

NEVADA

Silver&Blue

The magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno • Winter 2016

NevadaFIT

Welcome to boot camp.
College starts now.

The University Downtown:
Innovation Center

Basque Studies
HONORING 40 YEARS

Alumni Profile:
JoAnn Elston



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About the cover

The College of Engineering’s E-Fit, one of eight specialties available in the NevadaFIT program, allows students a hands-on, intensive learning experience prior to the start of their freshman year. By providing this focused glimpse into what a college career entails, NevadaFIT builds students’ confidence and establishes a firm foundation for academic success. Beginning on page 2, read about how Provost Kevin Carman brought this pivotal program to Nevada and the impact it has made on our students.

Only Online

Visit www.unr.edu/silverandblue for photo galleries and full versions of the printed stories. You can also access Nevada Silver & Blue archives.

Feature – For more information on NevadaFIT visit www.unr.edu/nevadafit.

Gatherings – For more photos from all of our events.

Remembering Friends – For the full obituaries.



Welcome to boot camp. College starts now.

By Keiko Weil '87

Photos by Tim Dunn

College of Engineering freshman E-FIT participants prepare for the rigors of earning an engineering degree at Nevada during the physics portion of the program dealing with trebuchets and projectile motion.

As an incoming freshman from Las Vegas, Taylor Tindall received an email about NevadaFIT, the five-day residential academic program designed to increase success for incoming college students. Figuring her parents couldn't afford the program, she dismissed the message.

Shortly before she was to begin her first year at the University of Nevada, Reno, Tindall's parents told her to pack for a camping trip. But rather than pulling into a campground, they drove to campus, opened the door, and said, "Welcome to ScienceFIT!"

"I literally got booted to boot camp," she laughs. "I was automatically overwhelmed with excitement and the program was more than I ever hoped."

Tindall returned to the program in 2015, but this time as a mentor.

"I would definitely recommend this program over and over," Tindall says. "It's really helpful for anxiety over college, and even if students think they're prepared, it is effective."

"It was just five days but it changed me in a

way that will carry me through my entire career," Tindall says. "It helped me with my fear of failing, got me involved in clubs and helped me with performance anxiety."

NevadaFIT, short for "freshman intensive

President Marc Johnson. "Our goal is to help students successfully transition from high school to college, and NevadaFIT provides a realistic orientation to the style, pace, intensity and rigor of college courses. After completing

"NevadaFIT is part of the University's commitment to creating a culture of student success and completion."

-President Marc Johnson

transition," is designed to increase success for incoming freshman college students. Appropriately referred to as a "boot camp," the program offers a focused glimpse into the University's rigorous academic expectations and college life prior to the start of the semester.

"NevadaFIT is part of the University's commitment to creating a culture of student success and completion," says University

the program, students are better prepared for their first semester of college."

Replicated at more than 30 campuses nationwide, NevadaFIT is modeled after "BIOS," a program established at Louisiana State University (LSU) to help freshmen biology majors successfully transition into college. "BIOS" has received acclaim from organizations such as the American Association for the Advance-

Kevin Carman, executive vice president and provost, meets with students at NevadaFIT, the University's five-day residential academic preparation program for incoming freshmen.





“Students’ confidence may be shaken as they go through the program, but when they complete NevadaFIT, you see students who ‘get it.’ They are more confident and have a greater understanding of what it takes to be successful in college.”

— Kevin Carman
executive vice president and provost

ment of Science and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Before joining the University in 2013 as executive vice president and provost, Kevin Carman was dean of the College of Science at LSU when “BIOS” was launched in 2005. He made implementing a similar program at Nevada his priority. “Academic boot camps dramatically increase academic performance and student success rates,” Carman said. “It’s exciting to see students recognize and embrace the hard work needed to be successful. Students who go through boot camp are twice as likely to graduate in their major. We give them tools for success.”

The first boot camp program at Nevada, BioFIT, was attended by 48 freshman biology majors in 2013. In 2014, more than 350 students attended the program, which was expanded beyond biology, making Nevada the first university to translate the academic boot camp to majors beyond the sciences. This fall, attendance in NevadaFIT topped 400 students in all eight colleges and across 40 different majors.

It is 3:30 p.m. on a sunny August afternoon, and many of the students in a lecture hall at the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center on the Nevada campus wear shorts and sunglasses on their heads, but they are not having a day at the beach.

With brows furrowed in concentration and not a single side conversation, they study a quadratic equation on the overhead projector and try to crack the problem at hand.

Incoming freshman Alejandro Cortez Ramirez, a pre-business major, says he chose to attend NevadaFIT to ensure he’s prepared for the academic rigors that lie ahead.

“Since I’m coming here from high school,

I thought this would be a smart thing to do,” Cortez Ramirez says. “It’s giving me an advance look at what I’ll see in my classes, so it’s actual work.”

A typical day in the five-day program starts with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast, then a lecture followed by a lab class, lunch, a study session and an exam. After a writing study session, the students have dinner, another lecture and exam discussion. Throughout their busy schedule, the students also attend learning sessions to help them understand note taking and learning styles, how to deal with stress and test anxiety, as well as academic integrity and decision making.

“Students may be surprised by the intensity of the program,” Carman said, “but college is rigorous and can be stressful. We want to give students a realistic sample of what they will experience in college. Students’ confidence may be shaken as they go through the program, but when they complete NevadaFIT, you see students who ‘get it.’ They are more confident and have a greater understanding of what it takes to be successful in college.”

NevadaFIT students get hands-on exposure to lab experiences and lectures by faculty who will teach their first semester courses. They learn about career opportunities in their chosen fields of study and about research projects in their areas of interest.

For many students, personal interactions can often be as daunting as academic concerns, so NevadaFIT students have ample opportunity to meet and interact with faculty, staff and academic advisors. They also participate in team building and wellness exercises as important components of the program.

NevadaFIT students are grouped into “packs” of six students each and are guided

More than 400 incoming freshmen participated in the 2015 NevadaFIT program before the fall semester began to get a jumpstart on the academic expectations of college life.



Participants in Community Health Sciences, HealthFIT, get hands-on experience with the SimMan3G patient simulator in the University's Clinical Simulation Lab. Kelly Farley, simulation coordinator in the Office of Medical Education, leads the demonstration.

by an undergraduate peer mentor. Many peer mentors, like Taylor Tindall, were NevadaFIT attendees themselves. Mentors share the same major as their pack members and help students through the program, including leading study sessions. They help students navigate campus efficiently and familiarize them with their new environment by conducting building and lab tours.

University services like the math, writing and tutoring centers support academic success and timely graduation. These dedicated services are available for the entire student body, and during NevadaFIT, students have the chance to explore these resources, including presentations and demonstrations with center staff. They get hands-on experience using online course components, technology and resources

such as WebCampus, the University's online course management system, and they discover countless other opportunities such as scholarships, internships, clubs and organizations.

Students who are registered to live on campus during the academic year can move into their permanently assigned rooms during NevadaFIT. Meals during the program are provided in the campus' buffet-style dining hall, the Downunder Café.

The program is presented the week prior to the beginning of the fall term, so NevadaFIT students proceed directly into the school year. "Pack study groups continue into the fall semester where members are enrolled in one or more courses together," said Carman. "They come to class the first day and see several familiar faces, and they know they belong. Peer



Participants seeking a degree in journalism in the J-FIT program listen as Reynolds School of Journalism Dean Al Stavitsky presents his lecture "All Things Media."

In a nutshell: NevadaFIT 2016

Who:

Incoming freshmen students must have a declared major that corresponds to one of the available camps.

What:

A five-day intensive academic preparation camp. One-credit hour pass-fail course which counts toward students' graduation.

When:

Aug. 21-25, 2016

Where:

University of Nevada, Reno campus

Why:

The transition to college can be overwhelming, even for the best high school students. This boot camp will give students a head start for success.

More Information:

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

Mary Feliz

NevadaFIT Coordinator

nevadafit@unr.edu

Phone (775) 682-7113

NevadaFIT supporters

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For information about supporting NevadaFIT, please contact Crystal Parrish, director of corporate and foundation relations, at (775) 682-6023 or cparrish@unr.edu.



University President Marc Johnson visits with students and parents on the campus' historic Quad during NevadaFIT in August.

mentors often stay in close contact with pack members and provide support throughout the year.”

Students pay a fee to attend NevadaFIT that assists with the cost of the program, including compensation for student peer mentors. Additional housing fees apply for students who move into campus housing during NevadaFIT. Private funds are raised to offer financial aid for students who might not otherwise be able to afford the fee or housing costs. This year more than half of registered NevadaFIT students' fees were covered by donations. Beginning in 2016, NevadaFIT will become a one credit-hour pass-fail course which will count toward graduation and can be included in financial aid packages. In addition to the one-credit tuition, students will pay a course fee of \$250. Private support will continue to be sought to cover fees and housing costs for students who have financial need.

“Many community partners, alumni and friends support NevadaFIT, and because of them, students who qualify have their full attendance paid,” Carman said. “We work hard to make sure any student who has financial

need will be able to attend.”

Parents are invited to attend an opening information session with the Provost to hear more about the NevadaFIT experience and how they can help their student be successful in college. They are also invited to experience the beauty of the Nevada campus during the closing barbeque on the historic Quad at the completion of NevadaFIT.

The objectives of NevadaFIT are to increase college success, retention, grade-point average and on-time graduation. Just three years in, the effects of the program have been convincing. So compelling are the outcomes, that beginning in fall 2016, the College of Science has opted to make ScienceFIT a required one-credit course for all science majors. “The estimated 600 incoming freshmen pursuing majors in the College of Science deserve the best opportunity for college success. We are convinced NevadaFIT is that best opportunity. Accordingly, we have incorporated NevadaFIT into the College of Science curriculum beginning next fall,” says Jeff Thompson, dean of the College of Science.

The positive impact of the NevadaFIT

“From the time freshmen first step on campus, we take seriously our job to help them be successful students and citizens. NevadaFIT is the perfect approach to get students started on the right foot.”

-President Marc Johnson

Freshman and pre-business major Alejandro Cortez Ramirez attended Biz-FIT in August to prepare for the academic rigors of college.



program is not lost on the participants, their families or the campus as a whole. “NevadaFIT is a large undertaking for our campus.” says University President Marc Johnson. “From the time freshmen first step on campus, we take seriously our job to help them be successful

students and citizens. NevadaFIT is the perfect approach to get students started on the right foot. We cannot be more proud of the program’s success, except of course, when these students graduate and finish their educational careers at Nevada.” [N](#)

NevadaFIT is available to these majors:

Science: (ScienceFIT)*

Life Sciences
Biology
Molecular Microbiology & Immunology
Neuroscience
Physical Sciences & Engineering
Atmospheric Sciences
Chemistry
Geology
Geophysics
Geological Engineering
Hydrogeology
Mathematics
Metallurgical Engineering
Mining Engineering
Physics

Business: (Pre-Business) (BizFIT)

Accounting
Accounting/Information Systems
Information Systems
Economics
Finance
General Business
International Business
Management
Marketing

College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources : (BMBFIT)

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Biotechnology
Nutritional Sciences

Nutrition Dietetics
Veterinary Science

Community Health Sciences: (HealthFIT)

Community Health Sciences

EDUCATION (FIT2CARE)

Human Development and Family Studies
Nursing

Engineering (EFIT)

Chemical Engineering
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Computer Science and Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Engineering Physics
Materials Science and Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Undeclared Engineering

Journalism (JFIT)

Journalism

Liberal Arts (PsychFIT)

Psychology

*Beginning fall 2016, NevadaFIT is required for all science majors. For all other majors, NevadaFIT is optional.

Students who participate in NevadaFIT:

- Get a realistic exposure to a class that the student will take in the fall semester
- Participate in lectures from the faculty who will actually teach the course in the fall semester
- Get a jump start on course content
- Work closely with an undergraduate mentor in the student’s major
- Take actual exams and receive feedback on how to improve performance
- Form study groups (Packs). Pack members are enrolled together in one or more courses in the fall semester
- Learn about possible research and other experiential learning opportunities
- Develop and hone critical skills necessary to be successful in college (e.g. time management, note taking, test taking, and understanding complex material)
- Meet and interact with faculty, staff and students in the student’s major



Taking the “No” out of innovation: University Innevation Center opens downtown

By Jane Tors '82, director of communications

A laser-cutting, rather than the traditional ribbon-cutting, marked the Sept. 22 opening of the University of Nevada, Reno Innevation Center, Powered by Switch, in downtown Reno. As a packed room full of guests that included Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval '86 (English) and City of Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve looked on, the laser cutter from the facility's new makerspace cut out an intricate image of The Innevation Center logo.

What is The Innevation Center? “A collaborative space that will stimulate ideation, creation, incubation, mentoring and acceleration of start-ups and new ventures. It is an important addition to the vibrant, knowledge-based ecosystem taking hold in Nevada,” said Mridul Gautam, University vice president for research and innovation.

Switch, a recognized world leader in data-center development and mission-critical operations, generously provided \$500,000 toward the facility's interior build-out. It is similar in style

to The Innevation Center in Las Vegas, created and built by Switch founder and CEO Rob Roy. The two centers – named to take the “no” out of innovation – create a new foundation for economic collaboration statewide.

“We are excited to serve as a catalyst for the continued resurgence of Reno's Downtown and Midtown Districts and to see our community increasingly embrace what comes with being a University Town,” said Heidi Gansert '90 MBA, University executive director of external affairs.

Housed in a 25,000-square-foot building acquired from the City of Reno through a lease-to-purchase agreement, The Innevation Center will bring the University community together with entrepreneurs, investors and commercialization experts. Located at 450 Sinclair Street, approximately 1.25 miles from the University's main campus and blocks from Reno's City Hall, it offers co-working, conference and meeting space, along with a makerspace that has resources and equipment to support

development of prototypes and minimize design-cycle time. The Innevation Center extends mentoring by industry executives and experienced entrepreneurs, plus the opportunity to make connections with external networks and access to capital. A welcome center on the ground floor offers University information and a Wolf Shop satellite location.

The Innevation Center is home base for three industry-focused University initiatives:

Nevada Center for Applied Research, a stand-alone applied research and technology service center focused on making Nevada businesses internationally competitive by leveraging the state-of-the-art laboratories and intellectual assets of the University.

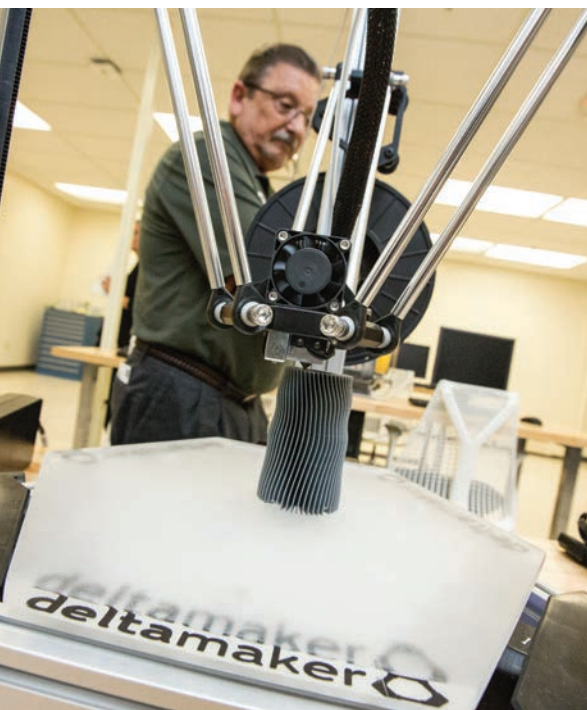
Nevada Industry Excellence (NVIE), a statewide Manufacturing Extension Partnership hosted by the University to help Nevada companies become industry leaders by providing resources to improve processes, efficiencies and productivity.

