

# NEVADA

Silver & Blue

The magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno

Winter 2020



*02 feature story*

**Consider the possibilities: Find your calling through experiential learning at Nevada**

*18 what i've learned*  
**Sam Arentz III '68**



**BUILDING**  
WHAT COMES NEXT  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NEW NEVADA

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



The University's 16th President Dr. Marc A. Johnson will transition to a faculty position at the end of June 2020, following an historic eight-year tenure.

 COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

## The responsibility of a lifetime

When I first took this job, my goal was to help set the University on an upward trajectory. We had come through a lot. An historic statewide recession was still being felt in 2011-2012. As president, I felt it my duty to steward the state's land-grant institution forward in all areas of our mission while finding a compelling vision for all of our people to embrace.

We've made remarkable strides since those first few years. Our people – our faculty, students, staff, friends, alumni – have been remarkable in the level of achievement they've reached. All University metrics are at or near record levels, from our number of graduates, the number of Presidential and National Merit Scholars we have on campus, our level of diversity in our student body, and the productivity and national recognition that our faculty has achieved. Of the close to \$500 million in capital improvements that have occurred since 2011, only \$71 million have come from state dollars. Not surprisingly, but in a complete testament to the dedication of the people of our University, we've reached historic levels of prestige and reputation. Last December, culminating a five-year effort that saw the University come together in collaborative effort, we were elevated to a prestigious "R1" ("Very High Research") classification by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Over the past eight-plus years, I've always felt that the president of the University of Nevada, Reno has special responsibilities, not the least of which is to serve as a steward. I remember in the summer of 2012, as I prepared remarks for my inauguration, taking a step back in time, I read many of the inauguration speeches of the presidents who had preceded me. Though we faced many different issues, with the context of the times often radically different from one another, there was one universal truth. As stewards, all presidents do the best they can to advance the institutional promise of the University. There comes a time when all who serve in this role decide when is the most appropriate time for the University to find a new steward. On Oct. 31, I announced I will make the transition from president to faculty member in the Department of Economics in the College of Business after June 30, 2020. The time is right for a new person to become steward of our University. And it is with profound and everlasting gratitude to our people that I've made this decision.

Over the coming months, there will be opportunities to thank the scores of people who have made my time as president so personally and professionally fulfilling. My plan is to approach every day until June 30 as I've done every day of my presidency – with a day planner that is full of meetings and events and personal interactions to help further the future of our University, and with a heart that is equally full for what has been a responsibility of a lifetime.

  
**Marc A. Johnson**, President



## FEATURES

### 2 Experiential learning at Nevada

Nevada students make a difference in the world by taking advantage of a variety of programs across campus — and beyond — to complement their classroom studies with hands-on learning.

### 12 Researching the mountain chickadee's astonishing memory

Foundation Professor Vladimir Pravosudov's research investigates the basic science behind how nature works and how cognition and the brain evolve. He studies how the mountain chickadees use cognition to adjust to their ever-changing environment.

### 14 100 years of women in sports at Nevada

2019 marked the 100-year anniversary of Nevada Women's Athletics joining the National Women's Athletic Association.

**CONTACT US**

Class Notes / Mates / Pups:  
**chatter@unr.edu**

Address Changes / Obituaries:  
**updateus@unr.edu**

All other inquiries:  
**silverblue@unr.edu**

Executive Editor  
**John K. Carothers**

Managing Editor  
**Amy (Zurek) Carothers '01 M.A.**

Art Director  
**Moses S. Achoka '07 M.A.**

Associate Editor  
**Carrie Bushá '06,'19 MPA**

Contributing Editor  
**Keiko Weil '87, '18 M.A.**

Staff Writers  
**Caddie Dufurrena '00**  
**Curtis B. Vickers '07 M.A.**

Contributors  
**Jessica N. Langley '17**  
**Ashley S. Medina**  
**Emily Sharick**

Staff Photographer  
**Theresa Danna**

Copyright © 2020 by the University of Nevada, Reno. All rights reserved. Nevada Silver & Blue (USP # 024-722), is published quarterly (fall, winter, spring, summer) by the University of Nevada, Reno, Development and Alumni Relations, Morrill Hall, 1664 N. Virginia St., NV 89557. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Nevada Silver & Blue, University of Nevada, Reno Foundation/ MS 0162, Reno, NV 89557-0162



**Marc A. Johnson**  
President

**Kevin Carman**  
Executive Vice President  
and Provost

**John K. Carothers**  
Vice President  
Development and Alumni Relations

**Lynda Buhlig '84**  
Associate Vice President  
Development and Alumni Relations



This summer, students in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources performed field research at Washoe Lake. This kind of experiential learning is key to the success of the curriculum offered at the University. 📷 JEFF DOW

## DEPARTMENTS

- 16 **GATHERINGS**
- 18 **WHAT I'VE LEARNED**  
*Sam Arentz III '68*
- 20 **ON PHILANTHROPY**
- 22 **GOOD MEDICINE**
- 24 **PACK TRACKS**
- 26 **UNIVERSITY FOR YOU**
- 28 **UNIVERSITY NEWS**
- 34 **ALUMNI NEWS**
- 50 **ALUMNI GATHERINGS**
- 54 **REMEMBERING FRIENDS**
- 57 **FOSTERING NEVADA'S FUTURE**



### Campus climate survey results released

Results of the campus climate survey were released on Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019. The survey, which was administered between February and March 2019, drew the participation of 6,415 members of the University community. 📷 COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO



### On the cover:

Kristen de Guzman (class of 2020) traveled to the Kingdom of eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) to help children gain access to safe drinking water.

📷 COURTESY KRISTEN de GUZMAN

# Consider the possibilities

Find your calling through experiential learning at Nevada

by CURTIS VICKERS '07 M.A.



**E**ach of the 21,003 students at the University, at some point, share the same question about what they're learning in the classroom:

*So what?*

At first blush, the simple question may seem dismissive, but for many, it is a stand-in for a far deeper question:

*How can I use what I'm learning to find my passion and make a difference in the world?*

To answer this question, Nevada students take advantage of a variety of programs across campus — and beyond — to complement their classroom studies with hands-on learning.

“Our students come to us ready to thrive,” Vice President of Student Services Shannon Ellis said. “They have an average GPA of 3.45, and they know that they will receive top-notch instruction in the classroom. But they may not know that they will have countless opportunities to turn the theories they learn in class into experiences in the world. And that is where learning becomes life-changing.”

**Undergraduate Research grants \$325,000 to 170 undergraduate researchers... every year**

For Foundation Professor Scott Mensing, director of Undergraduate Research from 2015 through Dec. 31, 2019, the first step for students who hope to get the most out of their academic careers is to get out of the classroom.

“When students first arrive at the University, they tend to have the belief that learning only happens in the classroom,” Mensing said. “What they don't often understand is that 40 percent of faculty members' time is spent in research. Nearly half of learning is



Kaylie Pinto (class of 2021) supplements her classroom education with laboratory research made possible, in part, through a Nevada Undergraduate Research Award from Undergraduate Research. A biology and chemistry major, Kaylie's research focuses on LAMA2-related congenital muscular dystrophy, a fatal muscle disease. Her research not only enhances her understanding of classroom materials but also prepares her for her goal of working in pharmaceutical oversight for the federal government.

Theresa Danna

## Undergraduate Research

Undergraduate Research offers \$325,000 annually through six programs:

- Nevada Undergraduate Research Awards
- Community-Based Undergraduate Research Awards
- Pack Research Experience Program
- Honors Undergraduate Research
- Travel Awards
- International Research Experience for Undergraduates (with the University Studies Abroad Consortium)

Grants are awarded in four categories:

- STEM
- Social Sciences
- Humanities
- Arts

[unr.edu/undergradresearch](http://unr.edu/undergradresearch)



Photostrip Jeff Dow

not done in the classroom. Research, in all of its forms — from laboratory research, to creative activity, to scholarship — helps students see how you answer unanswered questions. Only if students tap into all that learning will they understand the full power of a University education.”

There is a growing emphasis on undergraduate research at the University. To facilitate this experiential learning, Undergraduate Research annually grants \$325,000 to 170 undergraduates to pursue research, including support from the donor-funded Undergraduate Research Endowment Fund. Some researchers pur-

sue inquiries that complement their faculty mentors' work, while those, like Kaylie Pinto (class of 2021), who have received a Nevada Undergraduate Research Award (NURA), pursue their unique research questions.

Kaylie has always loved science. As a high school student, she showed up at 6:30 in the morning to get extra time in her science classroom, and now at the University, she's working on a dual major in biology and chemistry.

Kaylie's NURA-supported research tested her hypothesis that a protein, Galectin-1, could treat LAMA2-related congenital muscular dystrophy, a fatal muscle disease.

Her research has the potential to help those suffering from this disease, while also preparing her to realize her goal of working in pharmaceutical oversight for the federal government.

“The Nevada Undergraduate Research Award makes this research possible,” she said. “Because of it, I am able to spend 25 hours a week in the laboratory.”

While Kaylie's research takes place in a laboratory setting, students supported by Undergraduate Research include performing artists, archivists, field scientists, and those working with people in the community.

## University Studies Abroad Consortium educates students in 27 countries on five continents



When Diana Meza Garcia (class of 2021) told her parents she wanted to study abroad in San Sebastián, Spain, they didn't understand. With third and sixth grade educations respectively, her father and mother had immigrated to the United States hoping Diana would have a better life. Why would she want to go elsewhere for her education?

But she wanted to understand Spanish better and to explore another culture, so she took the plunge.

"I knew it would be important to my career goals of working in diplomacy to experience Europe first-hand," she said. "So I decided I was just going to do it and figure out how to pay for it later. Then I got scholarships, and they brought real peace of mind."

The triple major (Spanish, international affairs, and women's studies) received the Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation Scholarship. Knowing that many students like Diana have financial concerns about studying abroad, the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC) annually provides \$2 million in scholarships and discounts to help their dreams become reality. USAC participants earn University credit, which often enables them to add a major to their portfolios.

But the impact of studying abroad goes beyond the credits themselves. When Diana speaks about her semester in San Sebastián, she wistfully describes picking apples in the countryside and breaking bread with locals. She reminisces about the trip she took to London from her home base in Spain. She recalls attending an international film festival where she met film star Robert Pattinson. But first she mentions her two Spanish grammar classes.

"I know — grammar classes?" she said. "In one of them, though, we read a book about the Spanish Inquisition. That was interesting, but when we took a trip to Zugarramurdi in the Basque Country — one of the places we read about — history just came to life."

In a translation class, she worked on a children's book, which was later published, and she had an internship on the local university's yearbook staff.

"We did so much, in and out of class," she said. "I had such a great time, and I feel much more cultured."

Diana is currently making plans to study in Prague, Czech Republic next fall. She hopes to land an internship in the U.S. Embassy.

"Prague has great political science programs," she said. "This trip will give me a solid foundation for working in human rights and public policy."

Now a student-worker in USAC helping others follow in her footsteps, Diana said of studying abroad, "If I can do this, anyone can do this."

Diana Meza Garcia (fourth from left) spent a semester in San Sebastián, Spain. While overseas, she and her friends hiked to Zugarramurdi, the town where the Spanish Inquisition first reached the Basque Country. Left to right: Vanessa Negrete, Lisa Alvarez, Mia Czarnecki, Diana Meza Garcia and Haley Penny.

 Courtesy Diana Meza Garcia



“If I can  
do this,  
anyone  
can do  
this.”



### **University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC)**

A nonprofit organization founded in 1982 and based at the University provides

- 53 programs in
- 27 countries
- 15 fields of study
- \$2 million in scholarships and discounts annually

More than 6,000 University students have participated.

Learn more: [usac.edu](https://usac.edu)

Donor-funded scholarships for USAC students include:

- Dr. Felix Menchacatorre Memorial USAC Scholarship Endowment
- Smallwood Foundation Studies Abroad Scholarship Endowment
- R.J. Simcoe Memorial USAC Scholarship Endowment





**The Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN) honors student leaders in civic engagement through the Silver Paw Award**

***Kristen de Guzman raises \$12,000 for a life-giving well in the Kingdom of eSwatini***

As a high school senior in Las Vegas, Kristen de Guzman (class of 2020) wanted to make a difference in the world, so she began using her influence to combat the global water crisis.

“Six hundred million people worldwide don’t have access to safe, clean drinking water,” she said. “Just as I did nothing to have the privileges I benefit from — like clean water — those who don’t have those privileges did nothing to deserve their deprivation. I wanted to acknowledge my privilege and help others.”

Working with the nonprofit Thirst Project, the then 18-year-old raised \$12,000 to build a well in the Kingdom of eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), and in 2018, she traveled to the site of the well, a small village named Mgamude, to pump it for the first time. Afterward, she and the members of Mgamude danced, sang, and celebrated life — they now had clean water.

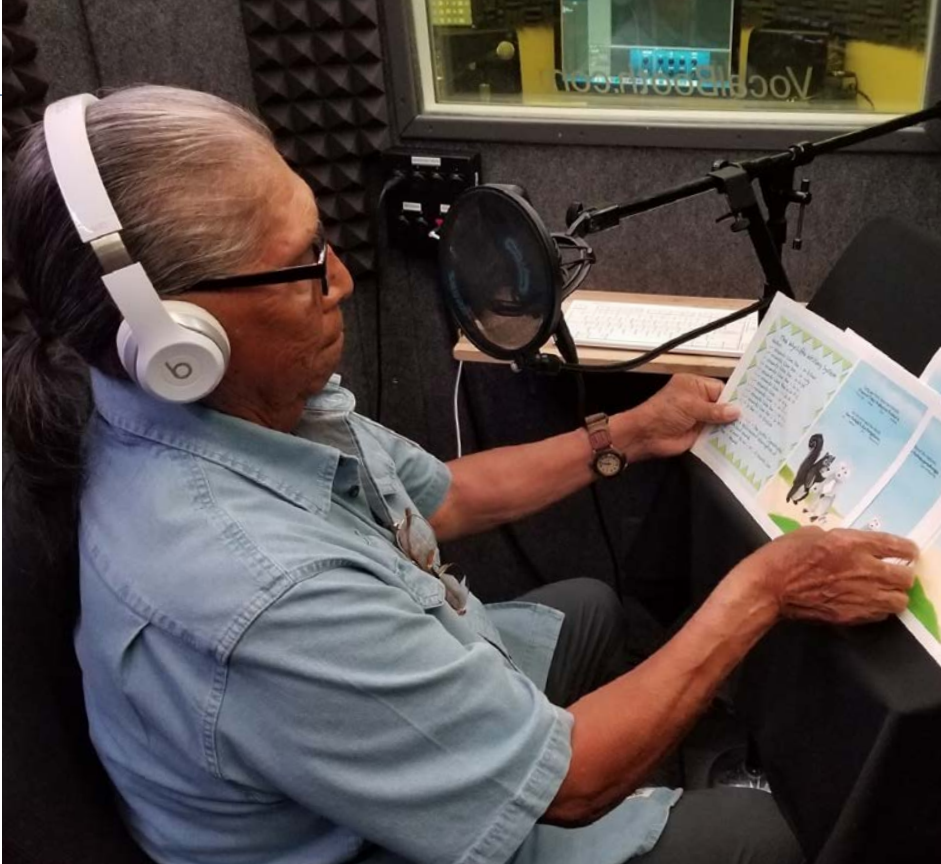
“Water is life, and when I was in the Kingdom of eSwatini, that fact became very real to me,” she said. “I met a woman my age who used to have to walk hours for water. She had suffered from cholera herself, and her younger sister had passed away from it after drinking dirty water. It’s not some myth. It’s real. And now, women my age and children will be able to get jobs or go to school because of this well. These people, their babies, and even their grandparents will have clean water for life because of this well.”

Now studying business management, Kristen credits her experience in Africa with altering her career trajectory.

