



Photo by Jill Stockton

Port of Subs + College of Business = the ultimate hands-on learning lab

The Port of Subs sandwich shop in the University's Joe Crowley Student Union, opened in January 2008, is no ordinary sub shop. It is a hands-on learning lab for College of Business students.

Alumnus John Larsen, Nevada Small Business Development Center advisory board member and chief executive officer of the Reno-based Port of Subs corporation, opened the store.

"John has been involved with the Nevada Small Business Development Center for more than 20 years," said Director Sam Males. "His involvement was a catalyst for us to work together to see this idea evolve into a high-priority initiative for the college."

Larsen is helping enhance the quality edu-

cation business students receive.

"My original idea was to involve students in managing a business," Larsen said. "I thought it would be a great idea to expose them to the multidisciplinary nature of business."

Business professors Jim Sundali and Bret Simmons offered courses to help students "learn by doing." The professors designed the Management 491 class as a way for students to engage in operations and consulting.

Simmons led the operations group. He engaged three students in training and development opportunities at the Port of Subs corporate headquarters for a paid internship.

Undergraduate Corina Loving-Mills participated in the program as franchise assistant manager and marketing coordinator.

"My experience with Bret Simmons' class has been incredible," she said. "I returned to academia six years ago and transferred to the University two years ago. I have two grown children and had unsuccessfully run two businesses. My businesses failed because I did not have the knowledge it took to sustain them. That is why I wanted to participate in the internship.

Sundali's consulting group devoted its time to working on projects designed to directly improve the operation and profitability of Port of Subs' franchises and corporation.

"These students developed the idea to reverse the flow of the line in order to increase the average customer-service time substantially," Larsen said. "This idea seems simple, but when you place your order and pay first, the slicer hears it and keeps the customer from having to repeat themselves—you end up saving 15 to 20 seconds per customer."

Additional student ideas include reaching out to moms during inclement weather and investing money in a weather-monitoring service in order to eliminate unnecessary product waste.

"Business falls off in bad weather, and moms make the dinner decisions for the family," Larsen explained.

—Jill Stockton



Photo by Jean Dixon

Stephen MacLean watches and Hawley MacLean videotapes as the MacLean family telescope is removed by crane from its Incline Lake home.

Donation of MacLean Observatory enhances 'deep space' teaching, research capabilities

A donated observatory — including a 22-inch, research-quality telescope and dome — will be installed at the University's Redfield Campus next spring.

The MacLean Observatory will support research as well as allow teaching and viewing opportunities for students of the University, area community colleges and elementary schools, as well as the general public. The telescope's 22-inch diameter allows deep-space viewing of a caliber that will enhance research and university-level teaching.

"The MacLean Observatory will be a centerpiece for outreach," said Jeff Thompson, interim dean of the College of Science. "There is an amazing diversity of physics, chemistry and biology lessons that are not of this planet. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to introduce more students at all levels to what deep space and the stars can teach us. The MacLean family is making an important gift to our region."

—By Jane Tors '83



Davidson Academy moves to new location on campus

LEFT: Emma Schmelzer and Rachel Ellison, third-year Davidson Academy students and student council officers, participate in an open house Aug. 19 celebrating the academy's opening classes in the Jot Travis Building. RIGHT: Prospective students and their families. BOTTOM RIGHT: Davidson Academy Governing Board member Annette Whittemore speaking with academy founders Bob and Jan Davidson.



Photos by Theresa Llama-Douglas



Photos by Jean Dixon



Unearthing Virginia City's earliest years

University archaeologists are shedding light on what life was like in Virginia City during the time when Mark Twain called the place home. A summer field school from the University's Department of Anthropology and Extended Studies excavated for about five weeks in an area known as the Barbary Coast, known for vice and crime during the

1860s and 1870s, as well as the original site of Thomas Maguire's Opera House.

"We're looking for artifacts that will help us understand this important first period of Comstock history," said State Historic Preservation Officer Ron James, whose agency is providing federal funds supporting the project. "The early 1860s, when Virginia City was first taking shape, is the least understood in the history of this national historic landmark, and we hope to fill some gaps."

The excavations yielded many artifacts. Archaeologists are now cleaning, cataloguing and analyzing the artifacts, and will visit additional sites in Virginia City next summer.

"Most of the actual discoveries are made in the lab," said project director Don Hardesty (shown in photo on left), anthropology chair at the University and an official with the Comstock Archaeological Field School. "The archaeology method depends on precise understanding of the retrieved material in its context, and it is from that process that it is possible to draw conclusions about the past based on what has been retrieved."

Hardesty has directed several Virginia City excavations, including work at Piper's Opera House and at the African-American-owned Boston Saloon.

—Natalie Savidge '04



Photo by Jean Dixon

Ronald wraps career by garnering another 'Distinguished' university award for service

From her first day on campus as a 30-year-old, "wet-behind-the-ears" assistant professor of English in 1970, Ann Ronald has always been about learning new things. Perhaps that's why she has worn so many hats and worn them all so well during her career at Nevada.

At different times over the past 38 years, she has been known as an excellent classroom teacher, an exemplary researcher (earning the University's Outstanding Researcher award in 2005), one of the state's finest writers (she was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame in 2006), and a trailblazing administrator (serving as one of the campus' first female deans during her tenure with the College of Arts & Science from 1980-96).

Ronald, who officially retired from the University in January, capped her career in style in May, when she was named the winner of the campus' Distinguished Faculty award. Distinguished Faculty honors a faculty member in recognition for a lifetime of significant activities that have enhanced the University community, the city, state and nation.

"I think what I am proudest of is the company I keep," she said of her awards. "All (the previous award winners) are people whose work I really respect."

When she began her career at Nevada 38 years ago, Ronald was part of a much different campus. The University was the largest institution of higher education in the state, with an enrollment around 6,000 students (compared to nearly 17,000 today). She was one of only a handful of female professors on campus.

"It was a very different University," Ronald said. "I had gone to Northwestern for graduate school, and research was very much a part of what they did there. All of my training told me that research was something that an English professor should do.

"When I started at Nevada, there wasn't the same focus on research and scholarly work that there is now. By the time I had gotten tenure, enthusiasm for research was flourishing. Today, I'm very delighted to have been part of that sea of change."

Her writing has included the critically acclaimed *The New West of Edward Abbey* and a collaboration with award-winning photographer Stephen Trimble, *Earthtones: A Nevada Album*. She also wrote two compelling books about the region and its people, *GhostWest: Reflections Past and Present* and *Oh, Give Me A Home*.

At 68, Ronald has eased into retirement gracefully. She has just finished work on her latest book. A self-described "binge writer," there is a good likelihood that this most recent work, a fictional look at events occurring in 1953 at the Nevada Test Site, won't be her last.

—John Trent '85/'87, '00M.A.

Faces on the Quad

CHELSEA OTAKAN

UWIRE, a Web site and wire service devoted to coverage of work from the nation's student journalists, named Otakan one of the country's 100 top young professionals in the rapidly changing industry. A onetime biology major who switched to journalism, Otakan, a sophomore, has led Web design and content management for the University's *The Nevada Sagebrush* newspaper. In 2008-09, she takes over the 115-year-old publication's multimedia editor position. *UWIRE* and the Association of American Publishers have contacted Otakan about taking an internship position. She is pursuing a digital media minor this fall.



STACY KINION

A former University Studies Abroad Consortium student in Spain and Chile and now an enrollment assistant with the 33-university study abroad program headquartered on campus, Kinion plans a career as a foreign service officer. She was an intern at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid in 2007 and begins a one-year contract in the capital city in October, teaching English to Spanish kindergarteners through sixth-graders. Kinion, who says she has traveled to 18 countries in her 24 years, earned a dual bachelor's degree at Nevada this past December in international affairs and Spanish. Her undergraduate thesis was on the formation of the South American trade union, Mercosur. Kinion's next goal is to master Arabic.



Photo courtesy University chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers

The University of Nevada, Reno took first place at the American Society of Civil Engineers' 21st annual National Concrete Canoe Competition.

Concrete canoe team wins nationals

The University's concrete canoe team topped thousands of engineering students from around North America by piloting its boat, Argentum, to the campus' first national title at the 21st annual Concrete Canoe Competition in Montreal, Canada.

About 40 Nevada students logged more than 2,600 hours of work during 10 months of preparation for the June 21 competition, sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The team's triumph against 21 other institutions ended a five-year championship streak for the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "It's just so hard to contain yourself," said Robert Coomes, team paddler and president of the University's ASCE student chapter. "We knew we'd done well, but as they did the reverse count of the top five teams at the awards dinner, we were just holding our breath until they announced second place and it still wasn't Nevada."

The University of California, Berkeley placed second to Nevada and Wisconsin was sixth in the event held in Montreal's Olympic Basin, site of the 1976 Summer Games. There were four competition categories for the student-built boats: overall appearance, technical design paper, oral presentation and paddling. The top three teams at the national competition won \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500 scholarships for first, second and third place, respectively.

Argentum—Latin for silver—had zero deductions out of 100 in the design category, placed third in the oral presentations, and for the first time in Nevada history, placed above fifth in all of the races. Races include the women's and men's endurance, sprint and a co-ed race.

"I was incredibly blessed to be in Montreal to see it happen," said David Sanders, Nevada civil and environmental engineering professor and the team's adviser. "Our students were absolutely fantastic, and their sportsmanship as great ambassadors for the University was unbelievable. They (scored) high in all categories and this is a huge win, not just for the College of Engineering but for the entire University."

—Sue Putnam

2008 National Concrete Canoe Competition final standings

- 1) University of Nevada, Reno
- 2) University of California, Berkeley
- 3) École de technologie supérieure, Montreal
- 4) California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- 5) University of Florida
- 6) University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 7) Clemson University
- 8) Michigan Technological University
- 9) University of California, Los Angeles
- 10) University of Wisconsin-Platteville



Photo by Jean Dixon

Hug High School student Mamele Wrights, left, meets her new mentor, Marsha Dupree, from the McNair Scholars Program.

ASCENT mentors shaping students' future on campus

The University's ASCENT mentorship program—partnership with the Washoe County School District—is on the move this fall, bringing mentors and mentees together, on campus, for the first time to tour the University.

ASCENT, All Students College Educated in Nevada Today, is based on a model started by the Gates Foundation in Seattle. Introduced to northern Nevada in 2007, the partnership between Reno's Hug High School and the University produced 160 pairs of mentors/mentees with similar interests. The University's Student Services division directs the ASCENT program, which connects successful members of the community with high school sophomores, to help make a positive difference in students' lives and to assist them in reaching their goal of attending Nevada.

Volunteer mentors are asked to commit up to three hours a month with their mentee specifically discussing college aspirations and offering guidance on college applications, financial goals, scholarships and career opportunities. Many of the students will be the first in their family to attend a university.

Also planned this fall is a scholarship and financial aid workshop as well as an invitation for mentees to attend a Wolf Pack basketball game. Next spring, the program is making preparations to expand and will start matching mentors with incoming freshmen.

For more information on ASCENT, contact Ellen Houston '96 (journalism) at ehouston@unr.edu or call (775) 682-8404.

—Natalie Savidge '04



Photo by Jean Dixon

University hosts 10,000 youth in summer programs

The University campus played host this summer to more than 5,000 young students, ranging from third- through 12th-graders, all attending summer camps this year. Students were advised, coached, educated and entertained from the beginning of June through the middle of August.

Including other programs offered around the state, more than 10,000 young students participated in a University-sponsored summer program.

“It is important that parents and families have healthy, safe options for kids during the summer,” University President Milton Glick said. “Through these summer camps, young students have fun while they also learn. Perhaps more important, though, they are introduced to a university campus. Our hope is that this experience contributes to these students setting a personal goal to one day attend college and earn a degree.”

In addition to the popular, seven-week KIDS University program administered through Extended Studies, other on-campus programs and camps included the Engineering Exploration Camp through the College of Engineering, Dean’s Future Scholars and Girls’ Math and Technology Camp put on through the College of Education, and the THINK Summer Institute sponsored by the Davidson Institute for Talent Development, part of the campus-based Davidson Academy of Nevada.

Nevada Wolf Pack team members and coaches instructed more than 2,600 young athletes, many of whom stayed in campus residence halls during the variety of week-long sports camps.

The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension’s 19 locations throughout the state also offer educational programs in the summer to nearly 5,500 students in the areas of agriculture, physical development, safety, literacy, community development, health and nutrition, horticulture and natural resources. The ever-popular 4-H programs teach leadership, citizenship and life skills year-round, and serve nearly 50,000 youth, ages 5 to 19, in the state.

—Natalie Savidge '04

President appoints Barone to national literacy studies post

Diane Barone, a professor of literacy studies in the College of Education, has been appointed by President George W. Bush to the advisory board of the National Institute for Literacy, a federal agency that provides leadership on literacy issues, including the improvement of reading instruction for children, youth and adults.

“It’s huge,” Barone said. “I’ve been on some great boards and large literacy panels, but this is a chance to have our voices heard in a bigger arena.”

The advisory board consists of just 10 people appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate. Board members represent a variety of entities associated with adult literacy including service providers, businesses with an interest in literacy,

experts in literacy research, representatives of labor organizations and others.

Barone teaches courses in literacy and performs research on young children’s literacy development. She has completed a four-year study of children who had prenatal exposure to crack-cocaine and a seven-year study of children in at-risk schools.

“This appointment is clearly an indication of Diane’s national reputation in the area of literacy studies,” College of Education Dean William Sparkman said. “She will bring years of significant research and professional practice to the board, and more importantly, a real sense of what works in schools for struggling readers. She will be a powerful voice for sensible educational policies in all areas of literacy instruction.”

Barone has written several books, served for eight years as the editor of *Reading Research Quarterly*, and is the principal investigator of the \$26 million dollar Reading First grant in Nevada. This grant is focused on improving students’ literacy learning in the primary grades.

—Sue Putnam

Tips to help parents ensure a strong start in literacy development



Photo by Jean Dixon

- Read with your child daily. Engage your child as you read. For instance, you might ask, “What do you notice here?”
- Create an alphabet book using logos from newspapers or magazines. For example, you might cut out the arches from McDonalds for the “M” page. Children recognize familiar logos and pictures and can then associate the sound/symbol attached to the beginning consonant.
- Have children write in a journal. At first the writing might be pictures, but eventually children will include letters and then letters that represent words. Ask the child about what he or she has written, do not focus on errors you might notice.



Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglas

Casper looks at Mount Vernon stories on C-SPAN2

Scott Casper made his first appearance on C-SPAN2's Book TV series an important part of the American historical record.

In his newest book, *Sarah Johnson's Mount Vernon: The Forgotten History of an American Shrine*, the University professor and department chair of history chronicled the contributions of African-American families who maintained and preserved George Washington's Virginia estate first as slaves and later as paid employees. He appeared on the program May 31.

"In 1998, I set out to study how much the average American knew about the personal lives of their presidents and presidents' families in the decades before the age of radio or television," Casper said. "As my research evolved, I came upon another great story about the people responsible for carefully preserving and recreating the history of Mount Vernon."

The book examines the experiences of hundreds of African-Americans who lived on and around the large estate for more than 120 years.

"These people had a unique experience by virtue of living at a shrine and yet, in other contexts, their experience was very representative of their own time period," Casper said. "In the 1880s, tourists wanted to see Mount Vernon as a place frozen in time. The emancipated African-Americans who worked there recreated history every day for tourists."

—Pat McDonnell



Photo by Theresa Dama-Douglas

Nevada reaches National Merit sponsorship status

Attracting the best and brightest students makes an important statement about a university.

Nevada has met the college sponsorship requirements of the National Merit Scholarship Program, allowing it to join the list of sponsor schools in recruitment materials sent to students across the country who are contending for the coveted scholarships.

"Really bright students lift the level of the educational experience for everyone," said University President Milt Glick. "As you achieve a critical mass of these students, teachers begin to teach differently. This—and the fact that students learn from one another—leads to a more engaging and dynamic educational environment."

When Glick joined Nevada in 2006, he issued a challenge to recruit more National Merit Scholars. Now, only two years later, the campus has seen significant progress in reaching that goal.

To be named a sponsor school, the University enrolled a minimum of six National Merit finalists for two consecutive years. Those students selected Nevada as their first choice.

This fall, the University's student body includes 17 National Merit Scholars, as well as more than 90 Presidential Scholars, a University program established in the 1980s. Both programs set a high achievement standard for grade-point average as well as performance on college entrance exams.

National Merit Scholars receive a \$15,000 annual scholarship and Presidential Scholars receive a \$5,000 annual scholarship. As a clear indication of the University's commitment to elevate the academic experience on campus, these scholarships are funded through the University's scholarship and aid budget.

Many other universities offer full-ride scholarships, but it takes more than financial commitment to recruit and enroll these students.

"We knew that if we could get these students on our campus and have them meet our faculty, we would have a very good chance of them choosing us," said Suzanne Bach, scholarship coordinator at Nevada. "They see our campus and our facilities, and they are impressed. We have them meet with professors in their area of interest and they see that our faculty members are genuinely interested in them as an individual."

For more information, visit www.nationalmerit.org or www.finaid.unr.edu.

—Jane Tors '83

"I have been very satisfied with my choice to attend Nevada," says 2008 Merit Scholar Muir Morrison. I have had great classes from great professors and made wonderful new friends. The greatest part of being here has been the opportunity to work in a lab in the physics department, a chance I would have been unlikely to get as a freshman at another school."