appreciation and thanks to Jack Davis in recognition of the exemplary service, loyally offered to the State of Nevada, and sincere thanks for Jack's efforts that have so greatly contributed to the economic and social success of the State of Nevada and helped assure the continuing preservation of our free-enterprise system."

Jack had a great heart and served in other capacities in the Carson City community. He was a fifth-grade Sunday school teacher at the First United Methodist Church for 25 years, president of the Rotary Club, served on the Carson Tahoe Hospital Blue Ribbon Committee and was a member of the Northern Nevada Development Authority. In 2004, Jack was honored by having the observatory on the Western Nevada College campus dedicated in his name: the Jack C. Davis Observatory.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their three children, Susan, Maria (Mark), and Greg (Sharlene), and four grandchildren, Allison, Katelyn, Natalie and Jack.



Photo by Memphis Sady

Alicia Parlette '04

**Jon Springmeyer '72** (business), Nevada native and Douglas High School graduate, died April 10 at the age of 59 at his home in Carson City. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in 2005.

Jon was born April 25, 1950, in Carson City to Melvin "Buzz" and Marjorie Johnson Springmeyer, both of whom were early Carson Valley settlers. While growing up on the family's J Lazy J Ranch, he helped his father run cattle up to South Lake Tahoe, Calif. It was during this time that his love of the outdoors and his appreciation of Native American culture emerged.

In 1968 Jon graduated from Douglas High School and went on to earn a business degree at the University. It was at the University that his cowboy charisma attracted the attention of Bonnie Connolly. After meeting on a blind date,

the two quickly became inseparable and were married in 1971 following a two-year courtship.

Jon went on to McGeorge School of Law and graduated in 1980, after which he established a private practice in Carson City, where he quickly developed a reputation for treating his clients as close friends. Later Jon joined his long time friend and mentor, John Reiser, at Reiser & Associates Insurance. He cared deeply about helping others, both in his professional and personal life and was always available to offer advice and guidance.

Jon's hobbies included camping, archery, muzzle loading and attending Burning Man. He loved entertaining his friends with anecdotes and practical jokes.

In addition to his wife of 38 years, he is survived by his mother, Marjorie, sons, Erin (Diane) and Ryan (Rachel), and daughter, Sara.

**Alicia Parlette '04 (journalism)** died April 22 at the age of 28. The University of Nevada, Reno graduate chronicled her battle with alveolar soft part sarcoma, a rare form of cancer, in a 17-part series for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She found out she had cancer shortly after being hired by *The Chronicle* as a copy editor. Alicia was admitted to the hospital on April 2 with hip pain

and problems breathing. She and doctors decided to end her treatment, and Alicia spent the last few weeks in the hospital saying goodbye to friends and family.

In her series, Alicia wrote about her mother's death, also from cancer, and what she imagined from her own memorial services when she died.

"I wanted my funeral to be different. I wanted it to be quirky and youthful and completely specific to me. I wanted songs from Jimmy Eat World; I wanted Ani DiFranco's version of "Amazing Grace"; I wanted passages to be read from "To Kill a Mockingbird" and Anne Lamott and some of my writing."

Alicia was a talented young journalist at the Reynolds School of Journalism. The school is establishing a scholarship in her name. Contributions may be sent to the University of Nevada, Reno c/o the Alicia Parlette Fund for Aspiring Journalists, Reynolds School of Journalism, Mail Stop 310, University of Nevada, Reno 89557.

More information about Alicia's life can be found at her website: <http://msparlette.wordpress.com>.

**LOOK ONLINE**

For the full text of Remembering Friends visit: [www.unr.edu/silverandblue](http://www.unr.edu/silverandblue)



## Creating a Legacy of Education

### How to become a member of the Nevada Legacy Society

If you have already arranged for a bequest or other planned gift to Nevada, we would like to honor your support so please notify us and we will send you the information to become a Legacy Society member.

If you are still considering such a gift, let us know so we can help you and your advisers complete your gift in a way that benefits your estate and makes clear your objectives in making a bequest to the University of Nevada, Reno. For example, you could choose to support student scholarships, capital expansion, equipment purchases, endowed faculty positions, or the area of greatest opportunity or need at the time your gift comes in.

Involvement in the Nevada Legacy Society gives you the opportunity to enjoy the company of others who, like yourself, care about leaving a legacy to protect and strengthen the University of Nevada. Members receive a Legacy Society lapel pin, invitations to exclusive functions on campus, and more. Your gift can be recognized publicly, unless you prefer to remain anonymous.



For more information about membership in the Nevada Legacy Society or about including the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation in your future plans, please contact Lisa Riley at (775) 784-1352, or [plannedgiving.unr.edu](http://plannedgiving.unr.edu).



Photo by John Lee

## Donato Cabrera: Reno's musical masterpiece

To a musician, a crescendo is a steady increase in volume and intensity. It is a fitting turn of phrase to use when describing the rise of University of Nevada, Reno alumnus Donato Cabrera, '96 (applied music) to become the assistant conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and to his current position as the Wattis Foundation music director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, internationally recognized as one of finest youth orchestras in the world.

"I'm riding the wave and just trying to stay on the surfboard," he says.

Cabrera draws again and again from his Reno musical roots while being carried along the rising tide of his musical career.

Cabrera moved to Reno from Las Vegas when he was 10 years old, graduated from Reed High School, and earned his bachelor's

degree at Nevada. His post-graduate profile reads like the "Who's Who in U.S. News & World Report's Top College rankings": earning his master's degree in conducting at the University of Illinois, and pursuing further graduate studies in conducting at Indiana University, Bloomington, and the Manhattan School of Music.

But, Cabrera says, like charity, success begins at home, with organizations like the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Nevada Ballet and Nevada Opera, as well as the excellent music teachers he studied with as a student in Reno.

"Reno has everything to do with my success," he says. "I was very lucky to have these people around."

While spending summers listening to his grandmother play the piano, who learned

from her father, Cabrera was inspired to begin taking piano lessons at age 8. He signed up to play the French horn in middle school band, and before long, he was playing in the Reed High School band, under the guidance of Felton Hickman Jr. '60 (music).

"He always did a lot of extra things," Hickman says of Cabrera. "He'd try out for honor band, all-state, perform solos and play in the brass choir. He took two classes a year in instrumental music."

Hickman, now retired, taught music in Reno for nine years at the middle school level, and 19 years of high school music. His late father, Felton Hickman Sr. '38 (music) began conducting the University band in 1940, after receiving his bachelor's degree from Nevada. Known in Reno as the "Grandfather of Music," Hickman Sr. retired as professor emeritus



Photo by John Lee



Photo by Kristen Lubien

OPPOSITE: In the War Memorial Opera House. ABOVE: Conducting Don Giovanni with the San Francisco Opera. RIGHT: Conducting the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.

from the University in 1966.

Hickman says as a teacher, he was influenced by his father's belief that students should be nurtured and not dictated to. So, when Cabrera expressed an interest in conducting the high school band, Hickman let him do it.

"I gave him opportunities to do the things he wanted to do," Hickman says. "I wanted the kids to be an active part of things—not for me, but for themselves."

Cabrera says he thinks Hickman is one of the best conductors he knows, and he uses many of Hickman's techniques with the San Francisco Youth Orchestra.

A conductor has to have the ability to lead other musicians by indicating tempo, phrasing, dynamics and style using gestures and facial expressions.

"To be a conductor at any level, you have to be an educator, whether you're leading professionals or beginners," Cabrera says. "Felton's gifts as a high school educator were exactly where they needed to be so someone like me could find him."

After high school, Cabrera enrolled at Nevada. There, under the tutelage of the University's previous cello professor John

Lenz '70 (music), Cabrera again picked up the conductor's baton, to lead the University orchestra.

"Donato was a very talented musician," says Lenz, now professor emeritus. "Music was of utmost importance to him. He expressed interest in conducting right off the bat, and he was good at it."