Located at the edge of Reno's Midtown District, the exterior of the University's Innevation Center, Powered by Switch, is identified with a bold, large-scale Block "N" logo.

Nevada Advanced Autonomous Systems Innovation Center, known as NAAASIC ("naysic") is supported by a \$3 million grant from the Governor's Office of Economic Development Knowledge Fund to advance technologies and partnerships in autonomous systems, which includes land-based, aerial and stationary robotic systems; advanced manufacturing systems; and autonomous road vehicles.

In addition to being available to University faculty, staff, students and alumni, the resources of The Innevation Center are available to individuals and businesses through a membership model. For more information about the University's Innevation Center and memberships, visit www.unr.edu/innevation. [N](#)

Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas



This delta shaped 3D printer, made by DeltaMaker, is printing a flower vase designed by Jake Mestre '12, the Innevation Center's innovation and transformation coordinator.

What They Said

Innevation Center opening buzz

State of Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval '86

"What a proud moment. We will look back and say this was the beginning of something really big. This new building is symbolic of the new Nevada and the emergence of the University and of a new economy for Nevada."

City of Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve

"We're not just saying it, we're doing it. We are becoming a University Town now more than ever. I am thrilled to see Switch and the University join together to further solidify downtown Reno as an emerging, energetic center."

Chairman of the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents Rick Trachok '74

"From the moment you walk into this building, you realize that it is a collaborative environment. It's a place where it's very easy to imagine University students and faculty and researchers coming together with entrepreneurs, investors and community leaders all working toward the same goal: innovation that will transform how we work together toward a common purpose; innovation that will transform how we do business, including the incubation and the know-how needed to nurture and create emerging new industries; and innovation that will lessen physical boundaries and serve as a magnet for further partnership between this city and its university."

Switch Vice President of Strategy Adam Kramer

"We have been able to bring the community together [through The Innevation Center in Las Vegas]. When we had the opportunity to partner with the University of Nevada, Reno to create this Innevation Center, we didn't hesitate."

Switch Executive Vice President of Awesomeness Kristi Overgaard

"Rob Roy started The Innevation Center in Las Vegas to be a collaborative workspace to drive Nevada's new innovation economy. With the addition of The Innevation Center at the University of Nevada, Reno, we will now be able to collaborate statewide. This will make Nevada an example for the rest of the country."

University President Marc Johnson

"Today we celebrate the grand opening of The Innevation Center, Powered by Switch. In many ways, though, we're also celebrating the University's responsibility to a rapidly changing world that craves innovation ... and our University's responsibility to a rapidly changing community that is positioning itself as an ecosystem for that innovation."

University Vice President of Research and Innovation Mridul Gautam

"Our entire state will be one big innovation hub: this building, the Start-Up Row just up the street, the University campus, the University's Applied Research Facility, the nationally renowned DeLaMare Library, the Ozmen Center for Entrepreneurship, Carson City, Sparks, down to Vegas. Everybody in this region - the University, the city, the Governor, GOED, EDawn, entrepreneurs, the Sierra Angels and other investors - everybody is pulling the wagon in the same direction. You don't see this very often, if at all."



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Photos 1, 3, 5, 7 by Theresa Darme-Douglas; Photos 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10 by David Calvert.

2015 Foundation Banquet

The University of Nevada, Reno Foundation welcomed 740 alumni and friends to the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino for the 34th Annual Foundation Banquet Oct. 20. The event featured keynote speaker Michele Norris, Emmy Award-winning journalist, host and special correspondent for NPR. Thank you to the E.L. Cord Foundation, the event's platinum sponsor.

(1) Karen Penner-Johnson, keynote speaker Michele Norris and University President Marc Johnson.

(2) Foundation Trustee Emerita and past Nevada Alumni Council President JoAnn Elston '56 with James Elston.

(3) Marilyn Galli '50, Kay Seeliger '65 and Tom Seeliger '64.

(4) Foundation Trustee Emerita Kathy Garcia '76 and Buddy Garcia '59 with Crystal Parrish, director of corporate and foundation relations.

(5) Brian Brodsky '78 and Romina Brodsky, Foundation Trustee Bill Pennell and Rebecca Pennell, Jerry and Millie Burke, Foundation Trustee Dan Rovig and Maureen Rovig.

(6) Claudia Byrne and Foundation Trustee Dean Byrne '04.

(7) Foundation Trustee Opal Adams '85 M.S. and Richard Delong.

(8) Phil Satre '15 (honorary doctor of humane letters) and Foundation Trustee Emerita Jennifer Satre '80 M.Ed., '15 (honorary doctor of humane letters).

(9) Nevada Alumni Council member Vick Wowo '11 with Rebecca Moser '14

(10) Jerry and Roxie Enneking.



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Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglass



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Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglass



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Winter Commencement

More than 1,600 graduates walked across the stage at Lawlor Events Center Dec. 5 during the University of Nevada, Reno's largest Winter Commencement Ceremony to date.

(1) Aqeela Rhodes '15, Matthew Baker '15 and Melissa Ferrari '15.

(2) Sarah Stolte '15.

(3) Adela Martinez '15 and her dog Jack.

(4) Andreini Simmons '15 with Freddie O'Hene and twin sister Andreina Simmons.

(5) Alexa Martindale '15 with Elaina Vlassopoulos.

(6) Reynolds School of Journalism Dean Al Stavitsky with some of his newest graduates: Jacoby Bancroft '15, Manila Hoang '15, Andrea Tyrell '15.

Nevada Writers Hall of Fame

The Nevada Writers Hall of Fame honored 2015 Inductee Ellen Hopkins and Silver Pen Award Recipients Mark Maynard and Laura McBride Nov. 19 in the Joe Crowley Student Union.

(7) Dean of University Libraries Kathy Ray, University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Trustee Emerita Marilyn Melton '55, '86 (honorary doctor of letters) and Beatyanne Rasmussen '71.

(8) Professor Emeritus Jim Hulse '52, '58 M.A. and Betty Hulse.

(9) Hall of Fame inductee Ellen Hopkins with Dean of University Libraries Kathy Ray (left) and Terri Farley (right).



Gatherings

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Photos by Theresa Dainne-Douglas



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Photos by Theresa Dainne-Douglas



(6)

Innovation Center Opening

Designed to empower Nevada's next generation of economic leaders, the Innovation Center opened its doors Sept. 22 to ignite creativity and entrepreneurial spirit in University students, faculty and the community.

(1) University President Marc Johnson, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval '86, Stella Roy, Switch Communications CEO and Founder Rob Roy, and Regent Rick Trachok '74.

(2) University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Professor Emerita Ardythe McCracken, James Behnke and

Foundation Trustee Deena Behnke and Bob McCracken.
(3) University Vice President for Research and Innovation Mridul Gautam shows Rob Roy and event guests one of the Innovation Center's 3D printers.

(4) Vice President Mridul Gautam, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval '86 and University Special Assistant to the President for External Affairs Heidi Gansert '90 MBA.

Distinguished Lecture Series

The College of Engineering Distinguished Lecture

Series featured Tesla Co-Founder and CTO JB Straubel Oct. 11 in the Joe Crowley Student Union.

(5) Tesla Special Projects Associate Andy Stevenson, University Provost Kevin Carman, Karen Penner-Johnson, University President Marc Johnson, Tesla Co-founder and CTO JB Straubel, University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Trustee Sara Lafrance '73 and Dean of Engineering Manos Maragakis.

(6) JB Straubel spoke about the key roles education and innovation play in becoming energy independent and growing the economy.



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Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas



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Monster Fish

University friends enjoyed an exclusive viewing of "Monster Fish: In Search of the Last River Giants" Nov. 12 at the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum with Zeb Hogan, assistant research professor in the College of Science.

(1) Professor Jack Hayes, Anna Hayes, Katherine Jenkins and Professor Emeritus Steven Jenkins.

(2) Susan Gagosian, Professor Zeb Hogan and Foundation Professor Scott Tyler '90 Ph.D.

(3) College of Science Dean Jeff Thompson, Nevada Discovery Museum Executive Director Mat Sinclair, Professor Zeb Hogan and University President Marc Johnson.

(4) Maureen Rovig, Kris Kuyper '94 M.S., University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Trustee Opal Adams '85 M.S. and Rebecca Pennell.

College of Liberal Arts Dean Hardy Retirement Party

Heather Hardy served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts since joining the University in 2005.

She also served as interim provost from 2011-2012. A professor of English and noted linguist, Hardy's research has focused on American Indian languages. A retirement event was held in her honor Dec. 1 in the Joe Crowley Student Union.

(5) Professor Emeritus David Westfall and Shirley Westfall with College of Liberal Arts Dean Heather Hardy.

(6) Dean Heather Hardy and her husband, Professor Don Hardy.

(7) College of Liberal Arts Interim Dean Larry Engstrom with Dean Hardy.



Apurva Sarathy will soon advance to a prestigious postdoctoral position at the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Md.

Sarathy explained that normal muscle development and function require an intact extracellular matrix surrounding muscles. The collagen VI mutation causes a disruption between the extracellular matrix and the muscle, which in turn causes damage to the muscle fiber. Bonnemann is developing therapies for this neuromuscular disorder.

Accepting this post-doctoral position is a continuation of her studies on Duchenne muscular dystrophy, in the lab of Dean Burkin, professor of pharmacology, at the School of Medicine.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is ultimately a fatal muscular disease that affects mainly male children. The lifespan of those affected by this type of muscular dystrophy is 20 to 30 years.

In Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a protein called dystrophin is missing, which causes muscle fiber to deteriorate. Burkin's lab is developing therapeutics for this disease.

Working in collaboration with the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences Chemical Genomics Center and the National Institutes of Health, Burkin, Sarathy and their colleagues identified a drug in a screen of 440,000 compounds.

"We generated several compounds that gave us a maximum increase in a protein called alpha 7 beta 1 integrin," said Sarathy, explaining that elevating the levels of alpha 7 integrin might compensate for the loss of dystrophin, allowing for restoration of the muscle fiber's integrity.

They focused on one drug because it had a high potency of the alpha 7 integrin. Sarathy is studying the effects of that drug for her dissertation, which is a focus on alpha 7 integrin-impacting drugs in the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

A long journey to Nevada

Sarathy moved to the U.S. from Mumbai, India, where her family still lives, to start college at the University of Texas. There, she

Student-researcher earns prestigious fellowship

Apurva Sarathy, a doctoral student in the department of pharmacology, exemplifies the University of Nevada School of Medicine's commitment to research that aims to save lives, and she is a splendid example of student success at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Sarathy's growing devotion to muscular dystrophy research has already carried her from India to Nevada. Soon she will advance to a prestigious postdoctoral position at

the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) in Bethesda, Md.

"I now have the opportunity to work with Dr. Carsten Bonnemann at NINDS," Sarathy said, noting that Bonnemann does research on congenital muscular dystrophies, including therapies for collagen VI related disorders. Sarathy will be joining his research team early this year.

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas



Photo by Joe Reeder

earned her bachelor's degree in biology and her master's degree in exercise physiology.

While at the University of Texas, her research team was investigating stem cell and growth factor therapies. They studied muscle regeneration after injecting rats with growth factor and stem cells.

"That project got me excited about muscle biology and made me want to learn more about factors involved in muscle maintenance and muscle growth," she said.

During her skeletal muscle research for her master's degree, Sarathy found that she "really enjoyed muscle biology." She also was seeking a transition from the injury model to the disease model. She searched for a lab involved with disease research and found Burkin's lab at the School of Medicine. In 2011, she moved to Reno to begin her doctoral studies.

Expanding horizons

Sarathy believes she made a wise decision in choosing the University, as Burkin's lab is one of only a few in the world working on very rare congenital muscular dystrophies. The lab collaborates with top-ranked institutions, such as the University of Washington, UCLA and Harvard.

Sarathy has enjoyed her nearly five years in the program. She has learned a great deal, and has decided to stay in the field of muscle biology, where she believes she has a lot more learning ahead.

"The University of Nevada has been a great experience," Sarathy observed. "When I moved from Texas, I was definitely very worried. The transition was a little bit hard in the beginning, but the wonderful weather helped." And she met a wonderful lab team, which she thanks for supporting her throughout her time in Nevada.

"There is never a dull moment in the lab with them around. It has been an incredible learning experience. I am glad that I am still in the field of muscular dystrophy so I can keep

in touch with them."

Besides working in the lab and conducting her experiments, Sarathy has had the opportunity to travel to four conferences, where she was able to meet other leaders in the field of muscle biology.

"The School of Medicine and the University's Graduate Student Association have been very supportive toward graduate students traveling outside of Reno to gain more experience. They have done a great job to further research."

Philanthropy provides vital support

Along the way, philanthropy has provided critical support, allowing Sarathy to carry out her research and prepare for the next step in her career.

She has been able to continue her research at the University, in spite of severe federal spending cuts, known as sequestration, because of the Michael (Mick) J.M. Hitchcock, Ph.D. Fund for Graduate Assistants.

"I was fortunate to receive the Hitchcock fellowship, and Mick Hitchcock played a very integral role toward my success here," said Sarathy. "He was very supportive toward our lab and has been very encouraging throughout my time here."

Burkin also appreciates Hitchcock's generosity.

"The fellowship has provided an opportunity for students to join my lab and participate in research. It allows them to explore their research interests."

"The idea is to move these drugs that we have identified from the bench to the bedside," said Burkin. "The Mick Hitchcock fellowship will help us progress toward that goal. We really appreciate Mick for his contribution. It has really been helpful."

For his part, Hitchcock was happy that Sarathy was able to benefit from his fellowship.

"Apurva is exactly the type of student the grad student fund was designed to support.

She has the intelligence, skills and enthusiasm that give her the potential to make great scientific advances in medicine in the future. I am proud to have participated in her achieving her Ph.D. and wish her great success for her career."

In the future, Sarathy would still like to be involved in clinical research and may join a university or an industry that allows her to do so.

"I would like to continue to be involved in the field of muscular dystrophies and therapies for muscular dystrophies."

"As a young scientist, she shows tremendous potential," said Burkin. "She will have a really great career in biomedical research."

"The idea is to move these drugs that we have identified from the bench to the bedside. The Mick Hitchcock fellowship will help us progress toward that goal. We really appreciate Mick for his contribution. It has really been helpful."

—Dean Burkin, professor of pharmacology at the School of Medicine



OLLI board President Ralph Jaeck (right) with immediate past president Warren Ronsheimer '63 on an OLLI group hike near the Steamboat Ditch Trail in west Reno Dec. 3.

and the University provides the buildings and space we need to make it all come together. I believe it's because of this University-level commitment that we have so quickly become the third largest OLLI in the nation.

