

Dan Klaich

Dan Klaich '72 (accounting)

The University of Nevada, Reno has played so many roles in my life that it is difficult to overstate them. I am a product of this University. I met my wife, Denise, here and three of my four children also graduated from here. Reno is my hometown and I appreciate how important the University is to the quality of life that we all enjoy.

I don't think there is any substitute for hard work. I work very hard and I expect people around me to do the same. I don't take myself very seriously, but I take my job very, very seriously. I like to enjoy myself and enjoy life. I laugh a lot. I prefer to be kind to people, and I think people return that kindness. There is no excuse for bad manners or harshness. I think people tend to mistake a good and decent person for a weak person. I believe that a strong leader can and should still be a decent and polite person.

None of us can be truly successful in any kind of professional endeavor unless we are successful and happy in our personal and private lives. There is nothing more important to me than my family and, foremost, my wife. One's family relationships set a tone for loyalty, respect and love that carries over into everything a person does.

The concept of returning something of what you have received from the University is misunderstood. Most of us aren't millionaires and can't make large naming gifts for buildings, but we can all make a difference. We can

mentor a high school student and tell that young man or woman why it is important to get an education. We can volunteer at an alumni event and we can pay our dues. We all can give according to what we have and we all have something to give.

When I look at the students at the University today, I see unbelievably bright, gifted and articulate men and women. This last year, I also saw engaged men and women as the students got angry about the budget. It was actually a throwback to my years at Nevada in the late '60s and early '70s when we got fired up about everything. My advice, particularly to young men and women, is to get engaged and stay engaged. We can either make our futures or let our futures happen to us. We can chart our course or just float down the river. That means being involved and not taking anything for granted.

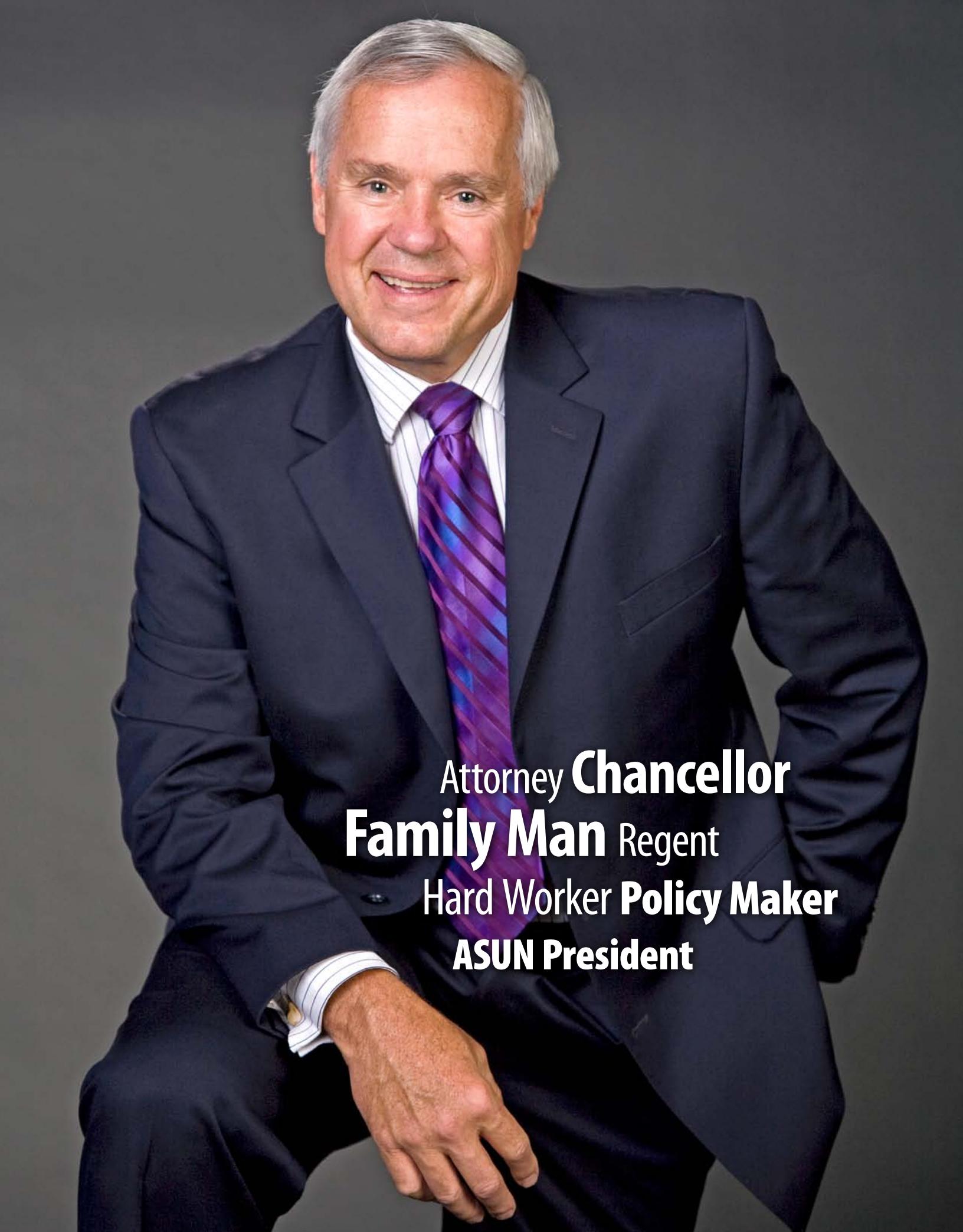
I've got the greatest job in the world. I have the ability to influence policy on higher education, which is what I believe is the key to the future of our state. This couldn't be a more incredible opportunity. People ask me why I would want to be chancellor now considering the issues, the budget and the economy. Why not? If education was ever critical to our state, now is the time. We are in the midst of a once-in-a-generation economic downturn that has exposed the weaknesses in our economy because we have not diversified it to the extent that we should and could. How are we going

to do that? Through education—from kindergarten to post-doctorate. We are not going to wish or luck ourselves into a better future. We are going to educate ourselves and our children into a brighter and a more diversified economy. That takes all of us committing to that effort to make it happen. As Charles Dickens wrote, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." I consider it the best of times.

From a conversation with Chancellor Dan Klaich in July with director of foundation operations Crystal Parrish. Klaich, a 1972 accounting graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, is the 10th chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education. Klaich served in private legal practice for almost 30 years prior to joining NSHE. He served on the Board of Regents from 1983 to 1997, including two terms as board chair. He joined the Chancellor's Office in October 2004, serving as NSHE's executive vice chancellor and chief operating officer until his appointment as chancellor in 2009. He received his juris doctorate in 1975 from the University of Washington and a master's in taxation from New York University in 1978. His wife, Denise, graduated from Nevada in 1973 with a degree in elementary education. They have four children—Kelly (Klaich) Roper '98 (history) '05M. Ed., Mitch Klaich '02 (marketing), Michon (Klaich) Colovich '03 (journalism), and Erin (Klaich) Kitchen (graduated from University of Texas and Harvard Law School).

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