Cabrera says the opportunities he got as a student at a college the size of Nevada far surpassed what he might have had at a larger school, where only master's students are usually allowed to conduct a small piece or an overture.

"The faculty at the University of Nevada, Reno are very good," Cabrera says. "I received a great education. John Lenz is one of the most inspiring musicians I've ever met. Having that caliber of musician teaching you from an early age is crucial."

Lenz, a Reno resident since 1951, received his bachelor's at the University and his master's at the New England Conservatory in Boston. He joined the University of Nevada faculty in 1972 teaching cello, horn and music theory.

"I was here much longer than the 37 years I taught here, though," Lenz says. "I was a student in the department back in junior high playing in the University orchestra

before the Church Fine Arts building was finished in 1960."

Lenz is now the principal horn player of the Reno Philharmonic, the Reno Chamber Orchestra, and is the cellist of the Telluride Chamber Players in Colorado. He is joined in these endeavors by his wife, Paula (Griggs) Lenz '73 (music), and daughter, Ruth Lenz '97 (applied music), '99M.M. (music).

In the proverbial village of music education that is Reno, Cabrera also received support at the part-time job he held throughout college at a local CD store owned by University Vice Provost Emerita and Professor of Biology Emerita Carol Ort and her husband, Fred Anderson.

"The University really expanded Donato's knowledge, and he brought that back to the store," Ort says. "He had this knowledge and love of different conductors and knew who had the capabilities and skills to conduct different types of music, and could talk to the customers about it."

Cabrera says in the future, he would like to continue conducting both opera and symphonic works. He served as the associate conductor of the San Francisco Opera from 2005 to 2008 and made his conducting debut in South America in 2008 with the Orquesta de Concepción. His experience in the many ensembles, he says, gives him patience and understanding with young musicians. When he is working with the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, Cabrera takes a page from his own history book.

"What I learned from Felton and John were thorough foundations in how to make music," he says. "If you're not well-rounded in the fundamentals, you can't teach them to someone else."

His advice to instrumental music students is to learn every instrument, pitfalls, limitations and all. Music performance majors, he says, should also learn a foreign language, such as German or Italian, and study abroad.

"Western Classical Music has its roots in Europe," he says. "Get there for a semester." 

*Jim Megquier '61 (chemistry/zoology) loved chemistry and got good grades but wasn't sure what he wanted to do until University professor, Dr. Fred Ryser, directed him toward dental school, a decision that led to a distinguished oral surgery career of 33 years.*

*Jim arrived at the University of Nevada in June of 1957 and quickly became involved in campus life. He was actively involved in Sigma Nu, Coffin & Keys (president, 1961) and was men's senior senator at-large. Jim met his wife, Lynn Walsh, in Dr. Miller's Speech 101 class as a freshman. Lynn also served as women's senior senator at-large and was active in Delta Delta Delta sorority. The couple were engaged in the spring of their senior year.*