I see classes in the OLLI catalogue that are taught by emeritus University professors, current and former city leaders and influential business owners. How is OLLI able to offer such a wealth of interest areas from such preeminent experts?

In November we had a class on drones. There's a class on cowboy poetry, another on the political scene in Reno, conversational Spanish and even alternative medicine for pets. There's such a wide variety of classes taught by some of the greatest minds in northern Nevada, and the reason we're able to offer them comes down to our exceptional relationship with the University and its commitment to the program. Each instructor volunteers their time and resources to make the classes incredible and free to OLLI members.

Why did you get involved in OLLI?

I initially joined OLLI to find new interests and keep my mind active. The program fills a very important role in retired people's lives. We had more than 30,000 attendees in classes and groups last calendar year alone! That's proof that OLLI fulfills a need in the community that is not being met anywhere else and is essential to a high quality of life. **N**

OLLI participants during a Veterans Day event, 2013.



Nevada OLLI provides enriching experiences

The University of Nevada, Reno's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, or OLLI, is a member-directed organization that fosters intellectual stimulation, sparks new interests and nurtures personal development through academic pursuits in adults age 50 and over. Dedicated to providing educational experiences, leadership and volunteer opportunities, OLLI is a community of people who are passionate about learning and personal growth. On a recent hike with the organization's hiking interest group, I got the opportunity to learn more about the program from OLLI Board President Ralph Jaeck.

With over 1,800 members, Nevada's OLLI program is one of the largest in the nation, yet it's also one of the youngest. To what do you attribute its rapid growth?

Of the 119 OLLI programs in the U.S., most have a paid executive director and curriculum staff, and charge hundreds of dollars in

membership and class fees. By contrast, we are a member-driven organization, run by volunteers, and we're able to keep our fees very low because of the outstanding relationship we have with the University of Nevada, Reno. We offer more than 500 programs and classes, many outstanding faculty volunteer their time,

OLLI membership is open to everyone age 50 and older and costs \$45 annually. If you would like to join OLLI or would like more information, please call (775) 784-8053, email olli@unr.edu, or visit them online at www.olli.unr.edu.



Photos by Theresa Dainne-Douglas



SUMMER ON CAMPUS: ACTIVITIES, CAMPS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The University of Nevada, Reno is proud to provide access to the knowledge, resources and talent we have here on campus for the benefit of the community. The University hosts or co-sponsors a wide variety of summer youth camp programs and other family-centered activities to promote a culture of cooperation and connection. Here's a list of the top northern Nevada summer camps and activities for children, adults and families.

CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTER DAY CAMP June 13 to Aug. 5, for children ages 5-10. Call (775) 784-6762 or visit www.unr.edu/education/centers/cfrc.

DAVIDSON THINK SUMMER INSTITUTE July 9-30, for exceptionally gifted students age 13-16. Call (775) 852-3483 or visit www.davidsongifted.org.

DEAN'S FUTURE SCHOLARS June 23 to Aug. 2, an academic outreach program to encourage low-income, diverse and first-generation students to attend college. Contact Mariluz Garcia, (775) 784-4237 or mcgarcia@washoeschools.net, or visit www.unr.edu/education/centers/dfs.

ENGINEERING SUMMER CAMPS various sessions June and July for students age 12-18. Call (775) 784-6925, email ebozisk@unr.edu or visit www.unr.edu/engineering.

FLEISCHMANN PLANETARIUM AND SCIENCE CENTER programs and exhibits for all ages, call (775) 784-4812 or visit www.planetarium.unr.nevada.edu.

GIRLS MATH AND TECHNOLOGY CAMP During July for girls entering grades 7 and 8. Visit www.unr.edu/girls-math-camp.

HIGH SIERRA AHEC March 28-April 1 and June 13-17, two sessions offered of a one-week camp to inspire curiosity in students grades 6-8. They will explore health care careers through experiments and activities. In partnership with Extended Studies. Visit www.highsierraahec.org.

KIDS UNIVERSITY June 13 to

July 29, an educational day camp for children entering grades 2-8. Registration begins March 22. Call Extended Studies, (775) 784-4062 or visit <http://kidsu.unr.edu/>.

MOVIES AT THE JOE dates vary. Call the Joe Crowley Student Union, (775) 784-6505, or visit www.unr.edu/studentunion.

NEVADA BOYS STATE June 19-25, a leadership and citizenship training program for qualified high school juniors. Call (888) 646-6594, email info@nevadaboysstate.org or visit www.nevadaboysstate.org.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI) educational experiences for adults 50 and over. Call (775) 784-8053, email olli@unr.edu or visit www.olli.unr.edu.

READING AND WRITING TUTORING at the E.L. Cord Foundation Center for Learning and Literacy for elementary students in first grade and up. Call (775) 784-4951 or visit www.unr.edu/cll/tutoring.

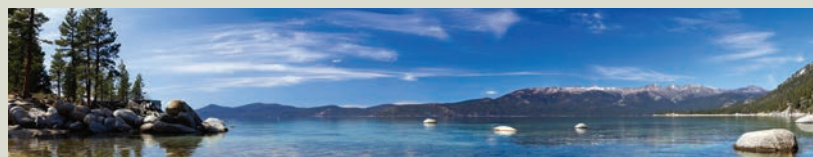
SMALLWOOD MULTIMEDIA BOOT CAMP June 13-23, rigorous instruction by University faculty and

staff using multimedia equipment and software in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center @One Department for a select group of northern Nevada high school students entering their senior year. Following the camp, students will continue to have access to the Knowledge Center's facilities and staff during their senior year of sthigh school. Call Jacqueline Grant, (775) 682-5669 or jackieg@unr.edu, or visit http://imedia.unr.edu/knowledge_center/Smallwood.

PACK PICNICS ON THE QUAD Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. July 6 through Aug. 10, free and family friendly, co-sponsored by the Nevada Alumni Association and Summer Session. Call (775) 784-4652 or visit www.summersession.unr.edu.

UPWARD BOUND, a free college preparatory program for qualified students. Call (775) 784-4978 or visit www.unr.edu/upward-bound.

WOLF PACK SPORTS CAMPS including football, baseball, basketball, golf, soccer, softball and volleyball camps; call (775) 784-4062 or visit www.unr.edu/sportscamps.



SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE

THE NEVADA 4-H CAMP is owned and operated by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The camp sits on 32 shoreline acres on the south shore of Lake Tahoe and is available for rental year round. Contact the Nevada 4-H Camp at (775) 588-6943 or visit www.unce.unr.edu/4H/camp.

58TH ANNUAL LAKE TAHOE MUSIC CAMP for musicians entering grades 8-12, dates available at www.unr.edu/ltmc. Contact Chris Money at Extended Studies, (775) 784-4046 or cmoney@unr.edu.

NEVADA GIRLS STATE, June 29 to July 5, leadership and citizenship training program for qualified high school students. Contact Daela Gibson at (775) 224-0073 or nevadagirlsstate@gmail.com, or visit www.nevadagirlsstate.net.

4-H YOUTH EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP CAMPS, various dates in July and August. Call the University of Nevada 4-H Program Office at (775) 784-6206 or visit www.unce.unr.edu/4H.

The late Bill Harrigan '48 received the Mackay School's 2014 Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Estate of Bill Harrigan supports Mackay School

During his lifetime, William A. "Bill" Harrigan '48 (mining engineering) was a longtime supporter, friend and cherished alumnus of the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering. He served more than 10 years on the Executive Advisory Board.

Harrigan gave generously to the University, including the College of Science, the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, the Mackay School, undergraduate scholarships, recruitment and the W.M. Keck Minerals Museum. In honor of two of his Mackay classmates, he established the Robert E. Kendall Mining Engineering Scholarship Endowment and the William J. "Hoot" Newman Hydro Scholarship Endowment. In 2010, Harrigan was inducted as a Silver Benefactor in the University's Honor Court, and in 2014 received the Mackay School's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Born in Gardnerville, Nev., Harrigan attended Reno schools where he excelled in academics and athletics. He began his college education at the University's Mackay School, but when World War II began, he joined the

U.S. Army Air Corps where he served with a photo reconnaissance squadron in North Africa, Italy and France. After the war, he returned to the University and graduated in 1948. His distinguished mining career took him all over the western United States, after which he joined Sierra Pacific Power Company as an engineer, retiring after 22 years. He then began his career as a consulting engineer developing groundwater sources throughout northern Nevada.

Harrigan passed away Dec. 8, 2014. As a Nevada Legacy Society member, he remembered the Mackay School in his estate plans, specifically wishing to provide scholarships for Mackay students. The first recipients of the William A. Harrigan Mackay School of Mines Scholarship Endowment will be awarded next year.

Director of the Mackay School Russ Fields said, "Bill Harrigan was a dear friend and the Mackay School could not have had a better alumnus. He supported the school in all possible ways, with his time, his sound advice and his financial resources. His endowment will



support the education of future generations of Mackay students. We miss Bill terribly and will always appreciate what he has done for the Mackay School and its students."

To learn more about supporting students in the Mackay School, please contact Donna Knotek '12, '15 assistant director of development, (775) 682-5952 or dknotek@unr.edu. To learn more about planned giving opportunities at Nevada, please contact Brian Saeman '98, J.D., director of planned giving, (775) 682-5938 or bsaeman@unr.edu.

Randy and Natalie Brown establish scholarship endowment

Randy Brown CPA '89 (accounting) and Natalie (Mitchell) Brown '99 (English) have recently established the Randy J. and Natalie M. Brown Scholarship Endowment to be awarded beginning with the 2017-18 academic year.

Randy is a Reno native who earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from the University where he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha. He is the director of regulatory and legislative affairs for AT&T and a licensed certified public accountant in Nevada. He has served on the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Board of Trustees since 2010, holding the position of vice chair for programs and special events, and as a

member of the Foundation's Audit and Finance Committee. Randy is past president of the Nevada Alumni Council and received the Nevada Alumni Association Service Award in 2014. He serves on the Nevada Taxpayers Association and Renown Business Boards, and is a member of the Children's Cabinet finance committee, past chair of The Chamber of Reno, Sparks and Northern Nevada and a graduate of the Chamber Leadership Reno-Sparks Program.

Natalie earned her bachelor's degree in English literature from the University. She obtained the Accredited in Public Relations (APR) credential and leads external communications

for Wells Fargo's Consumer Financial Services, Retail Services and Dealer Services nationwide. She previously worked in communications for Rose Glenn and John Ascuaga's Nugget. Natalie has served as a professional advisor for students in the University's Reynolds School of Journalism and is an active member of the Public Relations Society of America. The couple has a son, Austin.

"Randy and Natalie have served the University for many years," said John Carothers, vice president for development and alumni relations. "We are grateful for Randy's long service on the Foundation Board of Trustees

IGT continues strong support of Nevada

IGT has been a champion of University of Nevada, Reno programs and projects for more than 30 years. The company continues its strong support again this year, including a naming gift to the under-construction William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center and support of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center for exhibits of the University's Special Collections.

IGT's support of the University's NevadaFIT academic boot camps will provide fee waivers for need-based students, and its backing of the Dean's Future Scholars Program will aid low income, first generation students in gaining access to higher education. The Northern Nevada Girls Math and Technology Program supports and encourages middle school girls from varied backgrounds to increase their knowledge,

skills and confidence in mathematics, as well as technology used for mathematics learning. IGT has been a partner of this important program produced by the College of Education on campus each summer.

Wolf Pack Athletics as well as the University's outreach efforts through its sponsorship of the Homecoming March from the Arch and support of the annual Foundation Banquet.

Of the company's ongoing support, John Carothers, vice president for development and alumni relations, said, "IGT continues a remarkable record of philanthropy at the University. We are grateful for the range of programs and projects across campus that IGT has chosen to support, and we are gratified by their valuable partnership in our efforts."

To learn more about supporting programs at the University of Nevada please contact Lynda Buhlig '84, assistant vice president of development, (775) 682-6013 or lbuhlig@unr.edu.



As a longtime supporter of The College of Business, the company continues its funding for the IGT Scholarship in Business and the Corporate Partners Program. It supports

Keiko Weil '87 is the director of donor relations

Randy Brown '89 and Natalie Brown '99 recently established a scholarship endowment at the University.

and the Nevada Alumni Association and for Natalie's guidance of journalism students. It is tremendously fitting that a scholarship for future University students will be given in their names. We are appreciative to them, not only for their incredible generosity, but for their dedicated service to the University."

To learn more about supporting students at the University of Nevada, Reno, please contact Keiko Weil '87, director of donor relations, at (775) 682-5964.



Lori Lehman Photography



Foundation Professor Scott Tyler '90 Ph.D., of the College of Science's Department of Geosciences, strings fiber optic cable from the bow of the boat at Lake Shasta in northern California.

Taking the world's temperature: land, sea and air

With a big spool of fiber optic cable and a large suitcase-size laser generator, Foundation Professor Scott Tyler '90 Ph.D. (hydrology/hydrogeology) of the College of Science travels the globe taking the world's temperature. He has dropped a temperature-sensing cable through Antarctic ice to the ocean bottom to measure the temperature and gauge the melting of the ice sheets. His wonder-cable has been to Switzerland to study glaciers, to Germany to study coal mine reclamation and acid mine drainage, and to the San Francisco Bay to study the dynamics of salt marshes. He used the technology to study water temperature at Devils Hole in Death Valley and help protect the endangered Devils Hole pupfish.

Just this fall, Tyler, a hydrologist who recently received a prestigious American Geophysical Union fellowship, established a system to measure the water temperature at drought-stricken Lake Shasta in northern California to help water managers release the proper temperature water to keep the endangered Chinook salmon alive. The system measured the water temperature continuously every few centimeters from the surface of the lake to the lake bottom.

Tyler pioneered these applications of fiber optic cable. His instrument facility at the University of Nevada, Reno Center for Transformative Environmental Monitoring Programs (CTEMPs) receives funding from

the National Science Foundation (NSF) and makes the equipment available to researchers across the country.

In partnership with Oregon State University and with \$2.2 million in funding from the NSF, CTEMPS has recently expanded its offerings to make aerial robots, also known as unmanned aerial systems or UAS, available to scientists to enhance their research.

With collaborators from the University, Tyler recently completed a UAS pilot project in Mongolia to gather data about fish population to be used in evaluating a proposed dam upriver from their habitat.

"We were successful in showing this UAS technology can be used in a new way," Tyler said. "We spotted a huge Taimen on a flyover, as well as other fish. The pictures were clear, and the project was a great success."

—Mike Wolterbeek '02

Ozmen Center turns ideas into actions

Since opening its doors in The College of Business in September 2014, the Ozmen Center for Entrepreneurship has built an interdisciplinary program spanning across campus and out into the community.

"We teach a different way of thinking," said Chris Howard, Ozmen Center director. "I describe it as diagonal thinking. We take the knowledge students learn in class and apply it to get different and desired results."

In addition to offering University students a space where they can strategically and creatively execute ideas with help from area business leaders, the Ozmen Center focuses on academics and enriched curriculum. This curriculum, part of the University's entrepreneurship minor that is open to all majors, is designed to enhance student business endeavors long after graduation.

Numbers in the entrepreneurship minor have grown since the program's inception in fall 2013, and the program boasts students from a number of colleges across campus. The minor was purposefully designed without pre-requisites so any student wanting to build a startup

business could benefit.

Much of the Ozmen Center's first year was spent learning about and integrating into the community entrepreneurial landscape. It hosted events such as 1 Million Cups, a free weekly national program designed to educate, engage and connect student and community entrepreneurs. Additionally, the Ozmen Center team worked closely with the Nevada Small Business Development Center and the City of Reno to offer Assess, License and Launch, a program designed to help entrepreneurs navigate the city's Business License Department.

Most recently, the Ozmen Center welcomed thought leaders from the internationally-

renowned Lincoln Laboratory Beaver Works, an entrepreneurship center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. Organized by Ozmen Center founders Fatih Ozmen '81 M.S. (electrical engineering) and Eren Ozmen '85 MBA of Sparks-based Sierra Nevada Corporation, the meeting was designed to discuss project-centric educational collaborations, something at which the MIT center excels.

"Our goal this next year is to place more emphasis on business," Howard said. "We are going to look more closely at the Beaver Works model and hope to establish interdisciplinary curriculum working with community organizations to further establish project-based learning."

—Nicole Shearer '03

At the Ozmen Center for Entrepreneurship, students from across the University collaborate with each other and area business leaders.



Photo by David Calvert

Graduate students Mitiku Mengistu and Dhurba Neupane examine teff grass at the Nevada Agriculture Experiment Station on Valley Road in Reno.



Photo by Whip Villarreal.

Improving teff grain production to help global food security

A project to improve teff grass, a staple grain that originated in Ethiopia, is underway in the University's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. The aim is to make it more drought tolerant and productive under the harsher growing conditions being experienced worldwide and as the popularity of this gluten-free grain grows with farmers and consumers in the United States.

"Teff is an emerging crop in Nevada with about 1,200 acres grown each year," said John Cushman, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and graduate program director in the Department of Biochemistry. "Teff is now in demand as a highly nutritious, gluten-free grain suitable for consumption by

gluten-intolerant persons."

"As demand for this crop increases, it makes sense for us to develop better varieties with increased drought tolerance and yield stability under drier conditions."

The research team includes Cushman, Juan Solomon, assistant professor of forage agronomy, and Jay Davison, alternative crop and forage specialist with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension in Fallon, along with graduate students, a research geneticist at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service and plant-breeding statistical experts with Maxell Hybrids. The project is supported by Hatch Act funds.

"The partnership aspects of this are very im-

portant to the project," said Bill Payne, dean of the College of Agriculture, Biochemistry and Natural Resources. "They serve to illustrate how, despite scant resources, we can move forward to achieve a greater impact for global food security for millions of people."

"Teff improvement is important for growers and consumers in Nevada, the nation and the world," Payne continued. "You will see more multidisciplinary, collaborative projects like this designed to have an impact on people's lives. Jay Davison's seminal work promoting this to Nevada growers has laid the groundwork for collaborations such as this."

—Whip Villarreal, Class of 2015



Photo by Matt Raeglelli

This fall, the College of Education hosted 19 teaching fellows from around the world for a six-week program designed to exchange ideas and the sharing of best teaching practices.

Global idea sharing with international master teachers

Teachers from all over the world brought their experiences and ideas into the community this fall in a cultural exchange of ideas and philosophy.

For the fifth consecutive year, the University's College of Education received the Teaching Excellence and Achievement (TEA) grant from the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This grant offered the University, in partnership with the Northern Nevada International Center, the opportunity to host 19 teaching fellows from 16 different countries. This year also marked the 100th fellow hosted in northern Nevada.

During their six-week stay this fall, the teaching fellows attended workshops in the College of Education and shadowed mathematics, English and foreign language teachers in Washoe County School District middle and high schools.

The fellows, all highly experienced master teachers in their own countries, had to compete in a rigorous application process

for selection. Countries represented this year included Armenia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, India, Jordan, Mali, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

"TEA Fellows learned about the U.S. and our education system, but they also broadened our understanding of cultures, teaching and learning practices," said Jennifer Mahon, project director and associate professor in the College of Education.

The program allowed the teachers to learn different teaching approaches, use technology in the classroom and better understand the education system in the United States, while at the same time, share their own culture and expertise with a wide array of people from northern Nevada. In addition to their activities at the University and local middle and secondary schools, the fellows completed community service activities, were hosted by local families and took part in area cultural activities.

—Nicole Shearer '03

Honoring 40 years: Douglass Center for Basque Studies

Basque Scholar Emeritus William A. (Bill) Douglass '61 (Spanish) and the late Jon Bilbao, also an emeritus faculty member, collaborated on many projects together, including co-founding the University of Nevada, Reno's Basque Studies Program, which later became the Center for Basque Studies. On Nov. 3, their contributions to the center and to the Basque community were recognized during a special ceremony. The University announced the renaming of the center as the William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies, and the naming of the library as the Jon Bilbao Basque Library.

Douglass's influence has been profound.

Throughout his career, Douglass has been dedicated to meeting the center's major goal of bringing information about the Basques to the general public. He has received many honors from Basque people and institutions: an honorary doctorate awarded in 1984 by the University of the Basque Country, his naming in 1998 as one of the 20 corresponding members of the Basque Language Academy and the 1999 Lagun Onari Award for distinguished service to the Basque people given by the Basque government.

In addition to being recognized as one of the leading scholars of Basque studies in the world, Douglass is a member of the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. He began his leadership role in Basque studies nearly 50 years ago when he was asked by the legendary Nevada writer Robert Laxalt to direct what was then known as the Basque Studies Program and envisioned as a joint venture between the University and the Desert Research Institute.

Douglass recalled in 2012, "Bob didn't think of himself as a Basque scholar, even though he was Basque and wrote about his Basque heritage. So, he asked me if I would do it."

Douglass majored in Spanish as an undergraduate at the University. His interest in the Basque Country took off when he was study-

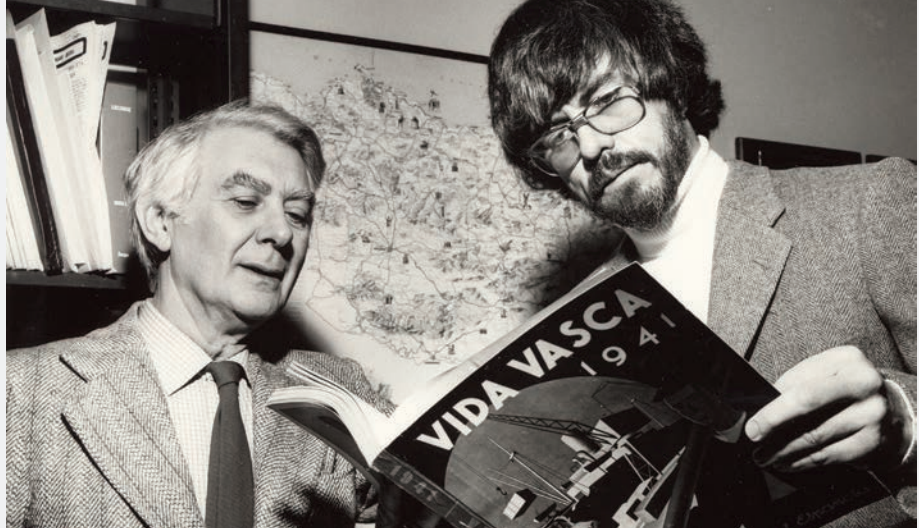


Photo courtesy of Special Collections.



Photo courtesy of William Douglass

TOP: Basque Scholar Emeritus Bill Douglass and emeritus faculty member Jon Bilbao confer in the early days of what is now the University's William A. Douglass Center for Basque Studies.

*BOTTOM: Bill Douglass, left, gave his newest book, *Basque Explorers in the Pacific Ocean*, to Basque President Inigo Urkullu after they each gave the closing addresses to the 6th World Congress of Basque Collectivities in Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba, Oct. 9, 2015.*

ing anthropology while doing doctoral work at the University of Chicago. He traveled to the Basque Country and did research for his dissertation there. It was during a visit to the Pyrenees in 1967 that Laxalt made Douglass the offer of directing the fledgling Basque Studies Program at the University. Douglass accepted Laxalt's offer, and though believing his time would probably amount to "only a few years," stayed in the position for 33 years.

"Bill is not one to take credit, not one to toot his own horn, but as you look back at any of the major achievements of the Center, you will always see his handprint on it," Michonne Ascuaga, chair of the center's advisory board, said.

-Natalie Savidge '04 and John Trent '85, '87, '00 M.A.



"The NRAP program helps with multiple aspects of life, and not just staying sober," says sophomore Claire Clark, shown here with Daniel Fred, Nevada Recovery and Prevention Program coordinator.

We have students from
49 different states
 – but not a single student
 from Vermont.

Not. A. Single. One.

Having just one Vermont
 student would be sweet.

unr.edu/Vermontfor50



University of Nevada, Reno



#Vermontfor50

Students from around the country, including Stewart Macki from Iowa, joined the Vermont-student campaign and posed for photos showing why they chose the University.

2015 incoming freshmen, by the numbers:

3,851 Students

A **13.7** percent increase over 2014

Average high-school

grade-point average of 3.4

and average ACT score of **23.6**

16 National Merit Scholars

Brings the total National Merit scholarship recipients on campus to **50**, a **30** percent increase over five years.

121 Presidential Scholars

20 percent increase over 2014

Record enrollment, but no Vermont?

The University of Nevada, Reno welcomed 20,898 undergraduate and graduate students to campus this past fall, a 4.8 percent increase over the fall 2014 enrollment of 19,934 students. This year's enrollment represents the University's largest ever and includes students from across the country, all 17 Nevada counties and many countries around the world.

While it includes students from 49 states, it does not, however, include a single, solitary student from Vermont ... not a single one.

And so, the University decided to close the gap with a light-hearted social media and marketing campaign that conveyed the University's status as a national university located in an appealing setting. The campaign pulled out all the stops, including contacting Governor

Brian Sandoval and alumni currently residing in Vermont to help find five academically well-qualified students to attend a NevadaBound recruitment session on campus. More than 50 Vermont students responded.

This is the first year since the University began tracking these statistics in 1993 that Vermont was not represented in the student body. Since that time, 86 Vermont students have attended the University.

Drawing a comparison to one of Vermont's iconic products, University Director of Admissions Steve Maples said, "Rounding out the list to cover all 50 states again would be sweet, kind of like maple syrup."

–Kathie Taylor '11

Expanded program supports recovery on campus

Assimilating into college life can be a challenge for any student. Life away from home, a rigorous academic schedule, an expanded network of friends and the pressure to succeed all present a lifestyle many students adjust to during their time in higher education. But for a person in recovery from a substance use disorder, these lifestyle adjustments can present additional challenges.

University of Nevada, Reno students in recovery and students who choose to lead a substance-free lifestyle are benefitting from services provided by the Nevada Recovery and Prevention program (NRAP). NRAP began in fall 2011 as a project of CASAT (Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Tech-

nologies). With generous funding from The Stacie Mathewson Foundation, including a recent \$50,000 contribution, NRAP provides students who are recovering from substance and behavioral addictions with a nurturing and supportive environment that facilitates peer connections.

"NRAP is not treatment. It's not clinical. It is recovery support," said Daniel Fred, NRAP project coordinator. "Being in recovery and going to college can be very isolating. Our goal with this program is to offer a safe place where students can be surrounded by others in recovery and supported by people and programs that will help them succeed, not only in college, but also in life."

"I like this program because it works on multiple aspects of my life, not just remaining sober," said Claire Clark, sophomore in Human Development and Family Studies. "It's exciting for me to be at a university and to think of myself as a student."

NRAP has proven the need for a collegiate recovery prevention program on campus. It has 80 core members from each University college. In May 2015, University President Marc Johnson recognized NRAP's significant contribution by pledging additional funds to the program as part of the University's commitment to foster the whole student – mind, body and spirit.

–Nicole Shearer '03



The College of Engineering Robotics Research Lab is working with two full-size autonomous humanoid robots to study human-robot social interactions.

Robots outnumber scientists in one University lab

There are more robots than people in the College of Engineering's Robotics Research Laboratory, but they haven't taken over just yet.

With 34 in all, ranging from the 5 foot 5 inch-tall advanced PR2 humanoid robot to three small humanoid robots, a cute dog robot and 20 other various robots, they far outnumber the robotics researchers in the Computer Science and Engineering Department who conduct a range of imaginative and innovative research.

The computer science researchers recently demonstrated the first rudimentary steps in programming the advanced autonomous

PR2 robot named Ada. Ada began by interacting with a student who was preparing a pot of tea. The robot watched with its multiple sensors and cameras. Using software developed by the researchers, Ada recognized the student's actions, then inferred his intentions. Ada offered the student sugar for his tea. For an encore, the robot carefully put a place-setting on a dining table.

Another of the lab's advanced robots, the six-foot-tall Baxter, was also powered up for the demonstration. The bulky, red humanoid robot delicately took a Rubik's Cube from a grad student, slowly turned

it around, cataloged each side, sensed the colors and then methodically spun the cube until it reached a "solve."

"The Rubik's Cube is the beginning of development for pattern recognition and manipulation for both the robots," said David Feil-Seifer, assistant professor. "We want the robot to see the scene, evaluate the current situation and react after making a plan, in some ways similar to the cube. Our goal is to increase the capability every day, every week, every month, working to make the robots do something new."

The actions were not preprogrammed. The intent recognition was prepared using complex algorithms developed by computer science faculty and students in the Robotics Research Lab and the Computer Vision Laboratory.

"There's better collaboration between humans and robots if they can anticipate what we will do, or want," Monica Nicolescu, director of the College of Engineering's Robotics Research Lab, said. "These advanced humanoid platforms can do more complex interactions and scenarios. They have more sensors, capabilities and perceptual abilities. They can perceive more about the world and have more natural interactions with their hands, and it's all autonomous."

—Mike Wolterbeek '02

Luke Tanaka named fall Herz Gold Medalist

Luke Tanaka '15 (accounting) has been named recipient of the fall 2015 Herz Gold Medal for having earned the highest grade-point average in the graduating class. Tanaka has dedicated his time toward the betterment of The College of Business and the Reno community through extensive involvement with the Business Student Council and Circle K International. He also studied abroad in London with the Nevada Global Business Program and represented The College of Business during the Executive Mentorship Program in Seattle. In addition to his work with The College of

Business, Tanaka was an Honors Program student who served on the student board of the Phi Kappa Phi honor society chapter. Outside of academic pursuits, Tanaka has developed a passion for bicycle touring and spent last spring break biking the California coast to raise money for the Kiwanis International and UNICEF joint venture, the Eliminate Project.

Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Carman congratulates Herz Gold Medalist Luke Tanaka during the Winter Commencement Ceremony.