“When I was a kid, I thought the only way I could improve lives was by becoming a doctor,” she said. “This experience has taught me that you can make a difference by supporting socially responsible businesses — and charities are businesses, too. I want to inspire people to care about businesses that care about more than solely making money.”

Kristen de Guzman and members of the village of Mgamude in the Kingdom of eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) pump water from a well that was made possible through Kristen’s fundraising work with Thirst Project. To honor her efforts, the Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN) gave Kristen a Silver Paw Award, which recognizes students committed to civic engagement.

Courtesy Kristen de Guzman



***Macario Mendoza documents and celebrates the Northern Paiute language***

Two years ago, West Wendover, Nev. native Macario Mendoza (class of 2020) started taking classes at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Language Program to learn Northern Paiute. His partner is from the Paiute community, and he wanted to gain a deeper connection with him and his family. Now, when he describes the language, he lights up.

“The Northern Paiute language is beautiful,” Macario said. “It is intimate and endearing, capable of incredible specificity. I fell in love with it.”

As Macario studied Northern Paiute and explored the culture of its speakers, he learned about its rich history of creation stories that explain the world — one story explains why raccoons have black eyes and skunks have a white stripe. While the stories enjoy a long oral tradition, Macario noted that there weren’t many books that captured them. Wanting to change that, he spoke with his instructor Jennie Burns whose father, Ralph Burns, is a respected elder in the community, and Ralph agreed to allow Macario to record some of the stories, both in Paiute and in English.

Because the Northern Paiute language is considered endangered, this work itself is important. But it wasn’t enough for Macario.

“I wanted to make these stories available to people, and I wanted to make them as useful as possible,” he said. “With Mr. Burns’ permission, we put the videos on YouTube, and I took a bookmaking class so I could actually make a

“*The Northern Paiute language is beautiful. It is intimate and endearing, capable of incredible specificity. I fell in love with it.*”

bilingual book that explained some of the grammar. I learned Photoshop, and I did illustrations in India ink to accompany the words. My linguistics classes taught me about transcription and glossing, skills I used for the text. The Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and @One lent me equipment I needed, and they taught me how to use it. The project is a real team effort.”

In addition to this resourcefulness, Macario’s faculty mentor, Professor of Linguistics Ignacio Montoya, identified Macario’s careful and caring approach to scholarship as key to his success.

“Macario’s work represents a culturally respectful perspective,” Montoya said. “He values relationships and making genuine connections with people. As a result, he’s become integrated into the community and has done work that provides real value to that community.”



Macario Mendoza (class of 2020) (below, second from left) has worked with community members to revitalize the Northern Paiute language. With his mentors Ralph Burns (far left), Stacey Burns (middle) and Professor Ignacio Montoya (below, left), he has recorded traditional stories for Special Collections and created bilingual books, which are available online and at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Courtesy Macario Mendoza



The Silver Paw Award recognizes students who embody the ideals of an engaged student. Recent winners:

- Joshua Easlick — brought flags from Indigenous Tribal Nations to the University
- Kristen de Guzman — raised \$12,000 for a well in the Kingdom of eSwatini (Page 7)
- Dennise Mena — volunteered with Planned Parenthood
- Macario Mendoza\* — worked on Northern Paiute language restoration
- Brooke Ruhl — created and updated a website on the mid-term elections

\*Macario also won the Richard and Bonnie Bryan Family Public Service Award. Senator Richard Bryan '59 (prelegal) established this award in 2017 in honor of the public service of his father, Oscar Bryan '32, and his late wife Bonnie '61 (psychology).

Out of an appreciation for Macario's work, he was welcomed into the RSIC Community. The community has not only asked to make his books available for Northern Paiute language learners, but it also recently hired him to work in the Language Program where he was once a student. And, just as important to Macario, he has been invited on pine-nut and medicine gathering expeditions.

Macario said, "More than just a learning experience, it's like being a part of a family."

Macario's Northern Paiute language revitalization work has earned him a Nevada Undergraduate Research Award (see Page 3) and recognition as the 2019 Richard and Bonnie Bryan Family Service Award recipient.

"Receiving the Bryan Award made me feel like I was fulfilling my purpose, but it was also a testament to the guidance I've received along the way from great teachers like Dr. Montoya and Mr. Burns and Miss Stacey and Jennie Burns," Macario said. "They got to feel pride for it, and that is important to me."

## Nevada Career Studio connects students with local employers through Career Treks

Now a master's in accountancy student, Keith Carter '19 (political science) spent 15 years as a union organizer before he decided to pursue a University degree.

"I had a midlife crisis," he laughed. "So I went back to school. I had my grumpy old man moments, for sure, but most of the students on campus are good and hardworking. I've had great professors, great classes, and help everywhere I needed it."

Since he hadn't looked for a job in 20 years, one area where Carter needed help was in job hunting, so he visited the Nevada Career Studio. A free service, the Career Studio provides drop-in help with every aspect of career planning, from identifying job and internship opportunities to mock interviews.

"I hadn't looked for work since 1998, and I was going into a completely new field," Carter said. "The Career Studio gave me the toolbox to enter a new field where I didn't have any contacts."

The Career Studio mentors helped Carter craft a resume, took a headshot for his professional profiles, and eventually introduced him to his future employer, Northern Nevada HOPES, through one of their Career Treks.

"Career Treks are opportunities for students to meet employers they might not otherwise know about," Elizabeth Loun, associate director of the Career Studio, explained. "We take students to employers all over town so they can see how their degrees could translate to positions in companies they might not expect. Keith was able to see that an employer like Northern Nevada HOPES — a medical and wellness provider — also needs accountants. Everything we do at the Career Studio is designed to help students consider the possibilities."

On a College of Liberal Arts Career Trek last spring, Carter visited Northern Nevada HOPES, then finished out his degree and began applying for jobs.

"I had been on nine interviews before I got one with HOPES," he said. "When I arrived, some of the people remembered me, and it immediately made the interview more comfortable."

Now working as an accounting assistant while pursuing his master's in accountancy, Carter said his position "includes a little bit of policy and a lot of accounting, so it is a perfect blend of my studies and perfect for my master's program. I get to help people, which is what I want to do, but without the emotional labor of interacting directly with people."



Keith Carter '19 found his current position at Northern Nevada HOPES — a medical and wellness provider — thanks to the Nevada Career Studio. Carter joined a Career Studio Career Trek, where participants met local businesses and leaders in the community. Theresa Danna



Theresa Danna

### So what?

So ... if you are in class, asking yourself *So what?*, then take a cue from Kaylie, Diana, Kristen, Macario, and Keith: Go find the answer. Maybe it's in the laboratory, but maybe it's in Spain or Africa, or a local language center — or maybe it's in a job you never knew existed. Who knows until you go looking, armed with knowledge and seeking wisdom.

Thanks to comprehensive support from the Career Studio — everything from helping build a resume to a pre-interview review — Irvin Hassan (class of 2020) recently landed a finance internship at IGT. Of his internship, Irvin says, "I am grateful for the chance to practice what I learned in class. I am really happy here."



### The Nevada Career Studio offers

- Free one-on-one drop-in support
- Job and internship expos
- Employer panels
- Facilitation of paid internships through the Pack Internship Grant Program (co-sponsored by ASUN)
- Themed, local Career Treks
- More than 7,000 jobs listed on its job board, Handshake

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



As part of a recent Nevada Career Studio Career Trek, participants visited the Patagonia Service Center (above), where students learned about how running a profitable business and fighting for environmental policy change can go hand in hand. They also visited Ormat Technologies (left), where the company detailed its history and the use of geothermal technology in northern Nevada. The Oct. 11 event was co-sponsored by the Nevada Alumni Association. 📷 Theresa Danna



## Vladimir Pravosudov's research on the mountain chickadee's astonishing memory

by CADDIE DUFURRENA '00 photos courtesy VLADIMIR PRAVOSUDOV

Pravosudov's research on the mountain chickadee takes place in the Sierra Nevada at elevations of up to 9,000 feet (top). A chickadee, weighing less than half an ounce, retrieves seeds from the specialized feeding station (top right), while another chickadee flies away from the feeding station after successfully accessing seeds (bottom right). Pravosudov and his students designed the memory testing electronic feeding station to investigate how chickadees' memories function and what role this plays in their survival rates.

If you've ever hiked in the Sierra Nevada, you know that winter at those high elevations can be brutal. Your hands become numb, and you can feel frost forming on your eyelashes. It might make you wonder — how does the mountain chickadee, a bird weighing less than half an ounce, not only survive but thrive in this environment?

Understanding the mountain chicka-

dee's ability to live in subzero temperatures at elevations averaging up to 9,000 feet is Foundation Professor Vladimir Pravosudov's window into the evolution of cognition — the way the birds acquire knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses — and the brain, which is the focus of his research.

"My research investigates the basic science behind how nature works and how

cognition and the brain evolve," said Pravosudov. "How do these birds use cognition and adjust to their ever-changing environment?"

The answer lies with the birds' amazing memory. The tiny chickadee spends the fall season hiding tens of thousands of individual pine seeds. Once winter hits and the snow falls — up to 20 feet or more in some Sierra locations — chickadees remember where

they hid those seeds and go back to each individual cache to retrieve them. Because of this ability, the chickadee continues to flourish throughout the season.

Pravosudov and his graduate students are studying how chickadees use their memory to execute this spectacular food-caching and retrieval process, which explores the larger questions of how memory works and how either having the ability to remember information well, or remember it poorly, directly affects the birds' welfare.

While other scientists have studied cognition in animals before, the information that Pravosudov collects varies in an important way — all of his research is done in the field, not in a laboratory. When birds are caught and studied in cages, it is unknown whether their behavior is natural for the species or if it's influenced by captivity.

To conduct this research in the Sierra Nevada, Pravosudov and his graduate students built a specialized memory testing electronic feeding station for the chickadees. After catching and leg banding hundreds of chickadees with unique electronic ID tags, the birds were released and then observed over time as they visited the feeding station.

The feeding station has eight feeders that will open in response to each individual bird's leg band through built in RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) circuitry, and each bird's leg tag only opens one of the eight feeders. This way, the team could monitor how quickly the birds learned which feeder to go to in order to access seeds.

Pravosudov explained, "If the birds' memory was good, it only took a couple of visits for them to recognize which feeder opened, and from that point forward, those birds would fly directly to the correct feeder. But some of the birds didn't perform as well, and would randomly visit the individual feeders, seemingly not recalling which one would open for them."

With specific concentration on juvenile birds during their first year of life, the data collected indicates that birds who performed better at the feeding station, showing that they had better recall ability, were also more likely to survive their first full winter. And once birds with better cognition lived through that first season, their mortality rates drop significantly.

But the birds' survival isn't the only thing impacted by the chickadee's



amazing memory. The research is showing that females who mate with males that have good memories lay more eggs and fledge more young. This is an example of natural selection at work, since the mating birds have better memories, they produce offspring that have better memories; therefore those young birds have an improved chance of survival.

Pravosudov said, "This research allows me to explore how ecological factors shape the evolution of cognition, and that can show us a lot about how the brain evolves."

At least one other outcome of this research that would be of interest to the wider scientific community could be a better understanding of senescence. By tracking and studying this group of birds over time, Pravosudov is able to see how aging may affect their memory and what influence that has on their rate of survival. Memory is clearly the key to an individual chickadee's prosperity, but it may also be paramount to the species' longevity. **N**



**Vladimir Pravosudov**  
Foundation Professor

**Focus:**

Animal behavior and ecology, with an emphasis on animal cognition

**Species studied:**

Mountain chickadee

**Research overview:**

Much of Pravosudov's recent work has focused on investigating adaptive variation in cognition and the brain. Research efforts are concentrated on spatial memory and the hippocampus, a brain structure involved in spatial memory. The mountain chickadee has been the model for this research, with a goal of identifying specific environmental features that may influence selection on memory and whether this selection results in enhanced memory.

[chickadeecognition.com](http://chickadeecognition.com)

# 100 years of women in sports at Nevada



by JOHN TRENT '85, '87, '00 M.A.

**T**he gathering was unlike any other in the 46-year history of the University of Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame.

Over the years, many female athletes had been inducted into the Hall of Fame, including 1940s skiing great Dodie Post Gann, who, along with 12 others, was part of the very first Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame induction class in 1973. And an entire women's team, the 1979 AIAW National Swimming and Diving champions, was inducted in 1991.

But never before had the full induction class consisted entirely of women. That is, until the night

of Sept. 12, when nine women were inducted into the Hall of Fame. The historic group was highlighted in the fall 2019 issue of the Nevada Silver & Blue.

2019 marked the 100-year anniversary of Nevada Women's Athletics joining the National Women's Athletic Association.

The group served as a symbol of how far women's athletics at the University has come in its 100-year history. They represented how women's sports at the University has been dramatically transformed.

It hadn't been that long, said Luella Lilly, a groundbreaking administrator and coach at the University from 1969-1976, during her 2018 induction remarks for the Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame that, "The hardest part was getting people to understand that we really had the right to be athletic."

Members of the 2019 Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Sept. 12 at the Reno Ballroom. Front row: Teal Ericson '09; Karly Sipherd '08; Angie Taylor '85, '91 MPA, '04 Ph.D.; Meghann Morrill '08 and Brittany Puzey '09. Back row: Ellen Townsend '80; Pat Hixson '80; Regina Ratigan '80 and Cindy Rock '81.

Chris Holloman

**Literally the first** The score has been somewhat lost to history: 3-2. That it belonged to a group of basketball players adds to its mysteriousness. Yet it deserves to be remembered. According to the University's Special Collections and Archives, the first win ever recorded for an official athletic contest, male or female, at the University occurred on April 11, 1899 when the Nevada women's basketball team defeated Stanford, 3-2. Writes Kimberly Roberts '13 M.A. (history) in "The Truth Behind the Icon: The Real Story of the 1899 Women's Basketball Team": "The football team had in fact won games prior to the women's basketball victory in 1899, playing prep schools, athletic clubs, small private college and second-elevens (the equivalent to second strings or junior varsity teams). Once the University began keeping score, these scrimmage games with non-university teams no longer counted. The win over Stanford did count. It stands to this day as the first official (intercollegiate) victory of the University of Nevada."

**A Hall of Fame skier** Dodie Post Gann captained the United States Women's Alpine Ski Team during the 1948 Olympics and is a member of the U.S. Ski-Snowboard Hall of Fame. She grew up in Reno, and while at the University, was a standout skier for the Wolf Pack before there was an official women's program. She was the first female athlete from the University to compete in a Winter Olympic Games.

**Three groundbreaking administrators** With the appointments of Elsa Sameth (1913), Ruth Russell (1939) and Luella "Lue" Lilly (1969) to the University faculty, women's athletics benefitted from three strong administrators/coaches who were able, despite the limitations of their times, to champion the growth of the program. Of Sameth's physical education courses, James Hulse '52 (journalism), '58 M.A. (history) wrote that her sophisticated approach was ahead of its time, so much so that, "Miss Sameth's carefully designed physical training for women did not have a (male) counterpart for male students for nearly a decade after her program began." Russell created opportunities for women students in intramural competition and pressed for overlap between men and women's physical education. Lilly's impact

as chair of women's physical education was profound. If there ever was a figure who transcended women's athletics at the University in a profound and long-lasting way, it is Lilly. Wrote Hulse: "[Lilly] encouraged University administration to appoint a Women's Athletic Board and to pattern the program after the men's varsity structure." Rayona Sharpnack '73 (physical education), a Wolf Pack women's athlete from 1969-73 and a renowned leader in women's issues today, said of Lilly, "She just felt it was absolutely a birthright that girls and women should have equal opportunity." As an administrator, she fought for increased funding for the University's women's teams, one time battling with her department for 75 cents so the women's gymnastics team could produce a flyer to publicize an upcoming meet.

**The first champions** No other Nevada women's athletic team had ever won a national team title until the 1979 women's swimming and diving team went 13-0 in dual meets that season and captured the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women national title. The championship that year was held at the Lombardi Recreation pool, and after the first day, Coach Jerry Ballew '76 M.S. (physical education), '93 Ed.D. demanded that his team take a photo of the scoreboard, which showed the Wolf Pack in the lead in the team standings. The swimming and diving program had started only five years earlier. The team had no full-ride scholarships, three in-state tuition waivers and the coach, Ballew, was paid \$2,700 a year. The team was comprised of 13 hard-working athletes who took their time in the water seriously, but just as importantly, bonded out of the pool in a way that was memorable and special. Said Cathy Trachok '76 (Spanish): "That whole year before nationals [in 1979] was just amazing. I think the thing that I got out of it, mostly, was that even though we were a very small team, and we were kind of lunatics, we really liked each other. We enjoyed our company, and we had a great time together. We enjoyed Jerry, and we just had a fabulous time."

**Softball then ... and now** Softball at the University had always been successful, even from its earliest days in the 1970s when it was led by Olena Plummer '72 (physical education),

followed by Pat Hixson '80 (physical education), who had played for Plummer and then was coach of the Wolf Pack until 1989. The team, with a budget of a little more than \$1,000 in its early seasons, relied heavily on local talent. The program was eliminated in May 1989, then brought back in 2002, and by 2006, had won the Western Athletic Conference championship. This year's Hall of Fame class had a certain poetic symmetry to it, with one of the program's founding players and coaches, Hixson, being honored along with one of the program's more recent standouts, Brittany (Puzey) Bishop '09 (psychology).

## Volleyball's NCAA Tournament run

Devin Scruggs came to the University in 1997 following a distinguished tenure as an assistant at University of California, Berkeley. By her second season in 1998, the Wolf Pack had qualified for the first of five NCAA Women's Volleyball Tournament appearances over the next seven years. Standouts such as Tiffany (Neumeier) Breeden '98 (recreation) as well as Suzanne Stonebarger-Barnes '03 (speech communications) and Michelle (More) Williams '05 (management) (who would go on to have standout professional beach volleyball careers) helped lift the Pack to unprecedented heights.

**The final word** "You're always going to have people that aren't supportive or that don't think it's feminine – a woman can't be feminine and play sports. I really think, though, there are far fewer of those individuals today than thirty years ago. Most people, I think, realize it's just a positive thing in a young person's life, particularly a young woman's life" – Ada Gee-De Prosse, women's basketball coach, 1993-2003. **N**

The preceding was a brief look at some of the milestones and notable figures in the 100-year evolution of Wolf Pack women's athletics. Quotes and information are taken from the historical sources: "Women's Athletics at the University of Nevada" by the University of Nevada Oral History Program (2013), "We Were All Athletes: Women's Athletics and Title IX at the University of Nevada" by the University of Nevada Oral History Program, edited by Alicia Barber, Mary Larson and Allison Tracy '05 (2011) and "The University of Nevada: A Centennial History" by James Hulse '52, '58 M.A. (1974), as well as the University's Special Collections and Archives.

# GATHERINGS



1



2

## 2019 Foundation Banquet

The 38th Annual Foundation Banquet was held Oct. 29 at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino. Sue Desmond-Hellmann '78, '82 M.D., chief executive officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, delivered the keynote address. Theresa Danna

**1** Sue Desmond-Hellmann '78, '82 M.D. **2** University President Marc Johnson and Foundation Chair John Desmond '90 add another block to the pillar representing progress in The Campaign for the New Nevada.

**3** 2019 Foundation Chair John Desmond '90. **4** Zack Madonick '11, Seema Gautam, Sandy Koppenol, Trustee Mick Hitchcock '17 (honorary doctor of humane letters), Dean of The College of Business Greg Mosier and Danielle Pawliw. **5** NSHE Chairman Jason Geddes '90, '95 Ph.D. and Cindie Geddes '90. **6** Thomas O'Carroll and Trustee Felicia O'Carroll '76. **7** Mimi Ellis-Hoca, Debbie Day, Former Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval '86, Gerrie Lilley and University President Emeritus John Lilley.



3



4



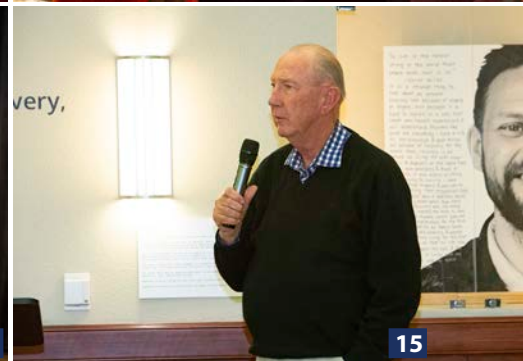
5



6



7



**8** John Green, Meesha Green, Jane Beckett '68 and Trustee Emeritus Riley Beckett '68, Tom Cook '63 and Kari Karwoski '94. **9** University President Marc Johnson **10** Foundation Trustee Vic and Emelie Williams. **11** Trustee Emeritus Joe Bradley '78, Matt Day and Liza Bradley '96.

### Nevada Writers Hall of Fame

The 32nd annual Nevada Writers Hall of Fame event was held Nov. 7 at the Reno Renaissance Hotel. Robyn Carr was inducted into the Hall of Fame and Caleb Cage was awarded the Silver Pen award. 📷 Theresa Danna

**12** Lois Snedden, Kelly Bland '91, Trustee Emerita and Director Emerita of the Savitt Medical Library Joan Zenan and Foundation Trustee and Professor Emerita Ann Ronald. **13** Cathy (Benna) Trachok '76 and NSHE Regent Rick Trachok '74 with Emelie and Foundation Trustee Vic Williams. **14** NSHE Regent Cathy McAdoo, Maria Denzler '78 and Foundation Trustee Mark Denzler.

### Break the Mold

The Break the Mold event took place Nov. 27 in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center to showcase different paths to recovery from substance use through photos and handwritten stories. 📷 Theresa Danna

**15** Trustee Emeritus Tom Hall '65. **16** Marja Marting '89, President Marc Johnson and Stacie Mathewson '18 (honorary doctor of humane letters).



## Sam Arentz III '68

*Engineer, University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Trustee Emeritus,  
Philanthropist*

Being raised in the small mining camp of Castleton, Nev., where my father was the manager for Combined Metals Reduction Company, I was exposed to mining throughout my childhood and adolescent years. My father was a 1934 Mackay School of Mines (MSM) graduate, a Nevada System of Higher Education Regent from 1948 to 1952, and a professional mining engineer. My mother was a pianist and lawyer practicing law for eight years before raising my four siblings and me. My parents were strong believers in a college education. My father's father was also a mining engineer before he was a five-term U. S. Congressman for Nevada. My strong background in mining raises the question, is my interest in mining a genetic flaw or an environmental imprint?

I chose to attend Colorado College (CC), a small liberal arts college, to find the answer to that question. During my four years at CC, I learned a lot about myself and who I wanted to be, graduating with a B.A. in math in 1966. My experience working underground in a silver mine as a miner's helper the following summer established two things regarding my future. The first confirmed that I liked the minerals industry. The second, although I could appreciate the labor intensive work of the miner, confirmed that becoming an engineer seemed a more

desirable goal. The latter sealed my desire to attend graduate school at MSM.

During my second year at the University, I was informed that a professor had concluded that I had "an improper graduate student attitude." I was offered the opportunity to receive a B.S. in mining engineering if I took Nevada history. My simple response to that offer was, "Thank you!"

I spent most of my career as an independent consultant, evaluating and managing mineral properties, and as an expert witness representing clients in lawsuits. My first experience as an expert witness was in 1978 when I helped resolve some of the issues in the lawsuit between the Water Tunnel Contractors and The City of New York. The versatility of my degrees and my status as a licensed Professional Mining Engineer provided this opportunity.

Later, I spent 18 years as a consultant to AT&T, overseeing underground storage tank removal and replacement at several hundred sites. I also continued my consulting, which included 16 years completing appraisals for right-of-way condemnations and acquisition of mineral rights for Sierra Pacific Power Co. or its subsidiaries.

As a graduate of MSM, I was invited to join the Mackay Executive Advisory Board in 1986 and served as its chairman from 1990 to 1998, and I am still

a member of this board. In 2012, I was invited to join the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation as a trustee, and served from 2012 to 2017 on various committees. I remain on the Investment Committee to this day.

Through all of these professional experiences, my family has been by my side. I met my wife, Trudie Edsall, when we were both attending the University and we were married in June 1968. Trudie was the backbone that supported my career while she raised our children. During good times and bad, she gave me the opportunity to work in my chosen field. Trudie passed away from cancer in 2008. We forged a life together and built and nurtured our family of three children, six grandchildren and now two great grandchildren. In 2012, I was fortunate to ask a CC classmate out to dinner. Since then, we have enjoyed traveling together and sharing life's experiences.

In our lives we make choices leading to outcomes that are nearly always difficult to predict. During times when life is challenging, my family has always been there for one another. Through it all, it is important to maintain one's self-respect and that of others. In so doing, we keep our pride and our integrity, without which we are but a shadow of a person. Live each day for the joy that is there. Life is too short not to appreciate those who are willing to share it with us. ■



## Dorothy Lemelson continues support of Master's STEM Cohort for K-8 teachers

Since 2000, longtime University supporter Dorothy Lemelson has funded Washoe and Lyon County School District teachers' pursuit of their master's degrees in elementary education. Through a series of substantial gifts establishing the Lemelson Master's Cohorts, the current program covers the cost of tuition for elementary school teach-

ers working to obtain master's degrees in elementary education with a designated focus in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

"This program gives teachers the ability to take 21st century skills and use those skills in the classroom," said College of Education Dean Donald Easton-Brooks. "The participants learn to think and instruct in new ways. Because of Dorothy Lemelson's ongoing generosity, these teachers are then able to engage with their students and inspire the next generation of leaders."

The current sixth Lemelson STEM Cohort has 25 students and is in year two

of their program of study. Since the inception of the Lemelson STEM Master's Cohorts, Dorothy Lemelson has supported 153 teachers as they successfully completed their graduate degrees in STEM.

The current Lemelson Master's STEM Cohort of kindergarten through eighth-grade teachers from the Washoe and Lyon County School Districts.

Will MacDonald



To learn more about supporting the College of Education, contact Stefanie Givens, director of development, at (775) 784-6914 or [sgivens@unr.edu](mailto:sgivens@unr.edu).

## Kinross Gold Nevada sites support Term Professorship in Mining Engineering



The Kinross Term Professorship supports the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering in recognition of the importance of higher education in the academic areas crucial to the minerals industry. Assistant Professor Javad Sattarvand, the current holder of the Kinross Term Professorship, is conducting research in open pit mining optimization, mining economics and mining operation optimization.

"The research being done in the Mackay School is helping to revolutionize the use of mining resources, and it is also fundamental to the education and training our students receive," said

Assistant Professor Javad Sattarvand, holder of the Kinross Term Professorship in Mining Engineering.

Theresa Danna

Dean of the College of Science Jeffrey Thompson. "With Kinross providing support for this term

professorship, our students gain valuable experience learning from and working with Assistant Professor Sattarvand, which enables them to become future leaders in the mining industry."

Founded in 1993, Kinross Gold Corporation is a senior gold mining company with a diverse portfolio of projects in Brazil, Chile, Ghana, Mauritania, Russia, and the United States. Kinross operates two Nevada mining sites: Bald Mountain in eastern Nevada and Round Mountain in central Nevada.



To learn more about supporting the Mackay School, contact Donna Knotek '12, '15 MBA, director of development, at (775) 682-5952 or [dknotek@unr.edu](mailto:dknotek@unr.edu); or contact Leigh Fitzpatrick, director of development, at (775) 682-8791 or [lftzpatrick@unr.edu](mailto:lftzpatrick@unr.edu).





Jarrod and Season Lopiccio founded Noble Studios in 2003 and are ardent supporters of the University's journalism students. Courtesy Noble Studios

## Noble Studios establishes scholarship to support journalism students

The co-founders of Noble Studios, Jarrod and Season Lopiccio, recently established the Noble Studios Scholarship to support undergraduate students pursuing a degree in the Reynolds School of Journalism, as well as a similar scholarship that supports students at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Opened in 2003, Noble Studios is a creative digital performance marketing agency whose roots start in Nevada's state capital, truly making it "battle born." As employers of dozens of Nevada graduates, the Lopiccios believe in the value of a Nevada education and have created this scholarship with the hope that University students who receive it will work to make the world a better, more connected place.

"The Noble Studios Scholarship will help ensure that talented Reynolds

School students have the resources they need to attain their goals," said Reynolds School Dean Al Stavitsky. "We are grateful for the many ways that Noble Studios supports our School, from providing internships to serving on our advisory council and now this scholarship."

The Reynolds School is one of 110 fully accredited journalism and mass communication programs in the United States. It is an inclusive community of faculty, students and staff committed to serving the public good.



To learn more about supporting students in the Reynolds School, contact Laurice Antoun-Becker, director of development, at (775) 784-4184 or [lantounbecker@unr.edu](mailto:lantounbecker@unr.edu).

## Nevada Public Health Foundation Scholarship benefits School of Social Work students



Associate Professor of Social Work and Interim MSW Program Coordinator Eric Albers along with a current University student review an in-class assignment. Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno

The Nevada Public Health Foundation, incorporated as a non-profit in 1996, acts as an essential public health partner to create a healthier future for Nevada's communities. Recently, to support this mission, NPHF made a gift to establish the Nevada Public Health Foundation Scholarship Endowment for Social Work. With this endowment, the NPHF is partnering with the School of Social Work to prepare students to become leaders in the field of social work. The scholarship endowment will be awarded to undergraduate students pursuing a degree in social work. The NPHF also established the Nevada Public Health Foundation Scholarship Endowment in 2017 to

support students in the School of Community Health Sciences.

With support from the Nevada Public Health Foundation, the School

of Social Work is educating and nurturing competent, compassionate students, both on the undergraduate and graduate level, who will become champions of social justice. The School of Social Work faculty and staff deeply appreciate the support of NPHF, knowing that this scholarship will have a powerful impact, not just on the lives of the Social Work students who receive it, but on the lives of all of the citizens Social Work graduates serve throughout their careers.

The School of Social Work became an independent academic unit on July 1, 2019 and is the first independent, free-standing School of Social Work in the state. The school's mission is to focus on teaching its nearly 700 students to become ethical leaders.



To learn about supporting students in the School of Social Work, contact Christina Sarman '02, '11 M.A., executive director of development, at (775) 784-6009 or [christinas@unr.edu](mailto:christinas@unr.edu)



# A heartfelt welcome

Dr. Lorrel Toft joins cardiovascular teams at UNR Med and Carson Tahoe Health

by TESSA BOWEN

**I**t all started on a dock at the Pacific Ocean. While shadowing paramedics, a 19-year-old college student was administering CPR – trying to save a life for the very first time – when her life’s purpose came into view.

Lorrel Toft went on to graduate summa cum laude with a B.A. in biology from the University of California, Irvine. She then earned her M.D. from The Johns Hopkins

University School of Medicine, where she was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. Toft remained at Johns Hopkins for her internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship, earning numerous awards for her clinical and educational performance, including most outstanding graduate.

In total, Toft trained for 11 years at Johns Hopkins to become a cardiovascular

critical care physician. While there, she was selected as assistant chief of service, which included chief resident responsibilities such as training first-year residents and running the busy Osler Internal Medicine hospital service.

“My role model and mentor at Johns Hopkins was Dr. Steve Schulman. He had an almost magical quality of arriving as soon as a patient needed CPR. Watching him direct



Brin Reynolds '12, '15 MBA

resuscitation efforts was inspiring to me. I thought 'if I can spend my career doing anything, it would be to teach people how to be as good as Dr. Schulman during a cardiac arrest situation.'"