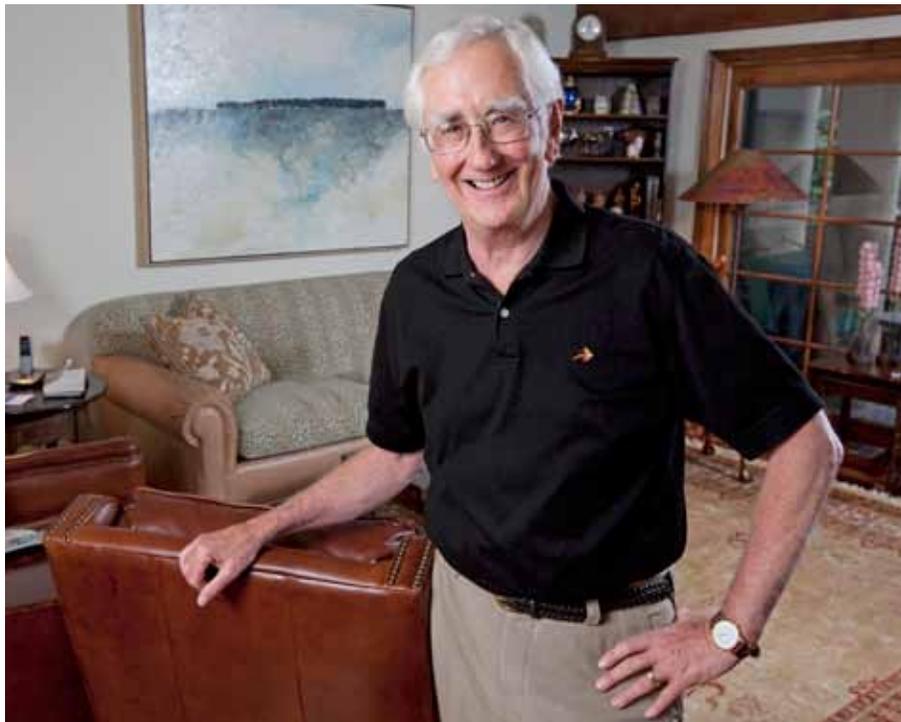
*After graduation in 1961, Lynn taught school in Santa Clara, Calif., while Jim finished dental school at the University of Pacific in San Francisco. The couple then moved in 1965 so that the Jim could complete a master of science degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He also completed a three-year residency program in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Michigan's University Hospital in 1968. Two of their three daughters were born in Ann Arbor: Jennifer and Marné. The youngest, Tricia, was born in Reno after Jim started his oral surgery practice with Dr. David Melarkey.*

## What is your fondest memory from your days at Nevada?

I was a stranger to Reno when I enrolled at Nevada. I lived at home, so when I decided to join the Sigma Nu fraternity, this integrated me into campus activities and allowed me to meet and make lifetime friends and professional contacts. This also led to my meeting, dating and eventually marrying my wife of 48 years, Lynn Walsh. In fact our wedding reception was held at the Sigma Nu house.

Several professors were directly responsible for my study habits and urged me to continue my education after the University of Nevada. Professors Ryser, Tibbitts, Driggs, Miller, Hume and Kemp all played fundamental roles in my scholastic success.

My four years at Nevada were probably the four most memorable of my life.



Jim Megquier '61 in his Reno home.

## What have you done that you are most proud of?

I am proud of my three daughters and the lives they have led. Lynn and I have weathered the various challenges of our lives together and we are both very happy that we have reached this stage together. We dearly love our six grandchildren and spend considerable time together with family activities.

I have been involved in dentistry and my specialty on the local, state and national levels for many years. I am pleased with my career and the many wonderful colleagues and patients I have been involved with over the years. I was fortunate in being awarded a fellowship in the American College of Dentists in 1991.

My main interest outside of family, career and leisure time has been the University. I enjoyed serving on the Foundation Board for nine years, two years as chairman. I continue actively as an emeritus member. I also enjoyed being a clinical associate professor of surgery and being active in the

cleft lip and palate clinic through the School of Medicine. I enjoy Wolf Pack sports and have seen tremendous improvement in the level of competition, as well as the facilities. The beauty and the quality of the University improve every year and will continue with stakeholder and alumni support, despite the difficult economic times.

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

I would urge graduates to take a few months off after college and widen their horizons with travel, volunteerism and temporary work, then implement a long-term career plan. Start retirement planning early! The years go by in a hurry.

One thing I have learned and experienced is we all make mistakes; we're human. So, forgive yourself, rectify problems and move on.

*Jim Megquier*

# Home Football Tailgates

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Thurs., Sept. 2

Nevada vs. Eastern Washington

Sat., Sept. 11

Nevada vs. Colorado State

Fri., Sept. 17

Nevada vs. California

Sat., Oct. 9 (Homecoming)

Nevada vs. San Jose State

Sat., Oct. 30

Nevada vs. Utah State

Sat., Nov. 20

Nevada vs. New Mexico State

Fri., Nov. 26

Nevada vs. Boise State



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prior to kickoff. Space is limited so stop by early.