Photo by John Byrne



Getting greener

Peavine Hall opened in August 2015 and is the University's first facility built to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold standards. However, the University's commitment to LEED construction standards is not new. Over the past decade, every new building – a list that includes major projects such as the Joe Crowley Student Union, the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and the Center for Molecular Medicine – has been built to the equivalent of LEED Silver standards.

Large-scale efforts aimed at environmental sustainability are happening across the University and include:

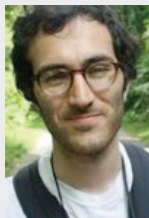
- Water-wise actions – At the Main Station Field Lab, treated effluent from the nearby Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility provides much of the irrigation water for the pastures, saving more than 6.5 million gallons of water annually.
- Transportation options on and beyond campus – Alternative transportation options and charging stations for electric vehicles are available.
- Energy efficiency – Conservation steps have resulted in a 19 percent reduction in per-square-foot energy use. Some facilities are sourced by solar and wind energy.
- A truly green campus – A new green-waste recycling program is now in place, and organic landscape practices have been adopted.

Behind these big efforts are the contributions of individuals across the University campus.

“Every incremental gain we make has the potential to have a large influence,” John Sagebiel, assistant director of environmental programs in the University's Department of Environmental Health and Safety, said. “For example, we recycle about 400,000 pounds of paper a year on campus. A piece of paper doesn't weigh much, so this shows that the contributions of individuals make a difference.”

–John Seelmeyer

Faces on the Quad



Gennady Erlikhman, a postdoctoral research student studying with Gideon Caplovitz, assistant professor in psychology and cognitive neuroscience, has been working in the Caplovitz Lab since 2014 after receiving his Ph.D. in computational cognition from UCLA. He was recently awarded the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award, a \$150,000 fellowship over three years. The fellowship was granted from the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health to support a project aimed at understanding how the human brain allows us to see objects around us, particularly when they are in motion. The project uses a variety of non-invasive neuroimaging techniques including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Erlikhman's selection for the fellowship acknowledges his potential to become a productive, independent investigator in a scientific, health-related research field. Erlikhman received a dual bachelor's degree in cognitive science and philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in psychology from UCLA.

Daniel Leonardini is a junior from Fairfield, Calif. studying international affairs and economics as a dual major. He was a member of the Nevada Debate Union 2013-2014 team when it ranked first in the nation. Leonardini was social chair and is now president of the Tau-Gamma chapter of Kappa Sigma, one of the newest chartered fraternities at the University. The chapter started with three men in 2013, received its charter in 2014 and grew to nearly 80 members by 2015. Kappa Sigma focuses on four pillars: fellowship, leadership, scholarship and service. At last summer's Kappa Sigma Conclave, the chapter was recognized with 12 awards and the new Tau-Gamma chapter was the first chapter in the history of Kappa Sigma to win the highest award within the first year of being chartered. Leonardini hopes the chapter's name remains connected to strong character and is known for a sense of community and passion for service. Prior to enrolling at the University, Leonardini traveled to Africa and volunteered to provide proper eyewear to rural villagers in Rwanda. He plans to graduate in 2017.



Jena Valenzuela graduated from Arbor View High School in Las Vegas in 2012 where she played basketball, tap danced and conducted the marching band as the drum major. She continues her love of music as a member of the University's Wolf Pack Marching Band, where she has played alto saxophone since her freshman year. She has seen the band grow from about 120 members to more than 200, and has traveled to play for the Nevada football team to many states including Louisiana to play in the 2014 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl at the Superdome. Valenzuela is studying media graphics and strategic communications in the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism. She won the Best Published Article



Award her sophomore year, and in her junior year she earned the top grade-point average and was inducted into the journalism honor society Kappa Tau Alpha. She received the Paul A. and Gwen F. Leonard scholarship her senior year. Valenzuela interned for the Arizona Women's Political Caucus and is currently a multimedia intern for the University's office of Marketing and Communications and co-creative director for Wolf Pack Relations, a student-run public relations firm. Valenzuela also received one of the three top prizes for the fall 2015 Annual Student Art Exhibition.

–Natalie Savidge '04



Nevada's first finalist for "Academic Heisman"

On the football field during the fall, you'll recognize Jordan Dobrich as the physical and fearless middle linebacker for the Nevada football team, a player with equal parts strength, speed and guile who leads the Wolf Pack's defense.

In the locker room, Dobrich is the consummate team leader, a team captain for an unprecedented third time during his senior season, and a man so devoted to his football program and University that a Wolf Pack tattoo adorns his left arm.

Those are the sides of Dobrich that most see, and those slivers of the 23-year-old Magalia,

Calif., native are worthy of respect and applause.

Andrew Caudill sees another side of Dobrich every day on campus. An academic advisor for the Wolf Pack athletics department, Caudill

sees excellence from Dobrich. He sees the 3.85 grade-point average in mechanical engineering, the academic chair of Theta Tau (a professional engineering fraternity), the National Society of Leadership member, and the Golden Key Scholar.

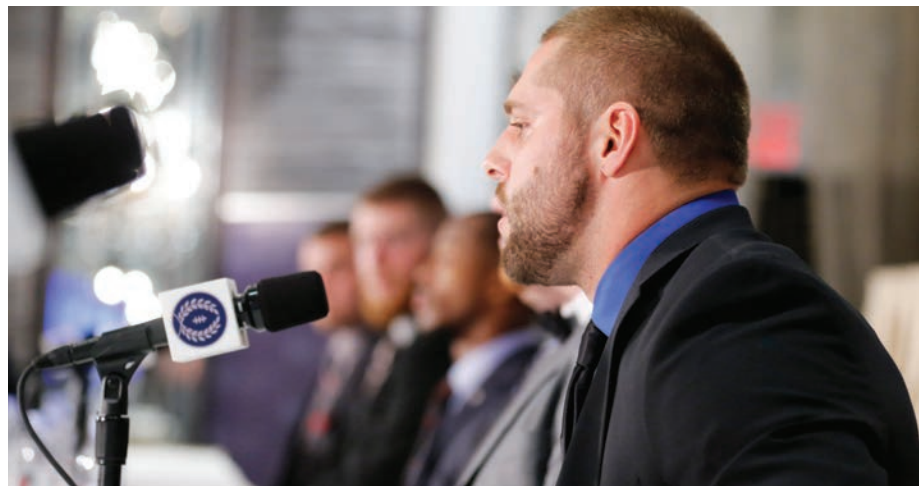
Chad Hartley '03 is associate athletics director of communications

"Jordan is the most accomplished football student-athlete I have ever been around," Caudill said. "For him to balance football with being in the top 10 percent of his class in mechanical engineering is truly amazing. That alone is telling of the work ethic and character Jordan displays, which will lead him down the path to greatness in his life. Jordan is well-

respected among his peers on campus, on his team, and in the community."

Dobrich's accomplishments were rewarded in November with his selection as a member of the 2015 National Football Foundation National Scholar-Athlete Class. In addition to earning an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship, Dobrich was also a finalist for the 2015 William V. Campbell Trophy.

The award is often called the "Academic Heisman," and selection is limited to just 12 players across all divisions of college football. How rare is the honor? Dobrich is the first in



Jordan Dobrich was honored in December at the National Football Foundation Banquet at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. He was one of 12 recipients of the NFF Scholar-Athlete Award and an \$18,000 postgraduate scholarship.

Photo courtesy National Football Foundation


Jordan Dobrich was the first three-year captain in modern history for the Wolf Pack football team. He was second on the team in tackles this year and led Nevada to its 10th bowl game appearance in the last 11 years.

University of Nevada, Reno history to earn it, and just the fifth in the history of the Mountain West Conference.

“Jordan embodies everything we want this program to stand for – leadership and excellence in the classroom as well as on the field. This award is an incredible recognition of his hard work and dedication,” said Brian Polian, Nevada’s head football coach.

The path has been a winding one for Dobrich. He did not come to Nevada as a ballyhooed recruit with four or five stars from the football recruiting services. Dobrich was under-recruited and had no scholarship offers for football from any school. From the outside looking in, he admired the University of Nevada for the academic opportunities it presented. The football coaching staff at Nevada noticed his potential on the field and appreciated his academic background, so he was offered a chance to walk on to the football program. It took less than a year for the Wolf Pack staff to realize Dobrich’s full potential and offer him a scholarship.

After graduation, Dobrich hopes to pursue postgraduate studies in either petroleum engineering or mechanical engineering.

“Being selected as a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy is an honor for which I am extraordinarily grateful,” Dobrich said. 

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Wolf Pack achieves third-highest graduation rate

University of Nevada, Reno student-athletes continue to achieve success as the Wolf Pack’s Graduation Success Rate was the third highest score in the history of the program at 79 percent, according to data released by the NCAA this fall.

“At our core is our unwavering support of the educational mission of our great University, and we’re proud of the achievement shown by our student-athletes,” said Athletics Director Doug Knuth. “We’re thankful for the commitment and focus on education and academic achievement shown by our coaches and staff.”

This is the eleventh year the NCAA has calculated data for the Graduation Success Rate (GSR), and the Wolf Pack’s rate has risen eight times in that span. The Wolf Pack’s first score was 62 percent in 2005 and the GSR has hit a high-water mark of 80 percent twice in the history of the program. Overall, Nevada has seen nearly 700 of its student-athletes graduate in the past 10 years.

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Photo by Beau Rogers '11 M.A.

Nevada Alumni Council

For 2016, the Nevada Alumni Council will be led by Nick Butler and six executive committee officers. We also welcomed three new board members this year.



Nick Butler '02, '06 M.Acc.
President

Executive Committee



Matt Clifton '93
Past President



Mary-Ann (Merlo) Brown '85, '96 M.S.
President-elect/Treasurer



Joe Nannini '00, '10 Ed.S.
Vice President for Student Involvement



Kris (Perkins) Layman '93
Vice President for Membership & Marketing



Amy (Stechman) Ozuna '08
Vice President for Community Outreach



Mike McDowell '03
Vice President for Chapter Development

New Members



Paul Thomsen '01, '10 MPA



Katie (Seus) Weigel '96



Victor Wowo '11

Nevada Alumni Council Executive Committee

Nick Butler '02, '06 M.Acc.
President

Matt Clifton '93
Past President

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Kris (Perkins) Layman '93
Vice President for Membership & Marketing

Amy (Stechman) Ozuna '08
Vice President for Community Outreach

Mike McDowell '03
Vice President for Chapter Development

Board Members

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Derek Beenfeldt '93, '11 M.D.

John K. Carothers* (Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations)

Delores (Bercellos) Clewe '69

Peter Costa '84, '88 M.D.

Caden Fabbri (ASUN President)

Matthew Forman '06

Michael Hix '89

Doug Knuth* (Director, Intercollegiate Athletics)

Trevor Macaluso '11

Megan May '05, '07, '13 MBA

Chrissy Menicucci '86

Deb Pierce '86

Brad Platt '00

David Pressler '72 MPA, '82 M.A.

Tyler Ross (GSA President)

Jerry Smith* (Chair, Foundation Board of Trustees)

Tim Suiter '91

Jack Sutton '70

Paul Thomsen '01, '10 MPA

Jocelyn Weart '00

Katie Weigel '96

Victor Wowo '11

Chul Yim '04

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Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations

Bruce Mack

Associate Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations

Amy J. (Zurek) Carothers '01 M.A.

Director, Alumni Relations

Christy (Upchurch) Jerz '97

Assistant Director, Alumni Relations

Carrie Henderson Bushá '06

Coordinator, Alumni Relations

Kevin Price

Coordinator, Alumni Relations

Courtney (Bonnici) Wadhams

Coordinator, Alumni Relations

Hope (Hepner) Robinson

Administrative Assistant II

**ex-officio member*

Class Chat



Sandor L. "Mark" Vincze '72



Linda (Ward) Lee '87



Zachary Doser '86

KEY

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'60s

Ben Echeverria '61 (chemistry), '64 M.A. (counseling and educational psychology) submitted a proposal to *The Colorado Lawyer*, the official publication of the Colorado Bar Association, for a special issue on education law. His proposal was accepted and published in October 2015. Ben was a coordinating editor of the special issue and author of an article entitled "Gun Violence on Campus."

'70s

N Sandor L. "Mark" Vincze '72 (accounting) is a corporate financial consultant. His prior professional experience includes 25 years in leadership positions with Fortune 500 companies, including large insurance and healthcare companies in California and Nevada. He was previously a certified financial examiner for the State of Nevada, Insurance Division. Before that Mark held CFO positions with Hometown Health Plan, Humana Corporation, Tenet HealthCare and Sutter Health. Mark lends his time to various non-profit community service organizations and enjoys snow skiing and golf.

Ray Hagar '75 (journalism) has retired from the *Reno Gazette-Journal (RGJ)* after a 38-year career in journalism. He recently wrote an article for the RGJ discussing the people who influenced his life the most.

Al Saibini '76 (criminal justice) has published an article, "Supply and Demand: Drug Smuggling in 2015," in the inaugural issue of *The Norwich Review of International and Transnational Crime*, a review of policy and enforcement measures published by the Institute for the Study of Culture and Language, Norwich University. Al was a deputy sheriff with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office from 1977 to 1989 and a special agent and supervisory special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration from 1989 to 2010. Following his retirement, he was an embedded law enforcement professional in Iraq and Afghanistan and the senior law enforcement advisor on the Commander, International Security Assistance Force Advisory and Assistance Team in Kabul, Afghanistan. He resides in Virginia.

'80s

Lynne Cockrum-Murphy '80 (special education) is an intuitive consultant specializing in helping those who seek assistance with their spiritual path, physical healing and emotional growth as well as removing blocks to a life of joy, meaning and purpose. She teaches at Northern Arizona University and maintains a private practice in Phoenix, Ariz. where she lives. She has published several books that are available on Amazon.

Steven R. Ranson '80 M.Ed. is a veteran newspaperman with more than 30 years of experience in journalism and education. He has been selected for a one-year post as the new president of the Nevada Press Association's (NPA) Board of Directors. Steve is editor of the

Lahontan Valley News in Fallon for the past seven years. In addition to serving on the NPA board, Steven is also a member of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors, an organization that assists those involved in the weekly press to improve standards of editorial writing and news reporting and to encourage strong, independent editorial voices.

Bertha M. Mullins '83 (child development) has been named one of Church of God in Christ's 150 Influential Women of 2015. Bertha was influential in making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a state holiday in Nevada. She has received numerous federal, state, and local awards honoring her service. Bertha attended a reception for all honorees Nov. 5 in St. Louis.

Donald Craig Houk '85 (criminal justice) was recently promoted to senior manager of safety and security for eBay. He resides in Gilbert, Ariz. with his wife, Bren, and their dog, Sammy.

Zachary Doser '86 (geography) was pinned as a brigadier general during a ceremony in Carson City Aug. 18, when he also became the Nevada Army National Guard's assistant adjutant general. A 30-year veteran of the U.S. Army and a 16-year veteran of the Nevada Army National Guard, he has been with the Reno Police Department since 1998 and became a detective in 2005.

Linda (Ward) Lee '87 (elementary education) has coauthored a book, *101 Ways to Rock Your World in the Classroom*, with nationally known speaker and author Dayna Steele.



Stephanie Kruse '91 MBA



Alison Gaulden '92



Paul Thomsen '01, '10 MPA

Linda draws from over 30 years of experience to provide tips in assisting educators to connect with students and manage the classroom. She is lead special education team leader at Clear Creek Independent School District in the Houston area assisting 46 facilitators and managing the district's special education software program.

'90s

Stephanie Kruse '91 MBA, president, chief strategist and founder of KPS3, will be recognized with the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America's third Lifetime Achievement Award. Prior to opening KPS3, Stephanie was director of marketing for Saint Mary's Health Network for nine years. She spent time this past year coaching students and judging marketing competitions at the University. Stephanie also participates regularly on expert panels and gives presentations to local organizations.

Alison Gaulden '92 (journalism) is a lecturer and internship coordinator at the Reynolds School of Journalism. Alison received the Public Relations Student Society of America Dr. Frederick Teahan Awards Competition for Outstanding Faculty Adviser 2015 at the recent international conference in Atlanta, Ga.

Cecilia (Warpinski) Stuopis '96 M.D., vice president and executive medical director for accountable care at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock health system in New Hampshire, will join MIT later this year as director of MIT Medical. Cecilia became vice president of Dartmouth-Hitchcock earlier this year, adding to her role as the health system's executive medical director for accountable care since 2012. She will be completing a master's degree in health care delivery science at Dartmouth in 2016.

Robert D. Hoadley '97 (economics), U. S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, has been named the Air National Guard Readiness Center's Field Grade Officer of the Quarter. He is serving as

space and cyberspace branch chief and panel chair with the National Guard Bureau, Joint Base Andrews, Md.

Howard Cunningham '99 MBA is investment partner, co-founder and CIO for Cunningham Investment Management, LLC (CIM) and one of the driving forces behind D.B. Root and Co.'s advanced technology and investment process. Howard developed an investment approach called Dynamic Asset Allocation, which helps to reduce portfolio risk without sacrificing long term performance.

'00s

Paul Thomsen '01 (political science), '10 MPA has been appointed chairman of the Nevada Public Utilities Commission. Considered a leading expert in Nevada's dynamic energy industry, Paul previously served as director of the Governor's Office of Energy. He is also a new member of the Nevada Alumni Council.

Wolf Mates



Joe Byne '09 (speech communication) and **Caroline "Carly" Bodensteiner '09** (management) were married Sept. 5 2015, at Edgewood in Lake Tahoe. With Alpie and Luna present and silver and blue throughout, it was truly a Nevada ceremony.



David Alton Brackett '14 Ph.D. (educational leadership) and **Micha Marie (Stevens) Brackett '14 M.Ed.** were married July 25, 2014 in Reno. They met while serving the Graduate Student Association as elected seats for the College of Education.



Natalie Savidge '04



Krysta Jackson '07

Jake Wiskerchen '01 (journalism), '08 M.A. (educational leadership), '11 M.A. (counseling and educational psychology) recently co-founded a new mental health practice, Zephyr Wellness, with a mission to provide excellent clinical care to both urban and rural northern Nevada. In 2011, Jake married Heather Bossert, a South Dakota native who moved to Reno to work as a nurse. An award-winning homebrewer in his free time, Jake also teaches psychological seminars at his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and participates in several community organizations including his church, Hillside Foursquare. He also hosts a weekly radio show called Mental Matters on 1180 AM.

Lisa H. Crampton '04 Ph.D. (ecology, evolution and conversation biology) has been selected as the “local female leader” for November 2015 by the Islands Society, a nonprofit that seeks to mobilize individuals and organizations in island communities to participate in foreign affairs and overseas engagements. Lisa received the award for her long-standing commitment to conserving endangered birds in Kaua'i, Hawai'i. In her current role as project leader for the Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project, Lisa leads research, conservation and outreach efforts to protect the fast declining population of indigenous birds on the island.

Natalie Savidge '04 (journalism) is senior communications specialist for the University of Nevada, Reno's Marketing and Communications Department. She has been honored with the Mark Curtis Sr. Professional of the Year Award by the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Natalie has been an active member of the Sierra Nevada PRSA Chapter holding various board positions since 2004, including her current role as vice president of recognition.

Krysta Jackson '07 (French) recently opened Sugar Love Chocolates in the basement of the

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Maria Urbina '08



Amanda (Ferguson) Kludasch '08



Zanny Marsh '09



Adam Varahachaikol '09



Taylor R. Anderson '10

old U.S. Post Office in downtown Reno. After living in Europe and experiencing the European chocolate culture, Krysta is proud to be the owner and chocolatier of her own store.

Christopher Harvey '08 (anthropology) recently graduated from the Colangelo College of Business at Grand Canyon University with an MBA. He has been accepted to their doctor of business administration program and will begin classes January.

Amanda (Ferguson) Kludasch '08 (marketing) studied model community-based efforts to preserve Bornean species along the Kinabatangan River in Sabah (East Malaysia) on the island of Borneo during the summer

of 2015 as part of Miami University's Earth Expeditions global field course. Amanda is an education outreach logistics specialist at Denver Zoo in Denver, Colo.

Maria Urbina '08 (political science) is a senior staff member with Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.). She was recently featured in *LATINO Magazine* as a member of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association (HSA), an organization that was founded to increase the number of Latino staffers in Congress.

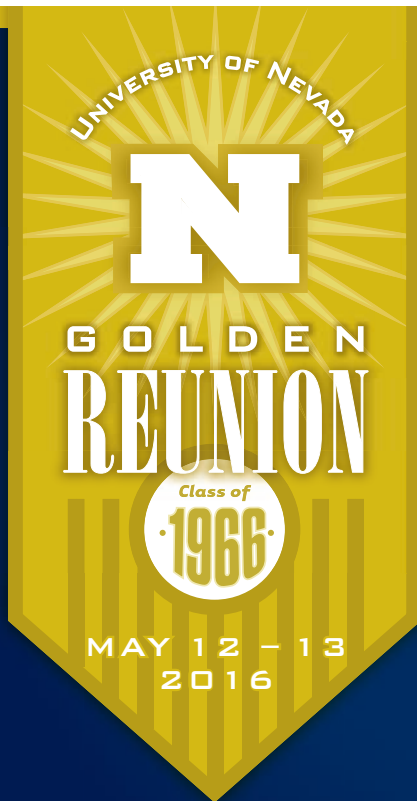
Zanny Marsh '09 MJM has joined the American Red Cross of Northern Nevada as executive director. She is responsible for more than 230 volunteers and four offices over more than

85,000 square miles of northern and northeastern Nevada.

Adam Varahachaikol '09 (journalism) is now special events coordinator at the Nugget Casino Resort, where he helps plan property events and assists with public relations. Before that, Adam spent several years with KTVN Channel 2 as a reporter. He just celebrated his one-year wedding anniversary with his wife, Kelsey.

'10s

Taylor R. Anderson '10 (political science) has recently accepted a position as an associate attorney at Garrett Hemann Robertson P.C. in



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Rachel Wright '11



Connie Anderson '14

Salem, Ore. In his practice, Taylor represents healthcare providers, lawyers, school districts and business owners throughout Oregon.

Jonathan O. Pluvinet '11 (management) is the owner of Rosalie Le French Café in Las Vegas. His business has been great since he hosted his grand opening in early September. In addition to crafting a menu filled with dishes inspired by his childhood home in southern France, Jonathan constructed almost everything in the cafe — a former 7-Eleven — himself. He grew up in the restaurant industry, helping in the family business from pretty much the time he could walk. His cafe is named for the restaurant his parents ran in France.

Rachel Wright '11 (journalism) recently became the public relations account executive for The Ferraro Group, a regional public relations and public affairs firm. Based in the Reno office, she'll be responsible for public relations and social media on behalf of local and statewide clients. Prior to joining The Ferraro Group, Rachel spent five years in sports public relations and most recently worked for The Animal Foundation, Nevada's largest open-admission animal shelter.

Connie Anderson '14 (journalism), account manager for The Abbi Agency, will receive the Outstanding New Practitioner Award by the Sierra Nevada Public Relations Society

of America Chapter. The award recognizes someone who has been working in the profession for less than five years and has not only demonstrated a high-level of commitment to the profession and the chapter, but a sincere desire to make our community a better place to live. Connie has also been a "Big" for Big Brothers Big Sisters since 2012.

Submissions are due Feb. 19 and can be sent to: chatter@unr.edu. We edit all submissions for style, clarity and length.



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Wolf pups



Shelley Ferguson-Kelly '11 M.A. (counseling and educational psychology) and **Michael Kelly** announce the birth of their daughter, **Madigan Marie Kelly**, on July 1, 2015. She joins her big sister **McCartney**. The attending pediatrician at her birth was her aunt, **Amanda Casey '99** (biology), '06 M.D.



Christopher and Jafeth E. (Salido) Sanchez '04 (mathematics), '07 M.Ed., '10 Ph.D. (educational leadership) proudly announce the birth of their son, **Javan Christopher Sanchez**, born July 25, 2015.



Elizabeth (Gaydon) Greenfield '06 (criminal justice), '10 M.A. and **Stuart D. Greenfield '10** (economics) are very happy to announce the birth of their baby boy, **David Charles Greenfield**, on Sept. 15, 2015.



Kaylie Tucker '03 (interior design) and **Jeremy Tucker '04** (computer science) announce the birth of **Carson Oliver Tucker** on May 13, 2015.



Andrea and Casey Kasten '08 (journalism) welcome the birth of their second child, **Maverick Kasten**, born Aug. 29, 2014. Maverick joins his big sister, **Maxine**.



Heather and Jake Wiskerchen '01 B.A. (journalism), '08 M.A. (educational leadership), '11 M.A. (counseling and educational psychology) welcomed their first child, **Elijah**, in May 2015.



Justin Meckley '01 (management) and **Mackenzie Meckley '13** (art) welcomed **Jack "Wolf" Kingston Meckley** on Sept. 13, 2015.



Brittany Wood '06 (chemical engineering) '09 MBA and **Joshua Wood '06** (biotechnology), '09 MBA, '09 Ph.D. (cellular and molecular biology) are happy to announce the birth of their son, **Everett Tahoe Wood**, on July 5, 2015.

Nick Butler is the 2016 Nevada Alumni Council President.



Union and back. The energy of the students is palpable, and the significant development that has taken place – and continues to occur since I attended – is a vivid reminder that the future is bright for the University, its graduates and northern Nevada.

What have you done that you are most proud of?

Professionally, I am most proud of the relationships I've developed with my customers and the fact that in a very small way I'm helping to shape the future of northern Nevada by supporting business owners as they achieve their dreams. I assist them in operating and growing their businesses, and this has a multiplier effect through job creation and economic growth.

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

Warren Buffett spoke to business students and faculty at the University in early 2006, and I had the opportunity to meet with him for a few minutes afterward. He gave me a great piece of advice: Always be looking to meet and develop relationships with people, and treat all people with respect. You never know when your paths will cross again and how they may be able to help you or how you may be able to help them. He said that human capital – who you know and how you treat them – is the capital of the 21st century. Financial capital will always be important, but we are seeing a shift in importance to human capital.

My own piece of advice is similar: Always be looking for and be open to opportunities, you never know where they will lead. I didn't know what commercial banking was when I graduated. But here I am, 13 years since graduation, with a very fulfilling career, a great network of friends and colleagues and a bright future. I was willing to pursue an opportunity all those years ago – even though it was 180 degrees from where I thought I wanted to be – because it intersected with great people here in northern Nevada. [N](#)

Provided by Butler

Alumni Profile: Nick Butler

'02 (economics), '06 M. Acc.

Occupation: **Commercial Relationship Manager, Umpqua Bank**

What has your life been like since graduation?

I stayed in Reno to pursue a career in banking, a door that was opened to me by a campus internship at the Nevada Small Business Development Center during my junior and senior years. I remembered my days at the University so fondly that I chose to return and earn my master's in accountancy. I enjoy being active in the community as a banker and seeing the amazing quality of locally-owned businesses. I also love that I get to work with people who are improving the image of the area and the quality of life for everyone. In my spare time (of which I wish I had more!), I pursue the activities that caused me to fall in love with northern Nevada in the first place: skiing, biking, hiking and hunting. And of course, my wife and three kids are at the center of it all.

What are your fondest memories from Nevada?

Wow, where do I start – there are so many! I met my wife and many of my closest friends at Nevada. Really, though, it's not a specific instance, but rather a feeling or an atmosphere. The energy on campus was intoxicating. Even when I attended, the University was growing and getting recognized nationally for its quality education and the work of its students and graduates. When I walked across campus under the towering trees by the Quad or into Getchell Library, there was feeling of hope, empowerment and excitement – it was contagious. That same energy and atmosphere is still present today. In fact, it has increased tenfold. When I have a long week or simply need to recharge, I will go up to the University, park at Morrill Hall and walk to the Joe Crowley Student

Chapter Updates



TOP LEFT: Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter viewing party at Dom Demarcos for the Nevada vs. Fresno State football game Nov. 5. CENTER: Steve Martarano '79 and Sacramento Chapter President Steve Park '99 enjoy Homecoming festivities at the Sigma Nu Fraternity House. TOP RIGHT: The Native American Alumni Chapter participated in the Nevada Day Parade Oct. 31. Parade Grand Marshal Sherry Rupert '05 with University of Nevada, Reno Pow Wow Pageant Royalty Colson Lewis-Wyatt, Alyssa Songoi, Chesney Sampson and Paityn Ceja. BOTTOM RIGHT: YAC board members McKenna Peri '11, '12, Andrew Maurins '07, Katie Hoffman '06, Farhad Ahmadzai '07 and 2015 Outstanding Young Alumna Lydia Peri '11, '15 M.S. at the 2015 Homecoming Gala.

International Alumni Chapter

Nanami Kanayama, nkanayama@unr.edu

The International Alumni Chapter held its first Homecoming event Oct. 23 and relaxed over fruit, cookies and tea. We shared a brief presentation on the chapter's history and activities and shared stories of our successful alumni who participated in our interview project, Voices from Alumni.

We will soon be initiating the International Alumni Ambassador project, as well as our networking project, in which alumni from around the world can stay connected.

Please visit us on Facebook to stay in touch. We expect to have more engagement and great opportunities to help you succeed globally and achieve your dreams! Go Pack!

Native American Alumni Chapter

Stephanie Wyatt '12, swyatt2031@gmail.com

The Native American Alumni Chapter participated in the March from the Arch Oct. 23 as well as the Nevada Day Parade Oct. 31. For Halloween, we hosted our First Annual Monster Mix costume party Oct. 17. Don't forget to stay in touch on Facebook!

Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter

Jocelyn Weart '00, jocelynweart@gmail.com

The Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter had lots of fun cheering on the Wolf Pack football team this fall with several viewing par-

ties in San Francisco and the South Bay. We held a happy hour in October in San Francisco and a special happy hour geared toward 1950-79 graduates in Palo Alto. We teamed up with SF Uncubed to introduce Nevada grads to a full day showcasing startup companies in the Bay Area for job opportunities and networking.