Since her first time administering CPR on a dock, Toft has performed and directed CPR for hundreds of patients, has been part of miraculous saves – including a woman who received CPR for 60

minutes and walked out of the hospital 100% neurologically intact – and hears stories of lives saved as a result of her CPR trainings.

### Following her heart

During her first clinical appointment, Toft observed cardiac arrest patient after patient arriving to the ICU without receiving bystander CPR. "Almost invariably, these patients would be alive in body, but with significant brain damage or even brain death. When cardiac arrest occurs outside of a hospital setting, survival rates range from 2% to 15%. I grew frustrated with this situation because bystander CPR can double or even triple survival," said Toft. "My research career was born out of these experiences."

According to the American Heart Association, 38 states, including Nevada, have passed laws requiring schools to train high school students in CPR before graduation. Toft is a leading national authority on CPR education in schools. "My passion is teaching CPR to the public and exploring new ways to do so," she said.

Most recently, Toft served as an assistant professor of medicine in the division of cardiovascular medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine in Kentucky. For several years, she trained Cardinal fans – about 22,000 each season – in hands-only CPR during halftime at University of Louisville basketball games. "I got to perform CPR on the jumbotron, basically my dream come true," she said.

Toft won an American College of Cardiology Young Investigator Award in 2016 for her work teaching CPR to the public in Louisville. She also received a Stamler award from the Northwestern Cardiovascular Young Investigators' Forum for her analysis of state-based legislation to teach CPR in schools.

She used the funds from the Stamler award to collaborate with award-winning film producer Martin Percy to create HEART CLASS. The HEART CLASS program uses interactive film to teach high school students throughout the U.S. how to do CPR better. After exposing over 400 high schoolers to HEART CLASS, Toft and her team found the interactive program to be 50% more effective than traditional techniques for teaching students CPR.

As a result, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded Toft a grant to further

develop HEART CLASS into an even more compelling and interactive experience to save even more lives.

### In the heart of the Silver State

Toft's arrival in northern Nevada was a collaborative recruitment between the University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine and Carson Tahoe Health.

As an associate professor in UNR Med's Department of Internal Medicine, Toft will teach cardiology, cardiovascular diseases, internal medicine and the importance of cardiac health across specialties. She will also foster and expand partnerships, working with UNR Med's community cardiovascular physicians.

"We're proud to be partnering with Carson Tahoe Health in bringing Dr. Toft and her expertise to our community," said UNR Med Dean Thomas L. Schwenk, M.D. "Toft will help develop high-quality cardiovascular care in the region and expand health care choices for patients."

Toft brings with her a National Institutes of Health Small Business Technology Transfer grant to continue using interactive digital media to teach CPR to high school students.

"I have big dreams for research at UNR Med, including applying the methodology of HEART CLASS to other health topics to create an entire suite of films to teach high school students how to recognize and respond to leading causes of death," said Toft.

As a cardiologist at Carson Tahoe Health, Toft will perform primary cardiology services such as diagnostics and echocardiograms.

"We're extremely pleased to have Dr. Toft on board at Carson Tahoe Health to accommodate the increasing number of heart patients – a significant benefit to the community," said Alan Garrett, president and CEO of Carson Tahoe Health. "It's exciting that our partnership with UNR Med continues to grow every year."

"I'm extremely excited and feel privileged to join the great people at UNR Med, Carson Tahoe Health and the northern Nevada communities and patients they serve," said Toft. "I look forward to furthering the health and wellness of the community, advancing cardiology health care, and training the next generation of physicians and medical researchers." **N**



John Byrne, Nevada Athletics

# Wolf Pack student-athletes produce record-high Graduation Success Rate

by CHAD HARTLEY '03

**S**tudent-athletes at the University of Nevada are graduating at an all-time high rate of 85 percent, according to the NCAA's annual Graduation Success Rate report, issued in October.

The record score of 85 percent for the Wolf Pack is four points clear of its previous top mark and comes on the heels of another round of strong Academic Progress Rate scores this spring.

"The latest snapshot into the Graduation Success Rate of our student-athletes speaks to the high level of achievement that is reached when a university, its department of intercollegiate athletics, academic support staff and coaches, and the student-athletes themselves are all working together toward a common goal," said University President Marc Johnson. "Our student-athletes are not only excelling in the classroom, but in our community

as well through outreach that has been honored in recent years by the Mountain West Conference."

This is the 15th year that the NCAA has calculated data for the GSR and the Wolf Pack's rate has risen 10 times in that span. The Wolf Pack's first score was 62 percent in 2005, and the GSR has risen steadily since.

"Each and every day, our student-athletes strive for excellence in competition and in the classroom, and we are incredibly proud of their achievement," Athletics Director Doug Knuth said. "We are steadfast in our support of the academic mission of our great University and are thankful for the commitment and support from the campus administration and the academic units."

This year's GSR is based on student-athletes who began enrollment in the fall of 2012 or the spring of 2013 and received athletic aid in their first year of college. The Graduation Success Rate was developed by the NCAA as part of its academic reform initiative to more accurately assess the academic success of student-athletes.

The Division I Board of Directors created the GSR in 2002 in response to Division I college and university presidents who wanted data that more accurately

reflected the mobility of college students beyond what the federal graduation rate measures. The federal rate counts as an academic failure any student who leaves a school, no matter whether he or she enrolls at another school. Also, the federal rate does not recognize students who enter school as transfer students.

The GSR formula removes from the rate student-athletes who leave school while academically eligible and includes student-athletes who transfer to a school after initially enrolling elsewhere. This calculation provides a more accurate appraisal of student-athlete success. The rate also allows for a deeper understanding of graduation success in individual sports than the federal metric, which provides only broad groupings.

The GSR is different from the Academic Progress Rate, another barometer of student-athlete academic success. Nevada has excelled in APR scores since the inception of the program 15 years ago, exceeding the bench mark each year. Nevada recorded five perfect scores in the latest APR data and posted an average score of 981. The Pack has received 16 Public Recognition Awards from the NCAA in the history of the program. **N**

Director of Athletics Doug Knuth congratulates football student-athlete Kelton Moore '19, during University Commencement ceremonies in 2018. Nevada's student-athletes are now graduating at a school-record rate of 85 percent, according to the most recent data from the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate report.



I always wanted to be someone else. Judging myself on how other people viewed me caused my insecurities to grow. The thought of being okay with who I was never crossed my mind. Substances became my outlet. At a young age, I found that I could relieve myself of my emotional turmoil by altering my state of mind. The new norm was being altered and thus I began a double life.

Always putting my image first, I kept up good grades, held a steady job, and kept personal relations strong. The other side of my life involved continuous illegal activities, putting myself in dangerous situations, and never going more than a few hours sober. I kept the split up for quite some time until the two sides clashed; I hit a turning point. The choice was either to get sober and follow my dreams or dive deeper into my addiction. To the average person, this was an obvious choice, but I sat in turmoil over my fate for what seemed to be centuries. I took a leap into recovery and my life drastically changed forever.

As UNR was a staple for where my addiction ran rampant, entering back into college was a daunting task. I was introduced to NRAP and the weight of going through college sober and alone was lifted. In the community I found AA, which helped me to build relationships in my newly sober state. I also saw a therapist regularly to address all the repressed emotions from the years of substance abuse. I don't think I could have made it through such a fragile state without this influx of support... I didn't make it, we made it.

Life is very different now. I graduated last May with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I have a career, a community, and I finally have myself. The roots that began to grow in my days at NRAP have built the foundation on which my life is now thriving. The connections that I made in AA are some of the closest relationships I have ever had. The person my therapist helps me to become will stick with me for the rest of my life.

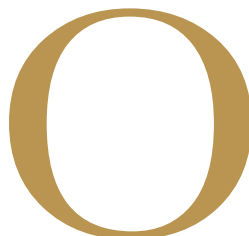
Going about life sober is something I never would have imagined, but to this day, I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world.

~Garrett

# Nevada's Recovery & Prevention Program

## Breaks the Mold with new exhibit

by CURTIS VICKERS '07 M.A.



On Oct. 4 in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, Nevada's Recovery & Prevention Program (NRAP) held a reception for its new art exhibit, "Break the Mold." Spearheaded by two NRAP students, Breanna Speicher and Isabella Ramos, the exhibit seeks to provide visitors with a more nuanced understanding of what it means to live in recovery. "Break the Mold" features sixteen large-scale, close-up photographs of campus and community members in recovery, along with their family members, and handwritten notes that detail the participants' journeys.

Of the importance of having the exhibit in the Knowledge Center, NRAP Project Coordinator Jordan Baez '15 (general studies) said, "We wanted to have the exhibit on campus so that we could start





President Marc Johnson (above), Stacie Mathewson '18 (honorary degree)(above, center) and Dean of the School of Community Health Sciences Trudy Larson (above, right) attended the Oct. 4 opening of "Break the Mold." Visitors (below) viewed large-scale photographs of NRAP participants and their families, like Garrett Forman '18 (far left) and his father, Arthur (far right). Accompanying their photographs are their stories of addiction, recovery and love. Stacie Mathewson's financial support enabled the establishment and growth of the NRAP program.

Theresa Danna



a conversation. We wanted students to see these faces, read their stories, and become comfortable recognizing that all kinds of people struggle with substances. If you need help, that's okay."

Response to the exhibit has been favorable. Some visitors sought resources from NRAP, while others thanked participants for their bravery in telling their stories so openly. Every story provides a unique insight into the ways unsafe substance use can affect all aspects of one's life. One pair of participants, though, demonstrate the ripple effects of substance use on the lives of our loved ones.

Garrett Forman '18 (mechanical engineering) is now working for Elko Mining Group, LLC and on track for a promotion. But his future didn't always seem so bright. As he struggled with insecurities growing up, Garrett discovered an outlet in substance use. In time, he found he was living two lives. In one, he was a responsible student with a steady job and positive relationships, but in the other, he says, "my life involved continuous illegal activities, putting myself in dangerous situations, and never going more than a few hours sober."

Garrett's father, Arthur, says of this time in his son's life that it was "a difficult realization that Garrett was in an ugly deep hole and we could not save him.... As a parent, you want to trust your child, believe what your child says. An addict can manipulate that trust to hide addiction. The anguish we felt was beyond any pain we had ever known."

It was only when Garrett realized that the two sides of his life were incompatible with his dreams that he sought help and found a community through AA and NRAP.

"Recovery is not something to do alone," he explained. "The scariest part is reaching out, but the reward is worth it. The courage to speak up is a small act that can change your life drastically. The connection with other people in recovery creates a bond that is hard to surpass. I have had more fun in recovery than I ever had drinking and using, and that is directly related to the outstanding relationships I have built not by doing this alone, but by building lifelong connections."

Arthur added, "Through NRAP and AA, Garrett has learned the importance of admitting

his addiction and living his recovery. Garrett has earned our trust and respect. We are very proud of the man he is. I used to think for him to be a success, my son had to excel in all his endeavors and be the brightest and the best. Yes, he has excelled and is one of the brightest and the best but what is most important to me is we have our beautiful boy back and I believe he is happy with himself."

To read Garrett and Arthur's full story of recovery and love—or one of the other fourteen stories that make up "Break the Mold"—visit the first floor of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center before January 20. **N**

If you would like to support the work performed by Nevada's Recovery & Prevention Program in service of students like Garrett, you can make a gift online at [www.nrap.com/give](http://www.nrap.com/give).

It was a difficult realization that Garrett was in an ugly deep hole and we could not save him. Garrett had been lying to us for years. We had not recognized it.

The anguish we felt was beyond any pain we had ever known.

Garrett finally came to us and said he needed to go away to a live-in rehab. We had Garrett search to find the rehab program he was willing to go to. As he did the ground work he, did we, came to grips with how deep he was into his addiction and recovery would be impossible without going away.

During rehab, he began to recognize his value, develop self esteem, to plot a plan how to become the man he wanted to be. Garrett attended UNR and he was a good student. He clearly understood his commitment to his studies and the work that was needed to develop a support system and knowledge to stay sober. Once back at UNR the NRAP program gave him a safe place to continue to become stronger in his recovery, become friends with other students who were in recovery, develop his strength to help others.

Through NRAP and AA, Garrett has learned the importance to admit his addiction and live his recovery. He often speaks of his path to recovery. His sponsors have given great direction and support. Garrett has worked with the NRAP leadership and has been a spokesperson for the benefits of the NRAP program and structure. He has given presentations at colleges in Washington, DC. Garrett likes Garrett.





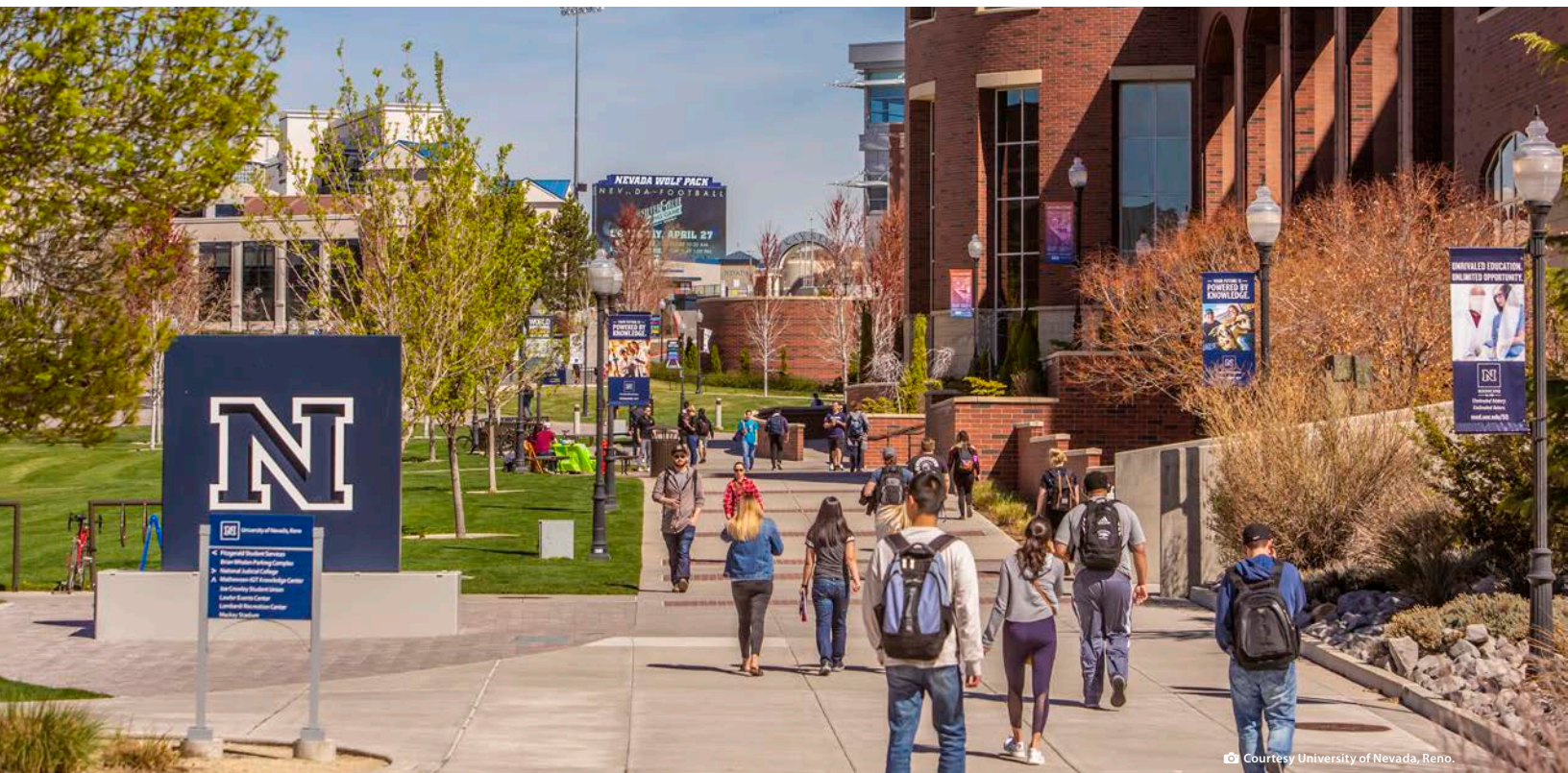
# UNIVERSITY NEWS

Read more @ **NEVADA**Today



[unr.edu/nevada-today](http://unr.edu/nevada-today)

## Campus climate survey results released



Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno.

by JOHN TRENT '85, '87, '00 M.A.