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**Downtown Reno Events Center**

An incomparable wine selection,  
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More than 100 wineries  
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Creative culinary  
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## Tickets

**\$35** Nevada Alumni  
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**\$45** in advance

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**BENEFITING UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO SCHOLARSHIPS**

For more information regarding sponsorship or tickets, contact Kristin Harris at [kdharris@unr.edu](mailto:kdharris@unr.edu)

(775)784-4831 or visit <http://giving.unr.edu/vintage>





*Osher Lifelong Learning Institute members gather for the annual Summer Picnic at Rancho San Rafael Park.*

## Bernard Osher Foundation awards \$1 million endowment gift to Nevada's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

The University's learning-in-retirement organization, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute has been awarded a \$1 million endowment gift by the Bernard Osher Foundation for programming excellence and for demonstrating potential for long-term success and sustainability. Since 2007, OLLI at Nevada has received three separate grants of \$100,000 from the Osher Foundation, enabling the organization to increase membership, improve outreach and develop course offerings.

"We are delighted to provide this permanent gift for a program that offers such a diverse and engaging array of educational opportunities for older adults," says Mary Bitterman, Osher Foundation president. "From thought-provoking courses such as 'American Film History,' 'Classical Music Seminar' and 'Writing Fiction,' to lectures, group activities and special events, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University has developed an outstanding curriculum that appeals to an ever-increasing and grateful membership."

Founded in 1991 by a small group of lifelong learners dedicated to continuing education beyond retirement, the University's ElderCollege was selected by the Osher Foundation to become an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in March 2007 in recognition of its exceptional success as a member-directed learning-in-retirement organization. OLLI is one of 119 Osher institutes established since 2001 at such colleges and universities as University of California Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, Brandeis University, Duke, Northwestern, Rutgers, Tufts and Arizona State University.

Affectionately called OLLI by its more than 800 members, the University's institute for older adult learners is guided by a volunteer board and sponsored by Extended Studies. OLLI is based off-campus

at the University's Warren Nelson Building in downtown Reno and, as part of an annual membership fee of \$45, offers free non-credit educational programs to adults age 50 and over.

Fred Holman, vice provost for Extended Studies, says, "The generosity of the Osher Foundation Endowment ensures the continuation of a level of social engagement for our senior adults in the region that integrates volunteerism and self-development for years to come."

According to Pat Zimmerman, who serves as past-president of the OLLI board of directors, programming has grown from 104 classes in spring 2006 to 252 classes in spring 2009, and membership has grown from about 300 members as ElderCollege in 2006 to more than 800 members today as an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Zimmerman is one of scores of local OLLI members who take an active role in curriculum development, leadership and daily planning and running of the organization.

Based in San Francisco, the Bernard Osher Foundation has supported higher education and the arts since its founding in 1977 by community leader Bernard Osher.

**For more information about OLLI at the University of Nevada, Reno, visit [www.oli.unr.edu](http://www.oli.unr.edu) or call (775) 784-8053.**

—Andrea Turman



University of Nevada, Reno  
Foundation

He **inspired** a generation  
of scientists and engineers

He **awed** over 600 million  
television viewers

He **danced** with the stars ...  
and walked on the moon

On September 30, American hero  
**Buzz Aldrin** lands on the stage  
of the 29th Annual University of  
Nevada, Reno Foundation Banquet

In honor of the opening of the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, the Center for Molecular Medicine and the Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease, the Foundation Banquet will proudly feature keynote speaker Dr. Buzz Aldrin.



On July 20, 1969, as part of the Apollo 11 mission, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong became the first humans to set foot on the moon. A West Point graduate and decorated combat pilot, Dr. Aldrin earned his doctorate of science in astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1963, Dr. Aldrin performed the world's first successful spacewalk, and in 1969 made his historic moonwalk, for which he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

**Thursday**  
**Sept. 30, 2010**

**John Ascuaga's Nugget  
Rose Ballroom**

**6:00 p.m. Reception**

**7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program**

Tickets are \$200 per person or \$2,000 per table. Event sponsorships are also available. Call Jeanne Corbit at (775) 784-4831 or email [jcorbit@unr.edu](mailto:jcorbit@unr.edu) to reserve your place at this historic event.