Join us March 25 to watch former Wolf Pack Basketball Star JaVale McGee from the Mavericks take on the Golden State Warriors! We'll also be hosting several viewing parties around the Bay Area to support our Nevada team during the basketball season. We'll have other fun gatherings to include happy hours and professional events. Keep an eye out for our all events on Facebook or our website, nvbaac.com, or email us at nvbaac@gmail.com. Go Pack!

Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter

Elliot Sparkman '04, eesparkman@gmail.com

The Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter is proud to be named the 2015 Nevada Alumni Association's Outstanding Chapter of the Year! We had a great turnout for our Homecoming social at Whitney Peak Hotel Oct. 23, as well as our annual group photo on the field during Homecoming halftime. Stay in touch on Facebook for more events. Go Pack!

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter

Matt Airolidi '94, tgratsunami61@yahoo.com

Homecoming was a huge success with the 1995 football team

reunion! Always great seeing the Pack family together!

Keep your eyes open for updates on the spring game and our Second Annual Poker Tournament! Go Pack!

Nevada Greek Alumni Chapter

Mike McDowell '03, mdmcdowell@gmail.com

To celebrate Homecoming this year, the Nevada Greek Alumni Chapter traded our typical tailgating gear for cloth napkins and gourmet food. Greek alumni celebrated our alma mater with wine, an amazing dinner and a beautiful setting at The Grove in south Reno Oct. 20. It was a great change of pace, and we hope you join us next homecoming.

Like us on Facebook for details on events and to stay in touch with the University and Greek community. We're always on the lookout for Greek leaders who want to be involved on our board, so please let us know if you're interested.

Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Chapter

Jan (Pritchard) Brady '63, '88 MBA, lvcrsswrds@aol.com

The Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association's steering committee held its quarterly meeting Dec. 1 at Swill Coffee House. It was a festive event, but we did conduct some important business. We are pleased that Roberta Williams '66 (nursing) will be assuming the duties of the scholarship committee. If you belong to OSNAA and would like to serve on the steering committee, please contact us through Facebook. We always welcome new faces and ideas!



TOP LEFT: International Alumni Chapter event attendees from many countries enjoyed sharing their academic experiences and career goals. TOP RIGHT: The Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter during the Nevada vs. Fresno State Viewing Party at Hi Tops in San Francisco Nov. 5: Jose Muro '04, Jeff Dean '14, Thomas Boyer '03, '06 M.Ed., Rory O'Brien '09, Colton Wayne, Brita Muller '09, Chris Strader '05, '07 MBA, and Tyler Bowman '11. BOTTOM LEFT: Jenna McQuattie '05, Christine Hull '10 M.Ed. and Lauren Bradfield step up their Homecoming celebration at The Grove Oct. 20. BOTTOM RIGHT: Alumni Band performs with the Pride of the Sierra Marching

We are beginning to plan our spring event, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame!" We have indoor and outdoor seating in Aces Ballpark, good food, beverages and lots of conviviality between our members and their guests as we watch the Nevada vs. Reno Aces exhibition baseball game. Watch for details on our Facebook page in the near future.

Congratulations to the December Orvis graduates!

Sacramento Alumni Chapter

Steve Park '99, steve.park@tricommercial.com

The Sacramento Alumni Chapter turned out in force for Homecoming with a pregame party at Whitney Peak Hotel before the March from the Arch Oct. 23. Steve Martarano '79 (journalism) was honored as the Reynolds School of Journalism's 2015 Distinguished Alumnus. Steve is a public affairs specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Bay-Delta office in Sacramento, and he established two journalism-related endowed scholarships at Nevada.

The Chapter's Annual Mystery Bus Trip will be Saturday, Feb. 27. Stay tuned for the details!

We meet monthly at different locations for lunch and happy hour. Stay in touch on Facebook, or contact Steve Park for more information. Go Pack!

School of Medicine Alumni Chapter

Scott Fielden '88, '93 M.D., sdfmd@aol.com

The University of Nevada School of Medicine Alumni Chapter congratulates Philippe Bishop '93 M.D. on being named the Nevada School of Medicine's 2015 Distinguished Alumnus. He is currently the senior vice president of hematology and oncology therapeutics at Gilead Sciences, Inc. Congratulations also to Leslie

Greenberg '95 M.D., Mark Stovak '90 (biology), '95 M.D. and Kacey Durant '07 (biochemistry), '11 M.D. for becoming School of Medicine faculty members.

Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter

Scott Fielden '88, '93 M.D., sdfmd@aol.com

The Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter had a great season, including multiple football viewing parties where we had 40-80 alumni cheer on the Wolf Pack. There are many upcoming events planned, including Nevada basketball at UNLV and the Annual Party at the Yurt. Congratulations to Misha Ray '12 (journalism) on being this quarter's Outstanding Alumna – thank you for all you do. Go Pack!!

Student Ambassador Alumni Chapter

Priscilla Acosta '10, nvambassadoralumni@gmail.com

The Student Ambassador Alumni Chapter was in full swing this fall. The Chapter celebrated Homecoming Week with socials at the University hot spot, Pub 'N' Sub. Members also took a trip over the pass to Apple Hill and indulged in apple picking and wine tasting. The Chapter will continue with community service events through the spring. Join us for all the fun!

The College of Business Alumni Association

Vick Wowo '11, vwowo@whitneypeakhotel.com

The College of Business Alumni Association (COBAA) released the fourth annual publication of our magazine, N Venture, available in the Ansari Business Building and online at cobaa.org.

COBAA sponsored the All Majors Career & Internship Networking Reception in October. This event was open to students from all majors and allowed them to connect with employers from various industries to explore career mentorship opportunities.

The COBAA Board would like to welcome Spencer Lewis '11 (psychology) as the new COBAA Graduate Student Liaison to continue our mission of connecting our alumni back to the college. Thank you for your support! To learn more about COBAA or to join the chapter, please contact Erika Ibaibarriaga '10 (management), '14 MBA, vice president of membership, at erikaibaibarriaga@yahoo.com.

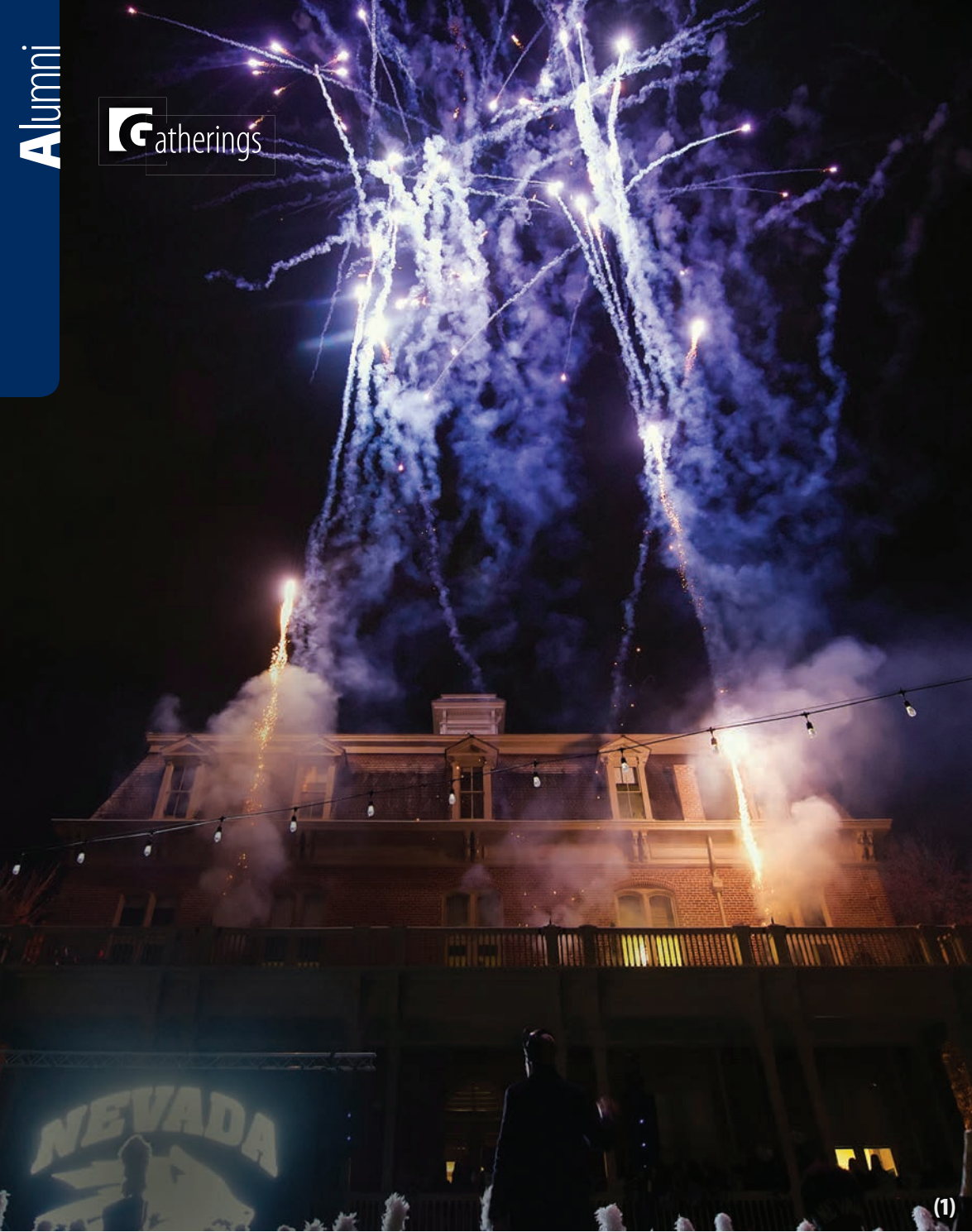
Young Alumni Chapter

McKenna Peri '11, '12, yacpresident@gmail.com

The Young Alumni Chapter proudly celebrated Homecoming week with many fun festivities. Following the March from the Arch Oct. 23, the Chapter held the annual Old Guy's Night at The Little Waldorf, featuring blue beer for all alumni! The Chapter also attended the Homecoming Gala Oct. 22 to show support for fellow board member, Lydia Peri '11 (ecohydrology), '15 M.S. (hydrogeology and civil & environmental engineering), as she received the 2015 Outstanding Young Alumna Award! In addition, the chapter hosted a mimosa and French toast-themed Homecoming tailgate with our best turnout yet.

We look forward to a busy and bright winter packed with networking events. We will continue to hold mixers throughout the community, and we will be hosting a young alumni bowling night in the near future! We also encourage you to join us at all home Wolf Pack basketball games.

For more information on upcoming events, visit our newly renovated website, nevadayac.com, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram, @nevadayoungalum.



RENO
BIGGEST LITTLE CITY IN THE WORLD



(3)



(4)



(6)



(7)



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(10)



(11)

March from the Arch

Nearly 6,000 students, alumni and community members gathered in downtown Reno Oct. 23 for the third Annual March from the Arch and ASUN Homecoming Parade. The event kicked off under the Reno Arch with remarks from parade co-m Marshals University President Marc Johnson and City of Reno Mayor Hillary Schieve who were joined by more than 50 community and University parade entries cruising up Virginia Street to campus for a Pep Rally on the Quad.

- (1) Fireworks light up the fall sky above Morrill Hall.
- (2) President Marc Johnson welcomes the downtown crowd.
- (3) Thanks to Bishop Manogue Catholic High School (pictured) and Dolan Auto Group for sponsoring the March at the \$2500 level!
- (4) The Wolf Pack mascot family with fans.
- (5) Nevada Cheer and Spirit Team and Alpha Tau Omega fraternity's "Nevada Surf-vivors" float.
- (6) John and Margaret Oberg with Deb Foley '74 in their "UNR Tailgate Car."

- (7) Nevada Cheer and Spirit Team members Grace Whited and Hannah Nielson.
- (8) Marchers fall in behind the parade.
- (9) Mayor Hillary Schieve with Chief of Staff Madeline Burak '15.
- (10) The Pride of the Sierra leads Pep Rally chants.
- (11) N-E-V-A-D-A!
- (12) Students show support for the Pride of the Sierra.
- (13) Community parade entry Fjorgyn, the Viking ship art car created by Dennis Alumbaugh.

Gatherings



Homecoming Gala

The Nevada Alumni Association honored alumni and friends of the University for their professional achievements and support on Oct. 22 during the Annual Homecoming Gala at the Joe Crowley Student Union.

(1) 2015 Alumnus of the Year Ralph Whitworth '82, University President Marc Johnson, Fé Whitworth, Deborah Legarza, Mitch Legarza '84, Mitchell Woods, Marie Woods, Lisa Verner and Dennis Verner.

(2) Former University President and Professor Emeritus Joe Crowley with Alumni Association

Service Award honoree Jenny Frayer '77.

(3) University Service honoree Jean Myles with Marilyn Newton.

(4) Outstanding Young Alumna Lauren Sankovich-Bashista '98, Cameron Sankovich '00, Larry Sankovich '71 and Carla Sankovich '70, '85.

(5) The Clarence and Martha Jones Family Foundation's trustees Charlotte McConnell, Chancellor Daniel Klaich '72 and University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Trustee Emeritus Ann Carlson '59 accepting the Silver and Blue Appreciation Award with President Marc Johnson and Nevada Alumni Council President Matt Clifton '93.

Nevada Alpha's Pi Beta Phi Centennial Celebration

Nevada Alpha, the local chapter of the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women, held its centennial celebration this year, culminating with a brunch hosted by the Nevada Alumni Association and a campus tour given by current Student Ambassadors.

(6) Pi Beta Phi alumni, national fraternity members and University of Nevada staff on the steps of Morrill Hall.

(7) Christine Kiefer '09, Molly Carling '12, Kristie Carling '71 and Carol Pallesen '71, '77.



Homecoming Pregame Party and Halftime Recognition

Another memorable Homecoming weekend wrapped up on Oct. 24 with the traditional Nevada Alumni Association pregame party and a great Wolf Pack win against Hawai'i! During halftime, President Marc Johnson recognized all of the 2015 Nevada Alumni Association Award winners on the Chris Ault Field.

(1, 2) Nevada fans gather in Legacy Hall for the pregame party prior to kick-off.

(3) Nevada Alumni Council Vice President for Marketing and Membership Kris Layman '93, Steve Laden and Alumni Association Service honoree and past Nevada Alumni Council president, Rita Laden '96 Ed.D.

(4) 2015 University Libraries Distinguished Alumna Marian LaVoy '44, '71 with her granddaughters Ryann and Drew LaVoy.

(5) President Marc Johnson and Outstanding Young Alumnus Chris Shanks '08 with daughter Madeleine.

(6) The Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter was honored as Outstanding Chapter of the Year.

(7) University President Marc Johnson and College of Education Outstanding Alumna Gini Cunningham '74, '99 M.Ed.

Photos by John Byrne

Photos by Jim Dunn



Photo by Theresa Dainne Douglas

Alumni Profile: **JoAnn Elston '56** (*home economics*)

Occupation: **Retired Educator**

What has your life been like since graduation?

My family has been my greatest adventure. Jim, my husband of 61 years, along with my two children (Mark and Lori), four grandchildren (Jenny, Jim, Becky and Michael), and two great-grandchildren (Mary and Parker) are my main focus.

I can't think of a career I would rather have had than teaching; it is contagious, rewarding and frustrating. Working with students of all ages has taught me many things, most notably, that everyone wants to succeed and be respected, children of all ages have something to offer if you just listen, and they all just want to be treated the same as you would.

What are your favorite memories from Nevada?

I would be lying if I said the parties, athletic events and friendships don't take up a lot of space in my memory bank from that time. And of course, there was some time spent at the Little Wal. I also have many wonderful memories from classes, professors and time spent in the library (study sessions that included more visiting than studying). I remember the time I had to cook and peel 100 dozen eggs for potato salad for Mackay Day. It took a long time to forget that job – perhaps I haven't, really! I have special memories of chemistry and free-hand art classes. I still can't draw anything that anyone can recognize, and chemistry is a complete mystery to me, but those professors challenged me to try new adventures and did their best to make classes memorable and productive. My college experience was fun and rewarding.

What are you most proud of since graduation?

I have received many honors and awards during my years of teaching, volunteering and doing University work. But the honors and recognitions that mean the most come from former students thanking me for being their favorite teacher or for helping turn their lives around. Those acknowledgements are priceless honors.

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

First of all, enjoy life and the opportunities you have gained by going to college. You selected a field of study that interests you, so enjoy the work and strive for success. At the same time, don't be afraid to try something different if your interests change or the employment opportunities you expected just aren't there. After all, those "useless classes" you had to take may now offer opportunities you never dreamed of! Who knows when a professor or friend's suggestion might offer you an experience of a lifetime?

Graduation is a scary time in anyone's life. Transitioning from a sleep-deprived student to a responsible citizen is a real challenge, but life has taught me that opportunities are there if you just look for them. I am so grateful for the opportunities that teaching and my family have afforded me.


Be thankful for your education and put it to good use. Success can come at any time, and education is the key that will open many doors. Don't be afraid to step right through! 



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Nevada Alumni Association honors Fall 2015 Senior Scholars

More than 100 family, friends, college deans and others from the University of Nevada, Reno's administration joined the Nevada Alumni Association in honoring the Fall 2015 Senior Scholars on Dec. 3. These top graduating seniors from each school or college at Nevada were recognized for their hard work and dedication throughout their collegiate journey. The faculty mentor who had the most impact on their academic career at the University was honored as well. *BACK ROW (left to right): Mentor Kari Barber, Mentor Catherine Pollard, Mentor Tammy Abernathy Vineyard '81,'86 M.Ed., Mentor Julie Stoughton, Mentor Charles Carlaw, Scholar Evan A. West, Mentor Frederick Harris, Mentor Patrick Ghezzi, Mentor Cicely Valenti Smith '07. FRONT ROW (left to right): Scholar Jacoby Bancroft, Scholar Marie Syrovoy, Scholar Katelyn Miller, Scholar Luke Tanaka, Scholar Taylor Seidler, Scholar Naeun Lee. Not pictured: Scholar Leanne Louise Morrow.*

*College of Agriculture, Biotechnology
and Natural Resources*

Leanne Louise Morrow

GPA 3.8

Mentor: Julie Stoughton

The College of Business

Luke Tanaka

GPA 4.0

Mentor: Charles Carlaw

College of Education

Katelyn Miller

GPA 3.958

Mentor: Tammy Abernathy Vineyard
'81, '86 M.Ed.

College of Engineering

Evan A. West

GPA 3.890

Mentor: Frederick Harris

College of Liberal Arts

Marie Syrovoy

GPA 4.0

Mentor: Catherine Pollard

College of Science

Taylor Seidler

GPA 4.0

Mentor: Patrick Ghezzi

Division of Health Sciences

Naeun Lee

GPA 3.946

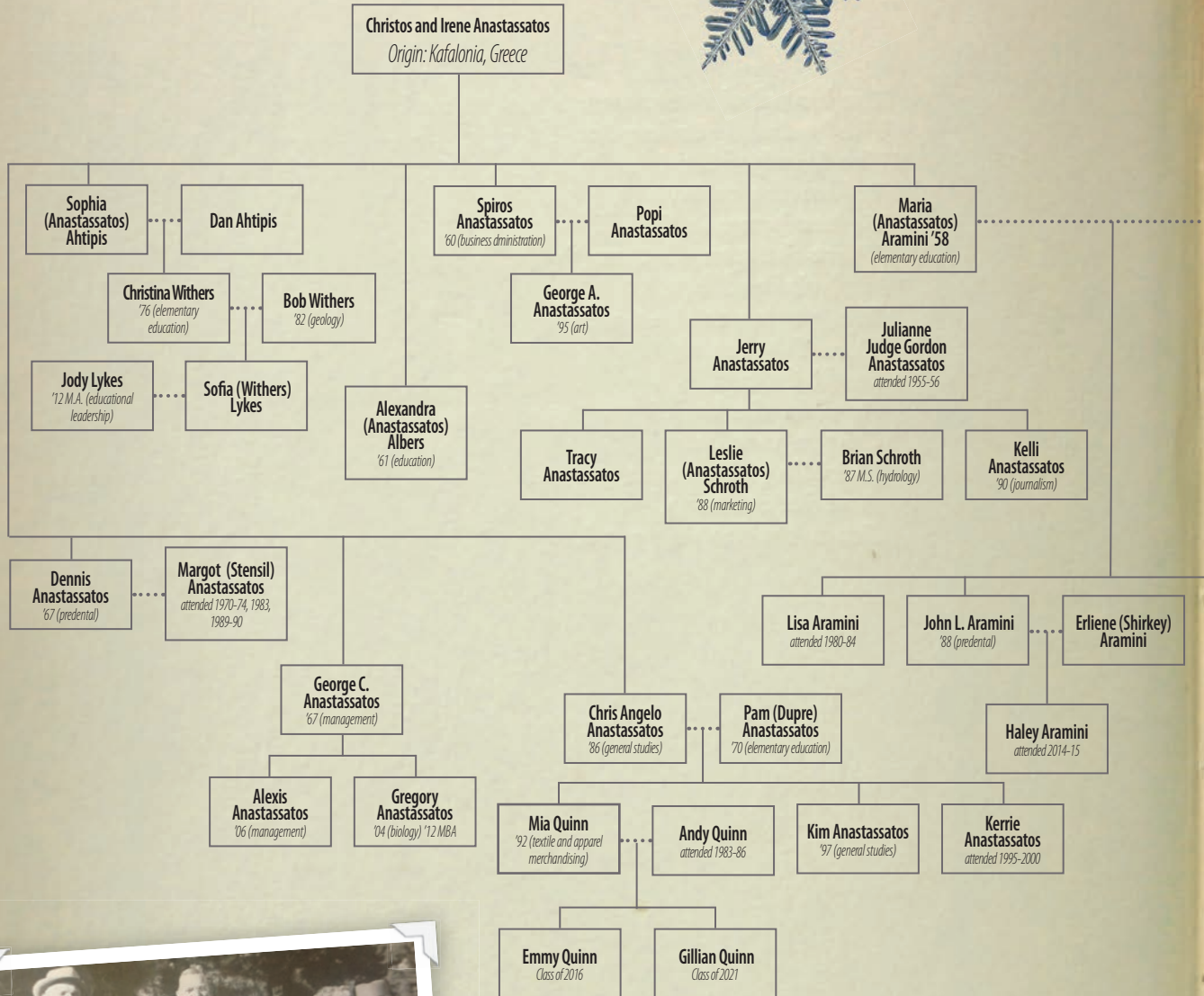
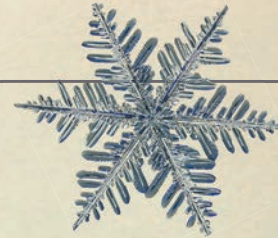
Mentor: Cicely Valenti Smith '07

Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism

Jacoby Bancroft

GPA 3.813

Mentor: Kari Barber



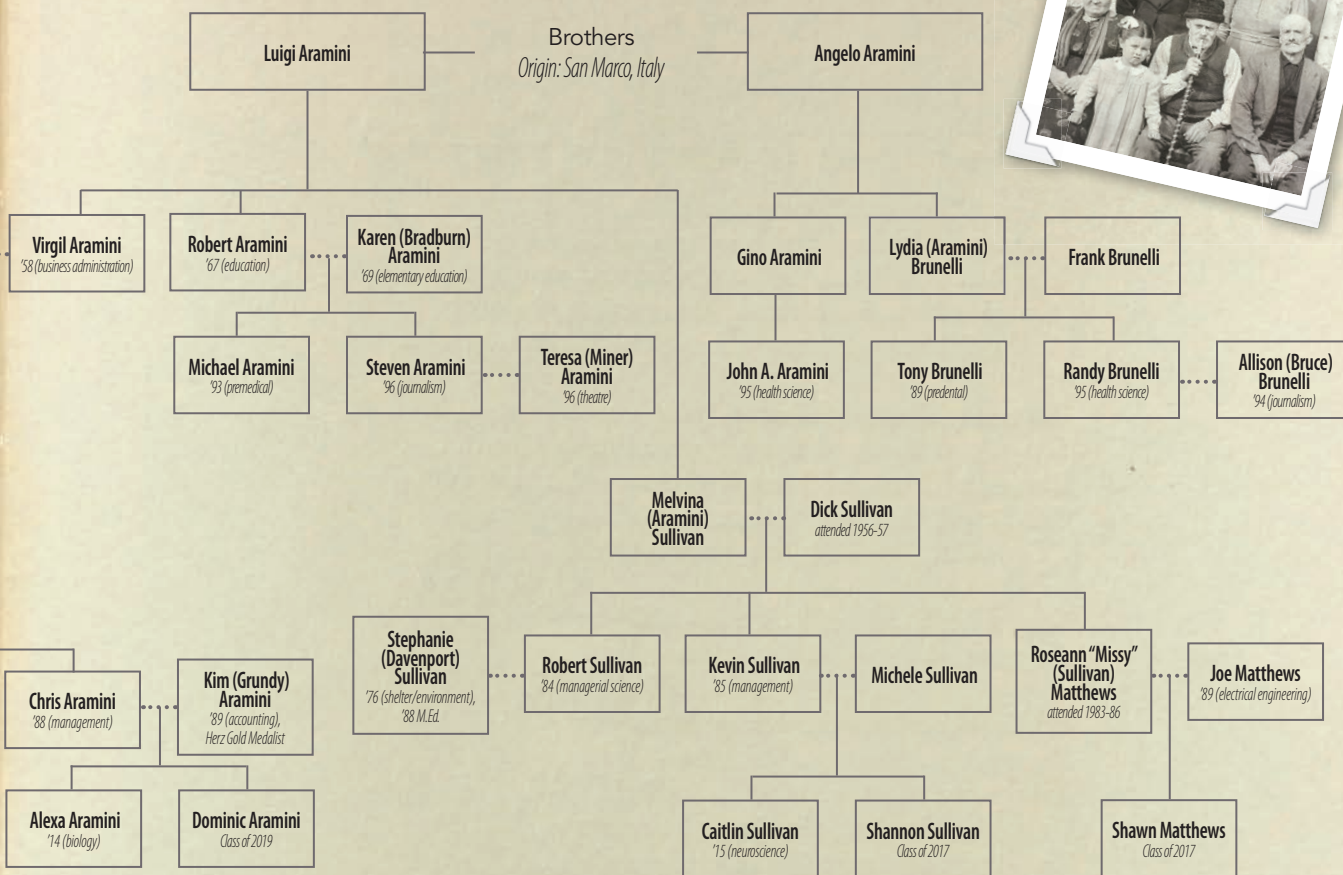
Anastassatos family in 1949, one of the first pictures taken of the family in the United States.

Home Means Nevada

The Anastassatos and Aramini families came to the United States as immigrants, the Anastassatoses from Greece in 1947 and the Araminis from Italy in 1939. The University of Nevada, Reno provided them an opportunity to succeed in America. With the union of Maria and Virgil, the families combined to create a legacy. The University of Nevada, Reno was the only option for the first generation of Anastassatos and Aramini children, but now 60 years later, the next generation is choosing Nevada as their University and following in the footsteps of their ancestors before them. With over 135 members of both families, the majority still living in northern Nevada, the University has given them the opportunities to prosper and give back not only to their school, but to the State of Nevada and America. They can truly say that "Home Means Nevada."



Aramini Family Tree



How many University of Nevada alumni make up your family tree? Let us know, and you could all be featured in an upcoming issue of *Nevada Silver & Blue*. For details, visit unr.edu/alumni or call 888.NV.ALUMS.





Emilia Mao Lee leaves a lasting legacy for accounting students

Emilia Mao Lee and her husband, Che-Ching Lee, moved to Sparks in 1994 for retirement. She was a proud homemaker and Che-Ching was an engineer with McDonnell Douglas. Each received their college degrees in Taiwan before immigrating to the United States. The couple lived in St. Louis, Missouri for more than 25 years and had raised two sons.

When Emilia reached out to the University in early 2003, her husband had recently passed away and her sons were grown and progressing in their own successful careers. Active and independent, she was enjoying her time with friends and family, her days filled with swimming, gardening, knitting, cooking, traveling and volunteering her time with seniors.

She explained to University staff her wish to leave her investment portfolio to the institution to aid accounting students with financial need. As she organized her estate plans, she worked closely with University staff and her legal advisor to clearly outline her intentions. With her plans documented, she continued to stay current with campus progress for more than a decade.

Emilia passed away in 2015 and the proceeds of her investment and retirement accounts were gifted to the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. Just as she had directed, her substantial gift established the Emilia Mao Lee Accounting Scholarship Endowment which will celebrate its first recipients in 2017.

The late Emilia Mao Lee who made provisions in her estate to establish the Emilia Mao Lee Accounting Scholarship Endowment through a planned gift.

Director of Donor Relations Keiko Weil '87 said, "I was fortunate to enjoy many wonderful conversations with Emilia through the years. I admired her keen business sense and will miss her enthusiasm and lively spirit. We are grateful to her for her forethought and generosity which will touch generations of students." The College of Business Dean Greg Mosier added, "Mrs. Lee's bequest to the University to benefit students in accounting is an incredible act of kindness. Her commitment to assist those students in their career endeavors creates a lasting legacy for which we are very grateful."

To learn more about supporting students in The College of Business, please contact Mitch Klaich '02, director of development, (775) 682-6490 or mklaich@unr.edu. To learn more about planned giving opportunities at Nevada, please contact Lisa Riley, Esq., director of the Office of Planned Giving, (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu.



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still
Blue?

BECOME AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION *member* TODAY.

Becoming a member of the Nevada Alumni Association shows you support the great University you attended. It shows that regardless of how much time has passed, the traditions and values defined by your class are not forgotten. Be proud to call yourself an alumnus of the University of Nevada, Reno. **Keep the tradition alive.**

Your membership in the Nevada Alumni Association includes discounts at the Nevada Wolf Shop (ASUN bookstore), reduced tailgate party admission, access to Lombardi Recreation Center at the faculty rate & access to Nevada Career Studio services.

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