Funds for the future: This fall the 26th Annual Foundation Banquet, presented by Platinum Sponsors, the Whittemore Family Foundation and the E.L. Wiegand Foundation, raised $130,000 for numerous educational opportunities at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Polite conversation: Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, baseball historian and best-selling author George Will entertained the crowd with his insightful view of the “Political Environment Today”, drawing on his experience as a nationally syndicated columnist, New York Times bestselling author and founding panel member of ABC television’s This Week.

A leap of success: Much of this year’s success was attributed to an increase in banquet sponsorships to 12 from last year’s nine, and ticket sales of more than 780 compared to nearly 600 last year. Other sponsors this year: Gold Sponsor, the E.L. Cord Foundation; Silver Sponsors, John Ascuaga’s Nugget, Michonne Ascuaga and Dr. Kevin Linkus, Ann Carlson ’59 (business),’78M.Ed, Jones Vargas, McDonald Carano Wilson LLP, R & R Partners, The Reno Gazette-Journal, Sierra Pacific Power Company, and Jane Witter ’74 (speech/theatre).
Raising a glass to scholarships: Also this fall the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation hosted the 17th annual Vintage Nevada, a wine tasting and auction. This event is recognized by wine enthusiasts as the best wine tasting experience in northern Nevada.

A taste for every palate: This event presented more than 1,800 guests an incomparable wine selection. More than 500 wines were available to sample. The Eldorado Hotel and Casino, Harrah’s Reno, the Silver Legacy and Trader Joe’s offered a variety of culinary creations including elaborate antipasti plates, ravioli, Dungeness crab cakes and polenta triangles with aged parmesan. The desserts were as popular as, and paired well with, the many wines.

A great mix: Amazing auction items included once-in-a-lifetime trips, VIP winery visits and much more. Proceeds help fund scholarships for University students.

The Paul Roth Trio entertained the crowd for most of the evening. This popular jazz band is made up of students studying music in the School of the Arts, within the College of Liberal Arts. Faculty members Paul Roth on sax, and Hans Halt ’99 (applied music) ’01M.M. on bass.

Jim Dincan of Western Nevada Supply and Judy Aadubec enjoyed wine and the many desserts, ranging from chocolate covered strawberries to complex fusions of white chocolate and truffles.

Dan Allen ’92 (accounting), Ken Bartlett, Gilli Bartlett and Mary Allen ’89 (consumer science) enjoyed the fine wine and great food at Vintage Nevada.

Trevor Leppek ’04 (marketing) and Brandon Peterson took the opportunity at Vintage Nevada to learn more about wine. Vendors are happy to educate the guests and share the notes behind their special blends.