

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE THAT YOU'RE MOST PROUD OF?

Personally, I am most proud of the way my wife, Janet, and I have fostered our values of integrity, hard work, generosity and good humor into the developing lives of our three, now-adult children. Our marathon-running son Eric has demonstrated the courage to follow his heart by setting aside his Reno attorney career in favor of entrepreneurially creating and managing major relay races for the running public in the West. Our equally athletic son Christopher perseveres in the challenging work of an actor, first in Los Angeles and now in New York. Our daughter, Leslie, puts her multilingual education to work helping others as a human resources executive for the national Kimpton hotel and restaurant group, based in San Francisco.

Professionally, I am most proud of my part in helping develop the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada. It is one thing to edit and publish newspapers and write books, which I have done. It is another, far more inspiring thing to find young talented students and guide them toward extraordinary careers in journalism.

Robin and Marilee Joyce are fine examples. Brother and sister, each took my law and management classes and developed leadership careers — Marilee '85 (journalism) owning a multimedia company in Washington, D.C., and Robin '83 (journalism) '04M.A., a media company in Las Vegas. They put their journalism school lessons to work daily in their professional lives.

Martha Bellisle '97 (journalism/international affairs) is another. A *Reno Gazette-Journal* reporter, she fights for First Amendment freedoms by opposing judicial restraints in courtrooms that would limit the free flow of information the public needs in our democracy.

Karole Morgan-Prager '84 (journalism) took the lessons learned as a fine student in



Photo by David Calvert

Warren Lerude '61 (journalism) rose from reporter to editor and publisher of the Reno Evening Gazette and Nevada State Journal newspapers. Lerude developed a career as a writer and national and international media management consultant. He led a team of editorial writers for the Reno papers to win a Pulitzer Prize in Journalism in 1977. Lerude has been a professor at the Reynolds School of Journalism for 26 years.

my First Amendment and Society (media law) class and went to UCLA Law School. She is a strong advocate for press freedom as the top attorney for McClatchy Company, a major American publishing organization.

In 26 years of teaching, I could cite hundreds of extraordinary students who went on to distinguished careers.

I am proud of our missions at the Reynolds School of Journalism to advocate the First Amendment freedoms serving democracy through free expression and to develop new generations of media professionals and scholars. The work goes on today and builds toward stronger tomorrows in the exciting age of new media ideas, content and technology.

WHAT DO YOU MOST REGRET?

I don't know if regret is the right word. I am frustrated by my inability to put learning into practice in so many new possibilities in the vastly changing world. For instance, I work in

journalism around the globe but I speak only English. This means translators have to be assigned to me so that I can communicate in other countries. I think there is a widespread regret among many Americans that we have not taken the time, in schools, in our personal lives, to learn other languages that could help us better understand other cultures. I wish at least one second language, perhaps two, would be required in all American schools from first through senior high school grades.

One of the problems of enthusiasts, and I am one of them, is that we so enthusiastically embrace areas of interest that in our tight focus we don't take the time to discipline ourselves into wider reaches of enthusiasms. I think we all deep down have some regret we can't be deep-sea divers and high-altitude pilots at the same time. One thing about journalism is that it does let us move around and avoid that worst curse, boredom.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE JUST STARTING OUT AFTER COLLEGE?

That's an easy one because I work with young people every day in classrooms and in internships as they pursue their futures.

My advice: Follow your heart and your head, not just one or the other. But lead with your heart. Your head will guide you. Do what makes you happy and don't just chase the dollar. If you do what makes you happy, you will do it well. You will evolve successfully in the opportunities you pursue, many of which will pop up as surprises in your journey.

But, above all, pursue with vigor and integrity what makes you happy — and stay with it. Persevere.

WHAT I'VE DONE WITH MY LIFE asks an alum who has been out of school for a while to answer the three questions above. Email your submission to silverblue@unr.edu, or send it via regular mail to: *Nevada Silver & Blue*, University of Nevada, Reno, Mail Stop 108, Reno, NV 89557-0108. Include a phone number. Don't exceed 650 words. Submissions may be posted at www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue.