

From the President

A dynamic campus is a successful one

NEVADA
Silver&Blue

The magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno

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As a state university, our students benefit from significant investment from the state of Nevada and its citizens. Why is the public commitment to education important? Our country's first leaders considered public education as integral to democracy. Thomas Jefferson wanted education to be available to every citizen, including a university education to all who were capable, regardless of ability to pay. In advocating for legislation for education, he said: "I think by far the most important bill in our whole code, is that for the diffusion of knowledge among the people. No other sure foundation can be devised for the preservation of freedom and happiness..." In order to achieve these goals—freedom, happiness—we must: keep learning; engage in the issues of the day; and help those who need our help.

Lately, it has been a time of change on our campus: some by our own design, and some due to economic factors beyond our control. As part of our strategic repositioning in response to the governor's budget cuts, we are reorganizing our health-related programs into an expanded Division of Health Sciences, which will include the School of Medicine, the Orvis School of Nursing, the School of Social Work and the School of Public Health. This reorganization is driven by the recognition that optimal health care is provided by multidisciplinary teams who train and work together, focusing on meeting patient needs. In addition, the new emphasis on translational research makes this an opportunity for the growth of new research programs. This expanded division will provide rich choices for students seeking health careers and leverage existing strengths and infrastructure to create new opportunities for learning and research, emphasizing the importance of health care to our economy and statewide community.

Most of you have watched the progress of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. Further north we have the beginnings of a new medical precinct for our campus, which will include two new facilities: the Health Sciences Education Center and the Center for Molecular Medicine, a public-private partnership. On the east side of campus, we will break ground on the first new science classroom and laboratory building since 1972, when we had just 5,000 students. This important new facility, the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, is made possible through an investment from the state and through a generous gift from Jan and Bob Davidson.

These new facilities form a path toward a new future for this University. Through the investments of our students and private philanthropy, we are building a new heart and hearth of campus, a place where we can grow a hub of intellectual inquiry, cultural interaction, and creative endeavor, and a place to welcome the community to our living room. These are the beginnings of our sticky campus—a place where people come and engage.

Many of you know that I am obsessed with college graduation rates. This metric, more than any other, measures the sustainability of a community in all its dimensions. College graduates are part of an elite group of citizens of the world—too elite. Globally, only one person in a hundred has a college education—only one. College graduates have achieved a dream that most others have not; and with this distinction comes great responsibility to ensure future access to higher education.

Our University bears a significant responsibility in creating an educated citizenry, one that sustains and supports our local community, the state of Nevada, our nation and the world.

As I work with our students and see their maturity as leaders, I believe we can all take pride in the University's efforts to aspire to that Jeffersonian goal.

Sincerely,

Milton D. Glick
President
<http://www.unr.edu/president>



Milton Glick with Jan and Bob Davidson at the 2007 Honor Court Celebration.

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas