

Alumni Award Winners

Professional Achievement Awards

Gerald "Jerry" Wyness '52 (physical education)

Jerry Wyness enrolled at Nevada in the fall of 1946 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force Reserve in May 1950 he served on active duty from April 1952 through September 1953 (Korean War). Jerry attended San Jose State, obtaining his teaching credential and master's in 1955. He also taught and coached football and track at Coalinga, California High School and Junior College from 1954-61. Jerry also spent 24 years at San Francisco State University as a professor and athletic director from 1967 to 69. For 19 years, he served at Saint Mary's College in Moraga, Calif. as an adjunct professor in the graduate sport management degree program. During his 49 years in higher education, Jerry wrote two college level textbooks, authored more than 30 articles and gave more than 60 professional presentations.



Dr. Michael Patmas '75 (biology), '77M.S. (biology), '81M.D.

Dr. Michael Patmas is a board-certified internist, physician-executive and clinician-educator. Starting practice in 1984, Michael has held faculty appointments at the University of Nevada, Reno, University of Pennsylvania, at Providence Portland Medical Center and at Oregon Health Sciences University. In July 2007, he became CEO of the Saint Alphonsus Medical Group, a 140-provider multi-specialty group. As CEO, Michael provides clinical and administrative leadership to the physicians while overseeing the financial, operational and clinical functions within. He is a Certified Physician Executive, Fellow of the American College of Physician Executives, and served on the American College of Physician Executives Board of Directors.



Felicia O'Carroll '76 (accounting)

Felicia O'Carroll is a partner in the certified public accounting firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. She began with the firm in 1976 and was the first woman in the firm elected to shareholder status. Felicia is an instructor for the Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants and was recently appointed to serve a term on the Nevada State

Board of Accountancy. She is currently the president of the Board of Directors of Health Access Washoe County, and the treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Felicia recently completed a six-year term on the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Board of Trustees and continues to serve on a number of committees as an emerita trustee.



Bernard Kwok '81 (electrical engineering), '84MBA

Bernard Kwok is Symantec's senior vice president of the Asia Pacific and Japan geography, responsible for driving the company's sales and business development across more than 17 countries. Bernard serves as the senior leader for the overall Symantec business in Asia Pacific and Japan. Most recently, Bernard served as president of the Greater China Region, where he was responsible for managing the company's operations in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Bernard joined Symantec following the merger of the company with Veritas Software. At Veritas Software, he was president for the Greater China Region, responsible for expanding market share of Veritas' utility computing solutions and developing the company's core strength of storage management software.



David LaPlante '93 (finance/economics)

David LaPlante is CEO of Twelve Horses, a full-service relationship marketing and messaging company. David brings 16 years of marketing, sales, customer relationship management and direct marketing applications development experience to Twelve Horses. He was named "Marketer of the Year" by Northern Nevada's American Marketing Association in 2004 and recently was the recipient of the Reno-Tahoe Young Professionals Network's "20 Under 40" award. The Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada recognized Twelve Horses as its "2005 Business of the Year," and most recently the Technology Business Alliance of Nevada honored Twelve Horses as the "2007 Technology Company of the Year."



Outstanding Young Alumnus Award

Caesar Ibarra '00 (accounting)

Caesar Ibarra graduated from the University of Nevada in May of 2000 with a bachelor's of science in business administration, having majored in accounting. He immediately began his career with a local CPA firm, Muckel Anderson CPAs, where he interned during his junior and senior years at the University. Caesar is still with Muckel Anderson CPAs today, and was admitted as partner in August 2007. Caesar was named president of the College of Business Administration Alumni Association in Fall 2006. Caesar married his college sweetheart, Theresa '99 (education) '04M.Ed. (literacy studies). They have two children, Kaylyn, 5, and Mia, 2.



Seema Donahoe '02 (journalism)

After graduation, Seema Donahoe went on to work at CLM Design where she designed for Tahoe Quarterly and Frontier Airlines in-flight magazine, as well as several hotel-casino and regional clients. She collected several Addy awards and a Maggie for her design work. From there, Seema went to International Game Technology and spent two years designing glass for popular IGT games. In 2007, she made a shift to human resources to pursue her passion for the community. As communications and community relations specialist, Seema's focus is on building community partnerships with IGT employees. Since graduating, she's been actively involved with the Young Alumni Chapter and is currently serving a term on the Alumni Council. Seema married her college sweetheart, Timothy '03 (hydrogeology), in 2007.



Scott Walquist '02 (journalism)

Scott Walquist joined KPS3 as an integrated marketing communications manager in February 2003 after graduating from the Reynolds School of Journalism in December 2002. Scott received



his bachelor's in journalism with an emphasis in public relations and a minor in marketing. Prior to joining KPS[3], he worked as a media services writing intern for the University's athletic department in 1999. In 2001, Scott became an intern in the University Relations office where he developed a keen sense for writing on a deadline and media relations. This position led to a spot on the Wolf Pack men's basketball team's stat crew, where he is still active today.

University Service Award

Ted Nigro

As a dear friend of the University, Ted Nigro has served on the Foundation Board of Trustees and been an integral part of establishing trusts to support the schools of medicine and nursing. Ted served as managing co-executor for the estate of Frances E. Dant, wherein the residue of her estate funded an endowment for the University's School of Medicine. He was final trustee of the Fred & Anne Anderson Trust, wherein several endowments were established for scholarships benefiting medical and nursing students. Ted spent a number of years on the University's School of Medicine's Advisory Board and the University's Foundation Investment Committee.



Jan Brady '63 (nursing), '86MBA

Jan Brady was awarded a Fleischmann Scholarship in home economics. She started at the University of Nevada in the fall of 1959. She transferred to Orvis School of Nursing in 1961 and graduated in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in nursing. Jan returned to the University in 1984 and earned her MBA in 1986. Jan has served her alma mater as president for the Human and Community Sciences Alumni Chapter, 1994-96; trustee for the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, 2001-07; and emerita trustee for the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, 2007-08. Jan currently serves on the Foundation's scholarship, special events and Vintage Nevada committees. Jan and Tom married in 1981 and they have three daughters and four grandchildren.



Julie Ardito '89 (journalism)

Julie Ardito is public relations director for the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada. Currently, she oversees a national public relations program to increase the profile of the region and to help recruit skilled professionals to the area. She has been greatly involved in the University of Nevada Alumni Council and Association, serving as president in 2006 and spending four years as vice president of membership and marketing. Julie annually emceeds the College of Engineering dinner, as well as serves on the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism Professional Advisory Board. She is also a regular guest lecturer at the J-School's PR and Ethics classes and mentors the Nevada interns at EDawn.



Alumni Association Service Award

Bill Chaffin '66 (political science)

Bill Chaffin was instrumental in the establishment of the Sacramento Alumni Chapter and as president, his focus was on fundraising to benefit students. He was a University of Nevada Foundation Trustee and member of the Alumni Council. During his days at Nevada, Bill was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity, as well as ASUN president. As an ROTC graduate, he served three years in the Army (1st Infantry in Vietnam) and was awarded the Purple Heart. He has been an attorney in Sacramento for more than 30 years and co-authored three practice manuals: Premises Liability: Preparation and Trial of a Difficult Case in California, Insurance Litigation in California and Effective Discovery Procedures in California.



Dr. James Conkey '83 (biology)

Dr. Jim Conkey attended Nevada after four years in the Navy. Jim majored in biology with an emphasis on zoology and had many great experiences studying wildlife in Little Valley and Owens



Valley in California. He feels strongly that his education at the University prepared him for graduate school, as he is now an optometrist in a group practice in Reno. Jim was nominated for the Alumni Council by his high school principal, Carl Shaff '59 (elementary education), '64M.Ed. (education), who has also been very active with the University over the years. The experience of serving on the Alumni Council has been extremely rewarding for Jim, and has enabled him to focus on engaging students with the association.

Kiara Wolf '92 (music), '97M.Ed. (elementary education)

Having earned a bachelor's in music and a master's in elementary education at Nevada, Kiara taught in Washoe County for seven years before family health issues necessitated a move back to Las Vegas. Back in the heat, Kiara taught for six years for the Clark County School District. In 1999, Kiara, along with Dawn Etchevery Miller '94 (music education), took over the Alumni Band and built it into a large, active chapter. In 2000, Kiara was elected to the Alumni Council, where she served two terms. Kiara married fellow University alumnus Kelly Wolf '92 (music education). They have two daughters, Karina and Karissa.



Outstanding Chapter of the Year

Fallon Alumni Chapter

Established in the early 1980s, the Fallon Alumni Chapter had three goals: to celebrate their common University of Nevada heritage, raise money to fund scholarships for students attending the University and promote the University to local, Fallon area, parents and students. The Fallon Chapter traditions include the Mystery Bus Ride, culminating in a dinner at the end of an unknown trail; a "Step-N-Out" package, featuring a trip to Reno for dinner and a show; and the Athletic Rooter Bus to Wolf Pack men's football, basketball and baseball games and to women's softball, basketball and volleyball games. The Chapter takes most pride in its scholarship program, which awards four \$1,000 scholarships a year to qualifying students. To date, nearly 100 have been awarded.