University community members were invited to speak their truths in the spring 2019 climate survey.

Results of the campus climate survey conducted by Rankin & Associates Consulting were released on Wednesday, Sept. 18, during two forums held in the Glick Ballrooms of the Joe Crowley Student Union.

The survey was administered between February and March 2019 and had 6,415 members of the University community participate: 3,389 undergraduate students, 794 graduate/professional students, 738 academic faculty/post-doctoral scholar/research scientist/librarian, 781 administrative faculty/executive-level administrative faculty and 713 classified staff.

According to the study's executive summary, "climate" was defined as "the current attitudes, behaviors and standards of faculty, staff, administrators and students – as well as the campus environment and university policies – that influence the level of respect for individual needs, abilities and potential. The level of comfort experienced by faculty, staff and students is one indicator of campus climate."

President Marc Johnson, in introducing Sue Rankin and Julie Del Giorno of Rankin & Associates for their presentation of findings, said that the impetus for the study was a need "to understand ourselves better."

"We will follow up and implement the recommendations," Johnson said.

The executive summary for the study stated that generally, "The climate assessment findings provide the University com-

munity with an opportunity to build upon its strengths and to develop a deeper awareness of the challenges ahead. The University, with support from senior administrators and collaborative leadership, is in a prime position to actualize its commitment to promote an inclusive campus and to institute organizational structures that respond to the needs of its dynamic campus community."

The executive summary for the study also stated, "The overall campus climate, workplace climate and classroom climate were described as comfortable by many respondents, however less comfortable by a significant minority of other respondents."

Rankin said with the study completed, the work is only beginning for the campus. "As a community, you need to decide what you think is important going forward," she said.



## University leaders win Lifetime Achievement and Leadership awards

by NATALIE FRY '04

Karen Penner-Johnson, President Marc Johnson and Larry Engstrom recognized at 2019 EDAWN Arts & Business Awards Luncheon.

Among more than 400 community members, University of Nevada, Reno President Marc Johnson and his wife, Karen-Penner Johnson, along with Music Professor Larry Engstrom, were three of 10 winners named at EDAWN's Arts & Business Awards Luncheon Thursday, Sept. 12.

The University's College of Liberal Arts, in partnership with the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, City of Reno, City of Sparks and Sierra Arts Foundation, held the event at the Silver Legacy Casino from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. with local business representatives, government leaders and individuals from the arts community in attendance.

The winners of the annual Arts & Business Awards demonstrated exceptional support and engagement with the local arts and culture community.

"Congratulations to all the nominees and especially the winners," Mike Ka-

Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award, Larry M. Engstrom, currently teaches Jazz Survey, serves as associate chair of the Department of Music, and chaired the School of the Arts University Arts Building Committee.

Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno.

zmierski, president and CEO of EDAWN, said. "We are very fortunate that Greater Reno-Sparks has the support of so many who are passionate about and understand the positive impacts that the arts have on our community. In our world of economic development, we strongly support the arts, its impact in fueling a vibrant economy and the important role it plays in our efforts to attract new businesses and talent to our region."

"Karen and I are extremely honored to receive the Leadership award presented by EDAWN during the annual Arts & Business Luncheon," President Johnson said. "It's quite humbling to be among such a wide cross-section of leaders, businesses and organizations from throughout our community who were also honored. To all of the honorees, we say, 'Congratulations and thank you for all that you do on behalf of our vibrant and growing community.' We truly appreciate EDAWN's recognition. We hope to encourage others to continue to make a difference in education, in the arts, in business or in any other professional or personal realm, for the betterment of northern Nevada."

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NEW NEVADA

# PROGRESS

In the midst of an ambitious fund-raising campaign to build the **New Nevada**, we are constantly reminded of the impact every dollar makes in the lives of students and faculty. We are raising money for scholarships, world-renowned professors, and state-of-the-art learning facilities to educate a new generation of students who continue to push the boundaries of achievement. We invite you to join us in **Building What Comes Next**.

**\$500**  
million goal

**\$398M**  
current





## A decade strong: University ranks in the top tier for 10th year straight

by JOHN TRENT '85, '87, '00 M.A.

University of Nevada, Reno rated one of U.S. News & World Report's Best National Universities for ten years running.

For the 10th straight year, the University is ranked in the top tier of Best National Universities by U.S. News & World Report, which released its annual rankings for its special 2020 edition early September.

The University is ranked No. 240 among National Universities, which includes public and private institutions, and is also ranked No. 117 among Top Public Schools.


National Universities, according to U.S. News, offer a full range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and doctoral programs, and emphasize faculty research or award professional practice doctorates.

"Being ranked in the top tier of undergraduate programs at U.S. universities over the past decade is a significant milestone for our institution," said Kevin Carman, provost and executive vice president. "It is a product of our commitment to student success through a variety of programs such as First in the Pack, which provides support for first-generation students; Living Learning

Communities in our dormitories; expanded opportunities for undergraduates to participate in research; and NevadaFIT, which helps new freshmen successfully transition into the university academic environment."

Carman added, "We have made significant improvements in metrics such as graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratios and student-to-advisor ratios, which directly or indirectly impact the metrics associated with our top-tier classification. That said, our commitment to student success is a journey and not a destination. Our faculty, staff and administration are deeply committed to enhanced student learning and success through continuous improvement of the entire student living and learning experience at the University of Nevada, Reno."



Using legged robots, a wheeled communications vehicle, one advanced autonomous exploration aerial robot and one collision-tolerant aerial robot, Team CERBERUS, an international collaboration based in the College of Engineering, competed at the first round of the DARPA Subterranean Challenge.  Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno

by MIKE WOLTERBEEK '02

Team CERBERUS, an international collaboration based in the College of Engineering, has been selected to move on to the second round of the exclusive DARPA Subterranean Challenge, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's latest robotics competition.

Led by Assistant Professor Kostas Alexis, in the first round, the CERBERUS team rolled out their autonomous robotics technologies aimed at revolutionizing how robotic systems navigate and operate in the underground domain – human-made tunnel systems, urban underground settings and natural cave networks that are too dangerous,

dark, deep and unknown to risk human lives. The first round of the challenge, the tunnel competition, was held in August.

"As Team CERBERUS, we are even more excited for the future steps of the DARPA Subterranean Challenge, and we look forward to the Urban and Cave Circuits in 2020," Alexis said. "With the lessons learned from the Tunnel Circuit, we aim to revolutionize how walking and flying robots can work collaboratively in a manner that provides a unified solution to the multiple challenges of subterranean robotic entry and exploration."

In the Tunnel Circuit, robots that walk, fly and roll were put to the test navigating in a defunct mine system in Pittsburg, Pa. Nevada's Team CERBERUS is one of 11 robotics teams from around the world that participated in the first round. The teams brought their novel approaches to rapidly map, explore and search underground environments in time-sensitive operations critical for the civilian and military domains alike.

## Team CERBERUS competes at DARPA robotic underground terrain competition

DARPA Subterranean Challenge features 11 teams from around the world.

## University offers first-ever Paiute language course

by NATALIE FRY '04

Preserving and revitalizing the Great Basin indigenous language of Numu.

**R**alph Burns takes on a number of titles, including Pyramid Lake Paiute elder, storyteller and native-language specialist. This fall, he added University of Nevada, Reno lecturer to the list.

Christina Thomas '19 (music) is a former Nevada student, mom, former Washoe County School District teacher, experienced server, performing artist and most notably, a self-titled 'language warrior.' She began as a youth Paiute language instructor in 2015, replacing Burns as a language teacher at Reed High School in Sparks, and then later took an independent study course from Burns at the University.

Often singing and dancing at events together, their mentor/mentee relationship has deepened through the years, and this year, also together, they helped create and launch the first-ever Paiute language course



to be taught at the University.

Thomas began her doctoral program in Native American Studies at the University of California, Davis this fall, with potential plans to return to the region and continue teaching and preserving the Paiute language and culture after graduate school.

"This course continues the opportunities for language learning for students who take Paiute in high school and introduces people who might not be familiar with Nevada indigenous languages to the culture and history of the land on which the University stands," Thomas said. "I am proud to be considered a 'language warrior' and hope, through this class, others will also become language warriors along the way."

University of Nevada, Reno President Marc Johnson and recent alumna Christina Thomas '19 celebrate the American Indian & Alaska Native Graduate Celebration in May 2019. Thomas is instrumental in helping build the curriculum and promoting the first-ever Paiute language course at the University.  Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno

Burns currently teaches language courses at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony and embarked on a new journey this fall, teaching college students on campus. A written form of Northern Paiute was developed by Burns and Foundation Professor Emeritus Catherine Fowler years prior. They also produced learning materials for Northern Paiute, which will be incorporated in the new Paiute language course.

Mick Hitchcock '17 (honorary doctor of humane letters) at an event Oct. 21 to launch the Mick Hitchcock, Ph.D. Project for Visualizing Science in the Reynolds School of Journalism.

 Jessica Fagundes '14



## Communicating Science in a Divided Society

by MICHELLE LAQUINDANUM

**F**rom climate change to vaccines to gene-editing, at times, the public's relationship with science is determined more by belief than data. A National Geographic filmmaker, a science writer and Nevada's state climatologist came together Oct. 21 to discuss the challenges of communicating science at a time when citizens disagree on so many issues.

The event launched the Mick Hitchcock, Ph.D. Project for Visualizing Science: "Communicating Science in a Divided Society." National Geographic filmmaker Vanessa Serrao, award-winning science writer Peter Laufer and climatologist Dr. Stephanie McAfee shared their expertise and Reynolds School of Journalism Professor of Science Communication Kathleen Masterson moderated.

Serrao produces films on wildlife con-

servation, the issues of poaching and climate change in the Himalayas. Laufer is an international news correspondent and author who has written more than 15 books, including books on turtles and butterflies that focus on the relationships of humans to animals. McAfee is a climatologist with experience in analyzing both historical climate and projections of future climate.

"The time is right for the launch of the Hitchcock Project, with science communication more important than ever," said Al Stavitsky, dean of the Reynolds School. "This event will introduce campus and community to an innovative new Reynolds School program."

The Hitchcock Project is an initiative to prepare students, professionals and scientists to present science in visual and creative forms. The project was established through a gift from biochemist and philanthropist Mick Hitchcock, Ph.D., in 2018.



The University received a \$1.25 million grant to create an interdisciplinary team of professionals, partnered with the world's largest mining companies, to advance technology and automation in mines.

 Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno

workforce who can navigate these new systems. Thanks to a \$1.25 million grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, an interdisciplinary team at the University of Nevada, Reno has committed to graduating six doctoral and four master's degree students who will address several challenges related to major safety and health issues in mining operations.

"Future mine engineers need to understand emerging technology like AI, drones and big data," said Javad Sattarvand, College of Science assistant professor of mining engineering and the project's principal investigator. "We claim creating excellence in the workforce is the missing part of the chain, which would make mining engineers more aware of health and safety issues of the future."

Sattarvand said this project will help

elevate the safety of mines: "Failure is inevitable in any mine. The path to safer and healthier mining operations crosses only through development of an academic human resource capacity with a greater understanding of emerging technological infrastructures."

These technological infrastructures include AI, Internet of Things, big data, cloud computing, robotics, teleoperation, immersive technologies (Virtual/Augmented Reality), drones and mobile crowdsourcing.

Joining Sattarvand on this project is a group of multidisciplinary professionals from three colleges at the University: the College of Business, the College of Engineering and the College of Science. Co-investigators include Bahram Parvin, professor, College of Engineering; George Danko, professor, College of Science; Amir Talaei-Khoei, assistant professor, College of Business; and Behrooz Abbasi, assistant professor, College of Science. Also on the project as a subcontractor is Sebnem Duzgun, professor, Colorado School of Mines.

"This is a great example of interdisciplinary cooperation to solve real issues," University President Marc Johnson said.

## Capacity building in AI mining systems

by NICOLE SHEARER '03

**M**ining companies from around the world have begun using artificial intelligence in their operations. From safety and maintenance to exploration and autonomous vehicles and drills, artificial intelligence is being used to navigate efficiencies and speed. With this new technology, however, comes an ever-growing need for a

## Incubating jobs, energy and the future economy in downtown Reno

by JANE TORS '82



Making the Innevation Center hum are Jim Sacherman, entrepreneur-in-residence through the Nevada Research & Innovation Corporation, and former director, Director Grace Chou, Makerspace Specialist Daniel Smith '18, Assistant Director Crystal Harvey '13 and Office Coordinator Ania Cavillo-Mason.  Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno

**I**t's been nearly four years since a packed room of guests celebrated the opening of the University of Nevada, Reno Innevation Center — Powered By Switch. As forecasted, it has become a foundational hub to the region's innovation ecosystem and economic vibrancy. An estimated 195 jobs have been created by companies based in the Innevation Center and venture-funded companies at the Innevation Center have raised more than \$55 million.

There is an energy about the Innevation Center, which, after all, was named to take the "no" out of innovation. It is a collaborative, co-working environment empowering Nevada's next generation of technology and businesses by providing access to mentorship, inves-

tors, interns, office and meeting space, and a well-equipped Makerspace. The Innevation Center has more than 200 members, including community members, University faculty and students and more than 75 organizations or businesses.

Grace Chou is ready to build on the momentum as the Innevation Center's new director. Chou joined the Innevation Center from the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), where she was director for manufacturing and technology.

"When you think about it, the Innevation Center is a startup venture itself," said Mridul Gautam, University vice president for research and innovation. "It is a synergistic, responsive, flexible and collaborative environment, with a leadership team that has been and remains willing to learn and adapt."



More than 2,600 incoming freshmen participated in programs designed to increase college success.

Courtesy University of Nevada, Reno

## 2019 NevadaFIT by NATALIE FRY '04

NevadaFIT, the University of Nevada, Reno's premiere academic preparation program for incoming freshmen students, began its seventh year Saturday, Aug. 17, with a kick-off ceremony and parents' workshop. The program, which stands for "freshman intensive transition," gives freshmen a five-day crash course on the rigors of college academics. It spans

all eight colleges and more than 40 majors across the University.

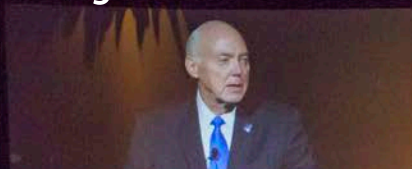
NevadaFIT began in 2013 as BioFIT, a program geared toward incoming biology majors, with 48 students participating. In 2014, the program was expanded to include 350 students in all eight colleges with varied majors and last year had a little more than 1,600 participants. Each year, the program has grown in attendance, and this year it welcomed the largest NevadaFIT class to date with approximately 2,700 students,

about two-thirds of the incoming freshman class.

"College is not an extension of high school; it's not grade 13," said Kevin Carman, executive vice president and provost for the University. "Students learn the value of going to class and sitting up front, how to study with other students and how to make effective use of resources like the writing and math centers."

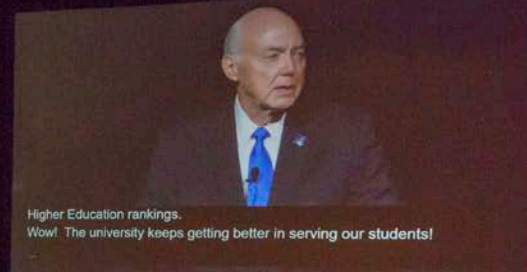
Every boot camp in last year's program saw higher GPAs in NevadaFIT participants compared to the students in their major who did not participate. NevadaFIT participants are also graduating at a higher rate in five years than the average University student does in six years, yielding a 67 percent, five-year graduation rate from the fall 2013 cohort.

## Big Goals Achieved – Realizing Our Vision



Higher Education rankings.  
Wow! The university keeps getting better in serving our students!

University President Marc Johnson delivered the State of the University address Oct. 8 in the Joe Crowley Student Union. by JOHN TRENT '85, '87 '00 M.A.



Higher Education rankings.  
Wow! The university keeps getting better in serving our students!

Theresa Danna

President Marc Johnson detailed many of the notable achievements of the past year and how they relate to the future of the University during his annual State of the University address on Tuesday, Oct. 8 in the Glick Ballroom of the Joe Crowley Student Union.

Johnson congratulated the campus on achieving the Carnegie Classification of "R1," or "Very High Research" in December, noted that a major goal of reaching an 18 to 1 student to teacher classroom ratio had been achieved, and said the campus is now at record diversity as students of color now represent 40 percent of the student body.

Other important numbers included:

- The number of National Merit, Presidential and National Hispanic Scholars

enrolled this fall is 727, 200 more than last fall.

- This year, student financial aid and loans rose to more than \$180 million.
- For the first time, the University awarded more than 5,000 degrees.
- 6-year graduation has risen to 61 percent.
- 4-year graduation rate has grown to 40 percent, more than double from a decade ago.
- In the last six years, annual research awards climbed by 54 percent and annual research expenditures climbed by 73 percent to \$150 million.

"This university just keeps getting better for the students we serve," Johnson said. Johnson also praised the campus for the

actions taken in the wake of the July 5 Argenta Hall explosion, which injured eight, severely damaged both Argenta and Nye Halls and left the campus scrambling to find residence accommodations and dining space for more than 1,000 students who would've been housed in the two damaged halls this semester.

"Selfless care and cooperation to achieve safety and accommodation were demonstrated as the character of this campus community," Johnson said. "Many people in the community have mentioned what a miracle it was that the campus could respond in just six weeks to open the fall semester on time. I respond that the miracle was produced by the miracle workers who came together with uncommon dedication to make ready a wonderful learning experience for our students."



GEAR UP AND SHOW YOUR  
**PACK PRIDE**  
THIS YEAR WITH OUR NEW ARRIVALS!



Show Your Pack Pride  
**20% OFF NEVADA  
CLOTHING AND GIFTS**  
Use Coupon Code: **PACKALUM20**  
Expires 03/31/20  
Cut out coupon for in-store use.  
Enter coupon code for online use.



The ASUN Nevada Wolf Shop offers the latest Apple® products at an **EXCLUSIVE RATE FOR NEVADA ALUMNI**

Take home a new computer or laptop at low Apple® Education pricing and tax-free.

Shop with us in-store or online.  
Learn more about this offer at [www.NevadaWolfShop.com](http://www.NevadaWolfShop.com)

nevada  
**AS UN** wolf shop  
EVERY PURCHASE SUPPORTS EVERY STUDENT

The ASUN Nevada Wolf Shop is a student-owned campus store, where every purchase supports every student. Thank you for supporting us over the years so we can continue to provide textbooks, Nevada insignia, and services for the students of our campus community. Your purchases have also helped fund scholarships, student jobs, NevadaFIT, educational opportunities, and more.

[WWW.NEVADAWOLFSHOP.COM](http://WWW.NEVADAWOLFSHOP.COM)



[/NEVADAWOLFSHOP](https://www.instagram.com/NEVADAWOLFSHOP)



# ALUMNI NEWS



# 2019-20 NEVADA ALUMNI COUNCIL

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Scott Walquist '02  
PRESIDENT



Joe Nannini '00, '10 Ed.S.  
PAST PRESIDENT



Katie (Sens) Weigel '96  
PRESIDENT-ELECT



Peter Costa '84, '88 M.D.  
TREASURER



Chris Smith '01  
VICE PRESIDENT



Richard Viloria '08  
VICE PRESIDENT

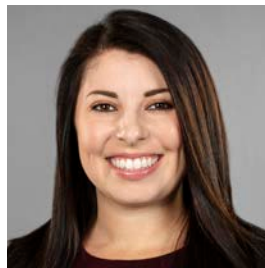


Shenea (Stephenson) Strader  
'05, '07 MBA VICE PRESIDENT

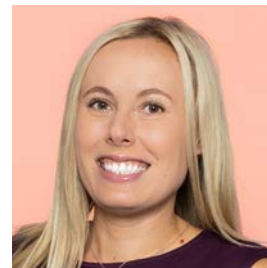
## NEW MEMBERS



Donna Lee-Kistler '77



Amber Maraccini  
'13 M.A., '16 Ph.D.



Ashley Brune '07



Bryan McArdle '05, '10 MBA



Kalie Work '11

## NEVADA ALUMNI COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Scott Walquist '02  
**President**

Joe Nannini '00, '10 Ed.S.  
**Past President**

Katie Weigel '96  
**President-elect**

Peter Costa '84, '88 M.D.  
**Treasurer**

Chris Smith '01  
**Vice President**

Richard Vilorio '08  
**Vice President**

Shenea (Stephenson) Strader '05, '07 MBA  
**Vice President**

### BOARD MEMBERS

Ashley Brune '07

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

John Desmond '90 (**2019 Chair,  
Foundation Board of Trustees**)\*

Julie (Krater) Dunlap '89

Tyson Falk '08, '11 MPA

Tony Gallian '11

Tamara Guinn (**GSA President**)

Abigail Weston Inkster '99

Ben Kennedy '97

Doug Knuth (**Director of Athletics**)\*

John Krmptotic '90

Donna Lee-Kistler '77

Trevor Macaluso '11

Amber Maraccini '13 M.A., '16 Ph.D.

Anthony Martinez (**ASUN President**)

Megan May '05, '07, '13 MBA

Bryan McArdle '05, '10 MBA

Lauren (Lacombe) McBride '07, '12 Ph.D.

Fred McElroy '76

Courtney McKimney '17

Cesar Melgarejo '13, '16 MPA

Jack Sutton '70

Kalie Work '11

Victor Wowo '11, '17 MBA

Chul Yim '04

### STAFF MEMBERS

Lynda Buhlig '84

**Associate Vice President,  
Development & Alumni Relations**

Amy J. (Zurek) Carothers '01 M.A.  
**Director, Alumni Engagement**

Moses S. Achoka '07 M.A.  
**Manager, Publications  
and Graphic Design**

Carrie Bushá '06, '19 MPA  
**Assistant Director, Alumni Relations**

Jessica N. Langley '17  
**Manager, Alumni Relations**

Ashley S. Medina  
**Manager, Alumni Relations**

Emily Sharick  
**Manager, Alumni Relations**

Colleen M. Dietlein  
**Administrative Assistant IV**

\* *ex-officio member*

# CLASS CHAT

**N**  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

## 1960s

**N BEN ECHEVERRIA '61** (chemistry), '64 M.A. (counseling and educational physiology) just published his third book, "The Rhymes & Rhythms of a Life." It contains limericks and short stories from Ben's portfolio of writing over the course of many years, beginning with an article about jazz, published in the 1959 Brushfire Magazine at the University of Nevada.

## 1980s



**DANIEL GREENWELL '88** (English) and his college sweetheart, **KAREN GREENWELL '88** (mathematics) have left the hustle and bustle of the city after 30 years in San Jose, Calif. to start a farm in Olive Hill, Ky. Dan

still does contract technical writing, but also enjoys being on the 170 acre-farm with the horses and chickens. Karen still tutors math, but enjoys gardening, sewing, and taking care of the horses and chickens. (Pictured: Dan and Karen Greenwell receiving the Gold Award for their team effort in the Korean Embassy sponsored Korean Language Student Video Contest, January 30, 2019. Dan and Karen have been studying Korean since 2015.)

**N JEFF NICHOLS '89** recently moved to a new role at Nike after 30 years in the Nike Direct organization. While in Nike Direct, Jeff held several leadership roles in North America, Europe and Asia Pacific. Jeff is now VP of America's Workplace Design and Connectivity, leading the organization by creating immersive workplace experiences and environments.

## 1990s

**KELLI ANASTASSATOS '90** (journalism) is the administrator of Nevada Sage Waldorf School, which celebrates its 20th anniversary and the beginning of the first graduating class's final year.



### ALUMNI TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH PACK TRACKS TRAVEL!

Robert Koehler '78, Holly Koehler, Dan Kirassowski '87, Craig Wessner '84, '86, Denise Del Porto, Dan Del Porto '85, Debbi Wessner, Carol Millard Marin '73 and Hector Marin explored Venice to Rome for seven nights on the Majestic Vistas trip Oct. 27 through Nov. 4.

Thinking of exploring new places? Visit [unr.edu/alumni/travel](http://unr.edu/alumni/travel) for upcoming trips!



**HEIDI (SEEVERS) GANSERT '90 MBA** has been appointed to the board of directors of Plumas Bancorp. She is the University's executive director of external relations and also serves as a Nevada State Senator. Previously, Heidi was chief of staff to Governor **BRIAN SANDOVAL '86** (English) after serving as assemblywoman representing District 25 in the Nevada State Legislature.

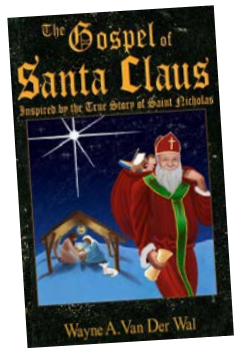
Department of Education and retired San Juan College administrator, has published her first novel. "The Cactus Plot" features a botanist heroine who solves murders with her knowledge of plant ecology. Set in north-west New Mexico, the novel touches on endangered plant protection and conflicting uses of public lands.

**SUSAN (BENEFIELD) RICE '98** (music education) was recently appointed head of school to the Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma, Wash. She will begin her tenure there in July of 2020, and will be the first female to ever serve as head in the school's 65 year history.

tigious Everest Club award. In addition, Melissa's 2018 revenue production level was the highest among brokers in the northern Nevada market, resulting in the Office Broker of the Year and Overall Broker of the Year award at the industry-wide Summit Award event.

**MARK HUBBARD '08** (biology), '12 Ph.D. (cellular and molecular biology) recently accepted a position as assistant dean for research in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**JEFF MARSHALL '09** (biotechnology), a second-year veterinary student at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named this year's winner of the AMP/Michael D. Hayre Fellowship in Public Outreach, and will receive funding from Americans for Medical Progress, a nonprofit biomedical research advocacy group. The fellowship will result in a new podcast to examine the critical role of animal studies in advancing human and veterinary medicine.



**WAYNE VAN DER WAL '90** (social psychology), '94 M.A. (counseling and educational psychology), '98 E.S. has recently published "The Gospel of Santa Claus - Inspired by the True Story of Saint Nicholas." A touching, educational and entertaining historical novel for families to read together for the holidays.

2000s



**LESLEY (DAVIS) KLEIN '04** (accounting), corporate accounting senior revenue manager for IGT, is the American Heart Association of Northern Nevada's Go Red for Women 2020 Campaign Chair. Lesley is working hard to bring awareness of heart disease to her community, raising funds for research and prevention, as well as encouraging women to make small shifts in their lives for a big impact on their health, like taking the stairs, choosing water, scheduling that appointment with your doctor, taking 10 minutes in the morning just for you, catching up with a friend ... whatever it may be, it's good for the heart.



**JEFF PANKO '09** (information systems) has recently been elected to the board of directors of the Nevada Humane Society. He is also on the board of directors of the Women and Children's Center of the Sierra. Jeff celebrates a five year work anniversary with United Federal Credit Union. He currently lives in Reno with his wife, **NATALIE VALENTINE-PANKO '10** (general studies) and their three children, Lucas (age 7), Dominic (age 4) and Giana (age 1).



**JUDGE KRISTIN LUIS '91** (political science) is the Carson City Justice, Municipal Court of Department 2, the first female to hold this position in Carson City, where she lives with her family.

**BARRY C. WHITE '05** (journalism), after 15 years in broadcast television news, has hung up his journalist notebook and changed careers to join the California Employment Development Department as a public information officer.



**MATT AIROLDI '94** (physical education) loves working for the Blue Team at Western Nevada Supply. He is president of the Nevada Football Alumni Association and an ardent supporter of the Wolf Pack.



**MELISSA MOLYNEAUX '06** (marketing) was inducted into the Colliers International Everest Club. Her 2018 revenue for office brokerage services placed her in the top 10 percent of brokers at Colliers across the Americas and qualifies her as a recipient of the pres-

2010s

After completing a rigorous candidacy process, **KALLIE KAPPES '14** (biology) was awarded a Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry. Professionals who become Fellows of the Academy must complete a rigorous candidacy process by



KALLIE KAPPES '14

submitting extensive written work and passing an oral examination. Fewer than ten percent of practicing optometrists are Fellows of the Academy.

**BRITNEY KHUU '17** (wildlife ecology and conservation) ended up in an entirely different field than what she originally studied at Nevada and created a startup business with



KATIE WORRALL '19

a former classmate. The Hair Tie Hub, the world's first hair tie holder, is patented, trademarked, has more than eight prototypes, and is currently on Kickstarter.

**KATIE WORRALL '19** (international affairs) recently started an internship working for U.S. Senator **CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO '86** (finance). 📧



James William



Brennen Stephen

**Melissa Molyneux Pick '06** (marketing) and **Brian Pick '02** (journalism) welcomed Brennen Stephen to their pack on May 19. Brennen joins big sister, Charlie.

**Will McDonald '09** (journalism), '15 MBA and **Lisa McDonald '09** (journalism), '15 MBA announce the birth of James William on Aug. 27.

Charlotte Ann



**N Lesley (Davis) Klein '04** (accounting) and **Paul Klein '03** (criminal justice), '14 MBA, welcomed their third child, Charlotte Ann, on April 21. Charlotte joins big brothers Cameron (age 6) and Grant (age 4).



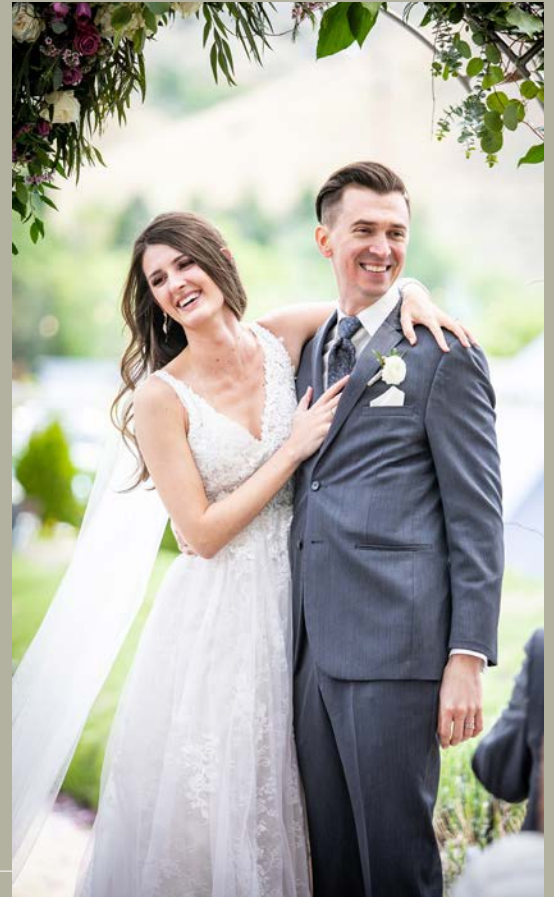
# Wolf Mates

**REBECCA (FISHER) GLASGOW '15** (anthropology) and **TAYLOR GLASGOW '16** (mechanical engineering) were married October 13, 2018 in Yosemite Valley, Calif.

---

**KATIE SPEIRS '14** (biochemistry and molecular biology), '18 M.D. and **STEVE HUGDAL '11** (biochemistry and molecular biology) '17 M.D. were married in May at Lavender Ridge in Reno.

---



**IAN SIMS '12** (biology) and **ASHLEY (EISERT) SIMS '19** (biology) were married Sept. 14 in Graeagle, Calif.

**MATTHEW ALLEN '16** (mechanical engineering) and **SENNA (HENDI) ALLEN '17** (community health sciences) were married in their hometown of Reno on June 29.



# Scott Walquist

2019-20 President, Nevada Alumni Council

Theresa Danna

Some students discover their life's passion while in college. Some, at the end of high school. Not Scott. Scott Walquist '02 (journalism) always knew what he wanted to do with his life.

Scott's connection to the University runs in his family, and for him, began at McQueen High School in Reno. There, Scott was a four-year member of the school's student newspaper and served as its sports editor and editor-in-chief. His dad, Karl Walquist '75 (journalism), and his uncle, Foundation Trustee Emeritus John Brodeur '72 (journalism), were both Nevada grads and public relations professionals: Karl with NV Energy (then Sierra Pacific) and John with Brodeur Partners. With such strong influences, Scott always knew PR was what he wanted to do, he knew it was what the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism was known for, and he knew he wanted to be part of the Wolf Pack. So when it came time to choose a college, the choice was clear and swift.

In 2002, Scott graduated with a major in journalism and a minor in marketing. His first course of action was to meet with fellow alum

Stephanie Kruse '91 MBA at KPS3 Marketing in Reno. He was just hoping that Stephanie, a pillar of the local marketing/PR community, would take a look at his resume and maybe give him some pointers. She did that, and offered him a job at her front desk, part time, until he could find something else. But "something else" wasn't what Scott wanted, so he took every opportunity to raise his hand and show the agency what he could do. From part-time front desk attendant, to full-time account coordinator, to vice president of client services and full partner, Scott's 13 years at KPS3 were filled with world-class accounts, numerous accolades, and a lot of hard work. "I am constantly amazed by the important experiences I had at KPS3. The projects I worked on, the people I met, the opportunities I had — the work that we did during those 13 years has really defined the professional I am today and the future I have in front of me," Scott said.

In 2016, Scott joined the team at Renown as manager of communications, and in 2018 took on the role of manager of marketing technology and agency services. With Renown's digital-first approach to marketing and communications, Scott works with a team to deliver the right message at the right time to the right place to effectively reach healthcare consumers.

"But to be honest," Scott told us, "I don't

feel like I ever left Nevada." He continues the volunteer job at Nevada Athletics he began as a sophomore in college, was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumnus award by the Nevada Alumni Association in 2008 and in 2016 joined the Nevada Alumni Council. "I didn't think twice when Mary Ann called and asked me to join the council," Scott remembered, referring to Mary Ann (Merlo) Brown '85 (nursing), '96 M.S. (nursing) then president of the council. "Nevada has given me so much. I jumped at the opportunity to give back."

Now, as president of the council, Scott looks at the year ahead as an opportunity to engage other alumni in a meaningful connection to campus. "If Nevada means half as much to other alumni as it means to me, then we have something to work with." Scott will spend his term as president working with the council to advise the Nevada Alumni Association on more ways to bring alumni back to campus, bring the University to the community, and foster a lifelong relationship with Nevada that has been at the center of his own life.

To learn more about ways to be involved with the Nevada Alumni Association, please visit [unr.edu/alumni](http://unr.edu/alumni).

— by CARRIE BUSHÁ '06, '19 MPA

## CHAPTER UPDATES

Visit all our alumni chapters online > [unr.edu/alumni/chapters](http://unr.edu/alumni/chapters) and be sure to follow them on Facebook!



^ Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter at the Nevada vs. Hawaii football Homecoming pregame.

### **Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter**

Elliot E. Sparkman '04, [eesparkman@gmail.com](mailto:eesparkman@gmail.com)

We celebrated Homecoming 2019 as a chapter for the ninth consecutive year! This year we joined the VIP Bud Light Tailgate with Wolfpack Sports Properties. Our active membership enjoyed complimentary food and drinks before cheering on the Pack. Details on our basketball and fundraising events this spring are coming soon! If you would like to join the chapter, attend and support any of our events, make a donation to support academic scholarships for our student athletes and/or operating costs for the program or need additional information, please visit us online.

### **University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine Alumni Association**

Kyle Yamamoto '09 M.D., [kyamamoto@sierracosmeticsurgery.com](mailto:kyamamoto@sierracosmeticsurgery.com)

The UNR Med Alumni Association honored two of their own recently. The 7th Annual Caroline's Golf Classic and Silent Auction was held in Las Vegas on October 28. The proceeds from the tournament honor the legacy of Caroline Graham-Lamberts M.D. '11. All funds go toward medical education scholarships at UNR Med. The 2019-20 UNR Med Alumni Scholarship was awarded to Adrienne Poteete, class of 2022.

We are currently in our Fall Membership Drive and welcome all our new annual and lifetime members. Please consider giving to or joining our association during our Fall Membership Drive!



^ SCHSAC members and friends reception Sept. 24. SCHS Professor Mel Minarik '08 Ph.D.; Carina Rivera '08, '12 MPH; Helen See '15, '17 MPH and Valerie Cauhape '18 MPH.

### **School of Community Health Sciences Alumni Chapter**

Marena Works '95, '07 MPH, MSN, [schsalumnichapter@gmail.com](mailto:schsalumnichapter@gmail.com)

The SCHSAC hosted a reception for alumni and friends after the Nevada Public Health Association Annual Conference at West Street Market on Sept. 24. The new chapter gained many new members that night, so it will be exciting to see what we will do in 2020! If you have any questions, email [schsalumnichapter@gmail.com](mailto:schsalumnichapter@gmail.com).



◀ Libby Kryak '07, '17 MSN and Kira Kray cleaning up John Champion Park Sept. 27.

### **Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association**

Jan (Pritchard) Brady '63, '88 MBA, [lvcrsswrds@aol.com](mailto:lvcrsswrds@aol.com)

The ONAA committee met in late fall to make plans for the winter and holiday seasons. Kevin Lemus Vargas '14 is stepping down as co-chair of the committee. We will miss his hard work and insightful input on the committee. On Oct. 9, Orvis School of Nursing Dean Debera Thomas led a beautiful hike on the Flume Trail at Lake Tahoe. We hope that this will be an annual event! Several members participated in the John Champion Park cleanup on the Truckee River Sept. 27. This is part of the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful program and we participate yearly. Plans are afoot for a winter wine mixer at Whispering Vine. Watch for more information on Facebook.



Members and friends of the Asian Pacific Islander Alumni Chapter at the Fall Mystery Bus Scholarship Fundraiser Oct. 12.

**Asian Pacific Islander Alumni Chapter**, Kamil Shankar '15, Nevada.AAPI.Alumni@gmail.com

This year's Fall Mystery Bus Scholarship Fundraiser was held on Friday, Oct. 25 – Nevada Day! Guests feasted on Hawaiian BBQ, enjoyed libations and danced the night away. This year's event was spookier than ever, and all guests dressed up for Halloween thrills. The Asian Pacific Islander Alumni Chapter successfully raised enough funds to award two students an API Alumni Scholarship this spring. We have a yummy event on the horizon, and you're invited to come meet our chapter! Follow us on social media for the latest news.



Young Alumni Chapter members and friends at the Nevada vs. New Mexico football game Nov. 2 at Mackay Stadium.

**Young Alumni Chapter**, Erica Tabano '10, tabanoe@gmail.com

YAC partnered with Strengthen the Pack to offer chapter members the ultimate football experience that included food, drinks and a ticket to the Nevada vs. New Mexico football game Nov. 2 at Mackay Stadium. We had a blast tailgating and cheering on the Pack to a big win over New Mexico! Chapter members and board members also celebrated Homecoming by attending this year's Nevada Alumni Association Homecoming Gala Sept. 27. For information on winter events, visit nevadayac.com



▲ Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter members and friends at a networking event Nov. 14 in San Francisco: Brandon Hurd; Katie Garner '13; Thomas Boyer '03, '06 M.Ed.; Anne Shaw '75, '78 M.A.; Emily Landsing; Sarah Kosso '13; Kaila Dowd '19; Jenny Luna '09 and Brita Muller '09.

**Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter**, Brita Muller '09, [nvbaac@gmail.com](mailto:nvbaac@gmail.com)

As always, the Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter is staying busy! We mixed and mingled in San Francisco and met up to cheer on the basketball teams in-person at the Chase Center and at San Jose State. In 2020, we are planning professional networking mixers, plus events geared toward community outreach and volunteering. Keep up with our chapter on Instagram, [@nevadabayareaalumni](https://www.instagram.com/nevadabayareaalumni), and at Facebook.com/[nevadabayareaalumni](https://www.facebook.com/nevadabayareaalumni).



▲ Nevada Latino Alumni Chapter members at the Día de los Muertos Fall Social Nov. 1: J. Diego Zarazúa '16; Yolanda Rangel '10, '14 M.A.; Jessica Escobar '03; Juana Reynoza-Gomez '09 M.A.; Cynthia E. Trigueros '07, '13 M.A.; Ariana Huichapa '11, '14 M.A.; Cynthia Vera '09; Sonia Hernandez '15; Samuel Rosales Rivas '17, '19 M.S.; Alexander Segura-Garcia '14, '17 M.A.; Noemi Gomez Martinez '16; Roberto C. Lara '16; Alex Woodley '15; Luis Hernandez '12; Curtis Wilson '14; Hilda Gallardo '09; and joined by local youth band Mariachi Los Pochos.

**Nevada Latino Alumni Chapter**

Cynthia E. Trigueros, '07, '13 M.A.  
[nvlatinoalumni@gmail.com](mailto:nvlatinoalumni@gmail.com)

The newly formed Nevada Latino Alumni Chapter had a busy year recruiting members. We hosted two networking socials and attended the spring Latinx graduation in the spring. The chapter officially has a full board, nearly 50 active members, and is planning a couple of fundraising and community events for 2020. Be sure to follow the chapter on Facebook, [@NVLatinoAlumniChapter](https://www.facebook.com/NVLatinoAlumniChapter), and Instagram, [@nevada\\_latinoalumni](https://www.instagram.com/nevada_latinoalumni), for updates!



▲ Fallon Alumni Chapter members at the Italian Dinner Oct. 4: Kaitlin (Haugen) Ritchie '14, Cami Palludan '15, Olivia Dillon '16, Allie Venturacci '16, Lexi Berney '16, Josh Berney '16 and Jaymie Lewis '16.

**Fallon Alumni Chapter**,

Cheryl Venturacci, [cventuracci@cccomm.net](mailto:cventuracci@cccomm.net)

The Fallon Alumni Chapter hosted its 3rd Italian Dinner on Oct. 4. Our outstanding chefs, chapter members Mark Venturacci and Michele Berney, outdid themselves! Guests feasted on antipasto, homemade ravioli, seafood pasta, roasted vegetables and affogato for dessert – all of which were served by seven of our Nevada young alumni. A silent auction, raffle, and dancing to the music of D.J. Bert, topped off the evening. It was such a successful event that we will be able to offer multiple scholarships to Churchill County seniors attending Nevada in the fall.

We had a full busload of boosters on Nov. 30 to watch the Pack battle the Rebels for the Freemont Cannon. We're hosting a golf tournament in the spring at the Fallon Golf Course and welcome any and all to join us. Contact Brenda '07 M.Ed. and Keith Boone '02 M.Ed. for details at [brendaboone87@gmail.com](mailto:brendaboone87@gmail.com).



📍 Nevada Sagebrush Alumni Chapter members and friends at the Annual Nevada Sagebrush Alumni Dinner on Oct. 26 at Pinocchio's Bar and Grill.

**Nevada Sagebrush Alumni Chapter**, Annie Flanzraich '03, [annie@flanzwrites.com](mailto:annie@flanzwrites.com)

The Nevada Sagebrush Alumni Chapter celebrated the history of the University's student newspaper at the Annual Nevada Sagebrush Alumni Dinner on Oct. 26 at Pinocchio's Bar and Grill. About 70 current Sagebrushers, former Sagebrushers and those who love them came together for the wonderful evening. The event not only raised money to support the current staff, but also honored two newspaper alumni: Larry Ryckman '83 received the Frank McCulloch Lifetime Achievement Award and Martha Bellisle '97 received The Jake Award. The Chapter provides a social outlet for former members and an ongoing network between them and current student newspaper members.



📍 College of Business Alumni Association Chapter members and friends at a business tour of The Depot Nov. 12: Brandon Wright '11; Tom Saxton; Annie Saxton; Taylor Russo; Michelle Sturge '90; Sam Crampton '11, '16 MBA; Spencer Lewis '11, '17 MBA; Josh Morris '17; Chris Concha; Keenan Polan '11 and Keith Fuetsch '13, '15 M.A.

**College of Business Alumni Association**

Chris Boline '15, [bolinechris@gmail.com](mailto:bolinechris@gmail.com)

COBAA wrapped up a busy spring and school year by having one of its most successful golf tournaments in recent memory. With 125 players in the tournament and more than \$12,000 in net profit, the chapter enjoyed an amazing event at Lakeridge Golf Course in May. Throughout the school year, COBAA helped sponsor and support The College of Business through several different avenues. COBAA was one of the sponsors for the college's networking receptions before the career fair in both the fall and the spring. Board members networked and met with more than 250 students both evenings. Additionally, the board helped fund three different student organizations to support their projects. In 2019-2020, COBAA hopes to increase its funding goals, grow its membership and constantly bring value to its members.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can become involved in COBAA or the golf tournament, please reach out to President Spencer Lewis '11, '17 MBA at [sclewis@unr.edu](mailto:sclewis@unr.edu).



**FRONT ROW:** Lindsey Godoy, Cassidy Robinson, Claudia Cervantes, Natasha Wesely, Madison McGhan and Jordan Beck.  
**BACK ROW:** Eric Crosbie, Anna Panorska, Kate Pollard, Jacob Kingsley, Jannet Vreeland, Peter Weisberg, William Roser, Krishna Pagilla, Ezequiel Korin, Emily MacDiarmid, Ryan Parrish and Lisa Thomas '93, '03.

Family, friends, college deans and University administrators joined the Nevada Alumni Association to recognize graduates with one of the most prestigious awards at the University — the Senior Scholar distinction. The event honored the top graduating student with the highest grade-point average in their respective school or college. Also recognized were the mentors selected by each scholar as having the greatest impact on their studies.

### COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, BIOTECHNOLOGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

**Natasha Katerina Wesely**  
**GPA: 4.0**  
**Mentor:** Peter Weisberg

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**Madison Leigh McGhan**  
**GPA: 4.0**  
**Mentor:** Sara Parrish

### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

**William Fredrick Roser**  
**GPA: 3.992**  
**Mentor:** Mohamed A. Moustafa

### COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

**Cassidy Cristyn Robinson**  
**GPA: 3.990**  
**Mentor:** Kate Pollard

### COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

**Jacob Benjamin Kingsley**  
**GPA: 3.989**  
**Mentor:** Anna Panorska

### ORVIS SCHOOL OF NURSING

**Jordan Dawn Beck**  
**GPA: 4.0**  
**Mentor:** Lisa Thomas '93, '03

### REYNOLDS SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

**Emily J. MacDiarmid**  
**GPA: 3.946**  
**Mentor:** Ezequiel Korin

### SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES

**Lindsey Ann Godoy**  
**GPA: 3.992**  
**Mentor:** Eric Crosbie

### THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**Claudia Cervantes**  
**GPA: 4.0**  
**Mentor:** Jannet Vreeland



# Join the Nevada Family Tree Challenge!



Do you have a Nevada Family? Join our Family Tree Challenge and let us know! Submit your Nevada Family Tree to [silverblue@unr.edu](mailto:silverblue@unr.edu), and your family could be featured in the Silver & Blue.

All you need to do is email [silverblue@unr.edu](mailto:silverblue@unr.edu) with a list of all the Nevada grads in your family and a few sentences on what the University of Nevada means to you. We'll confirm graduation years and degrees. If your family tree qualifies, we'll print your Nevada Family Tree in the Silver & Blue!

Email your Nevada Family Tree to [silverblue@unr.edu](mailto:silverblue@unr.edu).





## Nevada Alumni Association *Membership*

While all Nevada grads are part of the alumni family, dues-paying members of the Nevada Alumni Association take that extra step to show their Pack pride and support their University. Membership dues fund student scholarships, programming and help promote a thriving alumni community.

**Exclusive**  
member events



Chapter  
**networking**



Watch **parties**



# NEVADA

*unr.edu/alumni*



**Join**  
 the largest  
 organization of  
 proud Nevada  
 alumni today!

## Membership Fees

Annual \$ <b>50</b>	Annual Joint \$ <b>75</b>
Lifetime \$ <b>700</b>	Lifetime Joint \$ <b>875</b>
Annual Senior \$ <b>40</b>	Lifetime Senior \$ <b>600</b>
Annual Senior Joint \$ <b>60</b>	Lifetime Senior Joint \$ <b>750</b>



Student **Scholarships**

Member-only  
**discounts**



An alumni chapter  
 for **everyone**

# ALUMNI



## ALUMNI GATHERINGS



### Evening at the Elm Estate

The Women of Silver & Blue held their 2nd annual Evening at the Elm Estate Oct. 3. At this sold-out event, Nevada Alumni Association members and friends received a lesson in cheese pairings from the Cheese Board Chef Sasha Steele.

📷 Theresa Danna

- 1** Linda Garcia, Julie Ardito '89, Cindy Buchanan '95, Kerri Garcia Hendricks '92, Christina Stover Young and Patricia Richard '89, '92 M.A.
- 2** Connie Stechman and Amy Ozuna '08.
- 3** Kylie Keenan '11, Holly Irwin, Ann Wilkinson and Stephanie Hanna '96.
- 4** Cheese Board Chef Sasha Steele.
- 5** Therese Hall-Peltier '74, '84 M.Ed., '92 Ed.Sc. and Retta Dermody.
- 6** Shirley George, Kris Layman '93, Angela Falco and Molly Isaia '71.





## Women of Silver & Blue Winter Social

The Women of Silver & Blue held their 3rd annual Winter Social benefitting Pack Provisions Dec. 3 at Whispering Vine. Thank you to everyone who came out for this important cause and donated much-needed items.

**7** Melanie Jubenville '13, Phyllis Martin '87, Astrid Yarhi '05, Erica Tabano '10 and Nelly Mena. **8** Amber Maraccini '13 M.A., '16 Ph.D.; Kathryn Roose '14 M.A.; Genevieve Debernardis '09 M.A., '14 Ph.D. **9** Nearly 60 Nevada alumnae and friends mixed, mingled and donated much-needed items for Pack Provisions.



### Nevada Alumni Chapter Football Tailgates

Nevada Alumni Chapters were out in full-force to cheer on the Pack against UNLV Nov. 30 in Mackay Stadium.

**10** Members and friends of the Fallon Alumni Chapter on their roter bus from Fallon to Mackay Stadium. **11** Members and friends of the Nevada Football Alumni Association at their tailgate: Jessica Langley '17, Matt Airoidi '94, Russell Musselman '81, Richard Flanigan and Jeremy Harrison. **12** Members and friends of the Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter at Dom De-marcos in Las Vegas. **13** Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter





### A Celebration of Native American Art

The Nevada Alumni Association, the Native American Alumni Chapter and The Lilley Museum of Art teamed up to celebrate Native American Heritage Month Nov. 14. The artist's talk and reception in The Lilley featured renowned artist Melissa Melero-Moose of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe.

**13** Brian Melendez '11, '14 MJM; Robin Smuda; Alicia Reyes '18; Melissa Melero-Moose; Aspen Carillo, Kathleen Wright-Bryan '09, '11 MJM and Native American Alumni Chapter President Stephanie Wyatt '12.

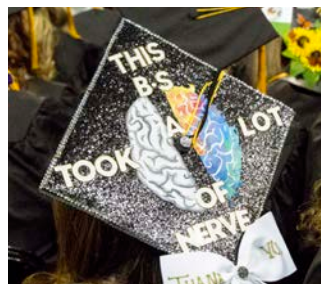
### Winter Commencement

The University's December Commencement ceremonies in Lawlor Events Center Dec. 7 saw the conferral of 1,868 degrees. Nevada State Supreme Court Justice Lidia Stiglich addressed the morning ceremony and United States Senator Jacky Rosen addressed the afternoon ceremony.

**14** Theresa Danna

**14** Renee Onyeagbaka. **15** Regent Carol Del Carlo '72, President Marc Johnson, and Associate Professor Brian Frost, the University Marshal.

**16** Brennan Powell, Matthew Melendre and Mitchel Cunningham. **17** Anne Rarick, Molly Finegan, Sarah Whitson '16, Rachael Kral '14 and Qunta Kum.



## REMEMBERING FRIENDS

### FRIENDS

**Kathleen Clark**  
*Sept. 19, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**David W. Peel**  
*July 26, 2019 — Sparks, Nev.*

### FACULTY

**Susan E. Brandon '93, '94 M.S.**  
*Sept. 19, 2017 — Auburn, Calif.*

**Elisabeth 'Jane' J. (Smith)  
Constantino**  
*Aug. 13, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Dorothy (Bridges) Cooney**  
*March 11, 2019 — Plano, Texas*

**Stephanie A. Fraser '99 Ph.D.**  
*2019 — Mystic, Conn.*

**John Hallett**  
*Nov. 5, 2018 — Reno, Nev.*

**Laurel S. Hedeem '07**  
*July 30, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Ronald L. Lee '68, '88 M.S.**  
*Sept. 13, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Denise D. (Daily) McKee '77, '81 M.D.**  
*Aug. 25, 2019 — Yerington, Nev.*

**Mark G. Simkin**  
*Aug. 30, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*



Elisabeth 'Jane' J.  
(Smith) Constantino



Mark G. Simkin



Vida G. (Jacobsen)  
Crawford '43



Charles N.  
Saulisberry '50

## ALUMNI

**Vida G. (Jacobsen) Crawford '43**  
*Oct. 3, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Donald Cunningham '50**  
*June, 2018 — Fair Oaks, Calif.*

**Charles N. Saulisberry '50**  
*Aug. 20, 2019 — Carson City, Nev.*

**Joseph R. Vizina, attended 1951-52**  
*Sept. 19, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Jarvis Bastian '52**  
*May 1, 2016 — Davis, Calif.*

**Fred M. Bratmon '52**  
*March 18, 2018 — Los Angeles, Calif.*

**Procter R. Hug '53, '66 (honorary degree),  
'10 (honorary degree)**  
*Oct. 17, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Barbara K. (Jackson) Laveaga '54**  
*July 11, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Virgil A. Bucchianeri '60**  
*Oct. 20, 2019 — Virginia City, Nev.*

**Cherk H. Chang '63**  
*Aug. 30, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**William K. Lohse '63**  
*May 6, 2015 — Seattle, Wash.*

**Franz W. Nenzel '63**  
*Sept. 18, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Robert L. Hunter '64**  
*2019 — Carson City, Nev.*

**Gary M. Tachaires '64**  
*2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**George M. Booth '65 M.S.**  
*Sept. 20, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Jeanette R. (Hansen) Kitts '65**  
*Oct. 8, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Robert L. Call '67 M.Ed.**  
*Aug. 14, 2019 — Elko, Nev.*

**Kathryn V. (Vinyard) McKee '67, '69 M.Ed.**  
*May 13, 2019 — Aurora, Colo.*

**Cecilia P. (Cryder) Parr-Norton '67**  
*Aug. 6, 2019 — Reno, Nev.*

**Clair A. Black '69, '70 M.A.**  
*May 20, 2013 — Livingston, Texas*

**Richard H. Heinaen '69**  
*2017 — Crestview, Fla.*



Procter R. Hug '53,  
'66 (honorary degree),  
'10 (honorary degree)



Barbara K. (Jackson)  
Laveaga '54



Franz W. Nenzel '63



George M.  
Booth '65 M.S.



Ronald L.  
Lee '68, '88 M.S.



Douglas H.  
Johnson '72, '75

**Robert G. Jones '70**

Aug. 15, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Vernon E. Barnes '71, '79**

July 23, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Frank G. Leavitt '71 M.S.**

Aug. 27, 2019 — Cape Elizabeth, Maine

**Maria E. (Jaramillo) Martin,**

attended 1972-2005, Oct. 5, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Douglas H. Johnson '72, '75**

Sept. 17, 2019 — Sparks, Nev.

**Lawrence A. Bogdon '73**

Oct. 3, 2019 — Sparks, Nev.

**Daniel W. Horgan '73**

Sept. 9, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Lynn E. Aldis '74**

Aug. 28, 2019 — Costa Mesa, Calif.

**Maren A. Teilman '74**

July 8, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Mabel (Henrichs Welsh) Mayes,**

attended 1974, 2019 — Iowa Falls, Iowa

**Noreen L. Welch, attended 1976-77**

Aug. 21, 2019 — Washoe Valley, Nev.

**Lori A. Quilici-McCleary '77**

Oct. 3, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Kathleen A. Hoff '82, '93 M.Ed.**

Sept. 11, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Michael E. Curti '86**

Sept. 22, 2019 — Winnemucca, Nev.

**Stan Cooper '87**

Sept. 4, 2019 — Sparks, Nev.

**Cheryl J. Harwell '90**

July 23, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Thomas P. Barton '92**

May 26, 2019 — Redmond, Wash.

**David Cullen '92 MJS**

July 3, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Amy M. Holland, attended 1994 -95**

July 17, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Stephanie A. Fraser '99 Ph.D.**

2019 — Mystic, Conn.

**Kristin Siddal '04**

Sept. 14, 2019 — Las Vegas, Nev.

**Laurel S. Hedeem '07**

July 30, 2019 — Reno, Nev.

**Gil B. Folk, attended 2010-13**

Aug. 23, 2019 



Daniel W. Horgan '73



Denise D. (Daily)  
McKee '77, '81 M.D.



Kathleen A.  
Hoff '82, '93 M.Ed.



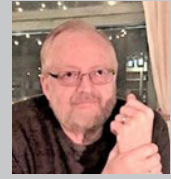
Michael E. Curti '86



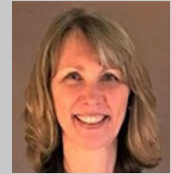
Stan Cooper '87



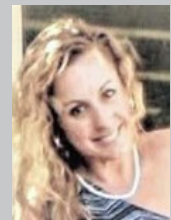
Robert G. Jones '70



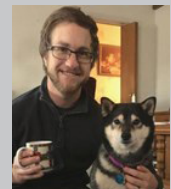
Vernon E.  
Barnes '71, '79



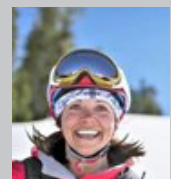
Stephanie A.  
Fraser '99 Ph.D.



Kristin Siddal '04



Gil B. Folk



Amy M. Holland

PACK  
TRACKS  
TRAVEL PROGRAM

Please visit [www.unr.edu/alumni](http://www.unr.edu/alumni) or call (888) NV ALUMS for more information.

**N**  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION



## 2020 Trips

- Awe Inspiring Antarctica
- Southern Grandeur
- Journey to South Africa
- Tulips, Windmills & Belgian Delights
- Celtic Charms
- Swiss Alps & the Italian Lakes
- Wonders of Peru
- Adriatic Awakening
- Holiday Markets – The Festive Rhine River

## 2021 Trips

- Italy & the Adriatic
- Gold Rush & Glaciers of Alaska
- Iberian Immersion
- Rhine Highlights
- Mayan Exploration
- Israel – Land of Cultural Treasures
- Croatia & the Dalmatian Coast
- Riches of the Emerald Isle
- France – Normandy
- Basque Country



## The E.W. McKenzie Civil Engineering Endowed Professorship honors a longtime Nevadan's legacy



The late Ernest W. McKenzie '43 and his wife Genevieve. The E.W. McKenzie Foundation Civil Engineering Professorship was recently established to honor the McKenzies' legacy at the University and in the community.

Courtesy Kim Colton '75

by CADDIE DUFURRENA '00

**A**s a pioneer in Nevada's construction industry, Ernest W. McKenzie '43 (civil engineering) founded one of Reno's most successful contracting businesses, McKenzie Construction, in 1953. With his company, he built or renovated many of the state's most iconic structures, including the restoration of the Nevada State Capitol Building and the construction of the Fleishmann Planetarium.

McKenzie's early years fueled his entrepreneurial spirit. He was born in Canada in 1918 and moved to Wadsworth, Nev. in 1924. He grew up without many luxuries, but his family believed in hard work and the power of an education. As a young boy in second grade, he met his childhood sweetheart, Genevieve, they were married in 1939.

McKenzie pursued his educational dreams of attending the University, and in 1943, earned his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. He then served in the United States Navy in the Pacific Theater during WWII. Upon his return, McKenzie and Genevieve continued to build their lives together, raising three children. A decade after earning his Nevada degree, he founded McKenzie Construction, a company that is still in operation more than 60 years later.

McKenzie's fondness for the people of Nevada and his desire to make sure that others had access to opportunities that he didn't as a young person led him to establish the E.W. McKenzie Foundation in 1997 to provide support for charitable causes in the community. His philanthropic spirit and love of the University was also what inspired him to establish the E.W. McKenzie Foundation Scholarship at Nevada, which has

been supporting students in the Colleges of Education and Engineering for more than 20 years. McKenzie was also engaged with the University as a member of the College of Engineering's Citizen's Advisory Council.

McKenzie passed away in 2002 at the age of 83, and the trustees of the McKenzie Foundation recently established the E.W. McKenzie Foundation Civil Engineering Endowed Professorship in the College of Engineering in his honor. The professorship will allow the college to attract and retain top faculty members.

"I think that the establishment of this professorship would bring tears to my father's eyes, were he still here with us," said Kim Colton '75 (English). "He cared deeply about the University and wanted to provide other rural Nevadans with the chance to grow and expand their horizons through educational opportunities."

The professorship will ensure that the legacy of Ernest W. McKenzie lives on at the University in perpetuity and it also honors his wife Genevieve, who is still living, and their 63 years of marriage.

McKenzie Construction and McKenzie Properties are currently being operated by a third generation of McKenzies. And an affinity for the University runs in the family's blood, as along with McKenzie's daughter, both of his sons, Dale '66 (economics) and Greg '70 (civil engineering), attended Nevada, as did Greg's wife Keni '70 (elementary education) and their daughter Megan '01 (elementary education). Colton's husband Stewart '75 (managerial science) and their sons, Adam '10 BGS and Benjamin '08 (economics) '10 M.S. are also alumni.



To learn more about supporting the College of Engineering, contact Flynn Ginty, director of development, at (775) 682-7696 or fginty@unr.edu; or Scott Krizman, associate director of development, at skrizman@unr.edu or (775) 682-7695.



To learn about making estate gifts, contact Lisa Riley, J.D., director of planned giving, at lriley@unr.edu or (775) 682-6017; or Brian Saeman, J.D. '98, director of development for planned giving, at bsaeman@unr.edu or (775) 682-5938.



passion

pride



ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

Tradition  
starts here.

Join today.

[unr.edu/alumni](http://unr.edu/alumni) | (775) 784-6620 | (888) NV-ALUMS