

NEVADA

Silver&Blue

The magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno

www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

Nevada Silver & Blue is published quarterly
by Development and Alumni Relations
University of Nevada, Reno.

2008 © by the University of Nevada, Reno. Reproduction in
whole or part without written permission is prohibited.

Contact us by mail, phone or FAX:
Morrill Hall/0007
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557-0007
(775) 682-6022
FAX: (775) 784-1394

For address changes:
University of Nevada, Reno Foundation/162
Reno, Nevada 89557-0162
(775) 784-1587
email: silverblue@unr.edu

Class Notes submissions: chatter@unr.edu
Letters to the Editor: silverblue@unr.edu

Executive Editor **John K. Carothers**
Editor **Melanie Robbins '06M.A.**
Art Director **Patrick McFarland '97**
Associate Editor **Pat McDonnell**
Photographers **Jeff Ross; Theresa Danna-Douglas; David Calvert; George Anastassatos; Jean Dixon**
Website Designer **Jake Kupiec**



University of Nevada, Reno

Milton D. Glick • President
Jannet Vreeland • Interim Provost
John Carothers • VP, Development and Alumni Relations
Bruce Mack • Assoc. VP, Development and Alumni Rel.
Amy Carothers '01M.A. • Director, Alumni Relations
Juliane Di Meo • Alumni Program Manager
Christy Jerz '97 • Alumni Program Manager
Lindsey Harmon '06 • Alumni Program Coordinator
Hope Hepner • Administrative Assistant III
Keiko Weil '87 • Director, Donor Relations
Elizabeth Welsh '99 • Manager, Donor Relations
Ken Kempcke • Writer, Donor Relations

Graduation rates matter

A new year is upon us. As we look ahead to 2008 and beyond, we continue to work toward the University of our future. In November, we celebrated the grand opening of the Joe Crowley Student Union. This fantastic new space will be instrumental in creating a “sticky” campus: a learning environment that attracts and retains great students. Student success is of paramount importance to our University and we will continue to work to improve on all measures related to student success. As a land-grant institution, we are called on to serve the state in multiple ways. Facilitating an educated citizenry is a critical part of our mission as is the creation and dissemination of new knowledge through research. Scholarly activity is the engine that drives the creation of new knowledge.

University discoveries underpin many of the major knowledge-based industries and universities anchor clusters of innovation. We provide an environment that attracts and sustains the creators of new knowledge. Here is just one quick example. About four years ago, a young man named Richard Kraus, a recent graduate of Reno High School, began his studies at our University in physics. He began spending time—a lot of time—in one of our research labs, working closely with one of our excellent undergraduate physics instructors, Aaron Covington. Knowledge was gained. The special bond between teacher and student was affirmed, and just as importantly, a career path was forged. Today Richard is attending Cambridge University in England, pursuing his doctorate in physics. He has told many people that the time he spent in Aaron’s lab is one of the main reasons why he is at Cambridge today.

We have an ambitious goal to be among the top 100 research universities in the United States. This means having a total University portfolio, but it also means creating critical mass in several areas. One of the ways to build critical mass is through the recruitment of faculty members who can play the role of franchise players—faculty with extensive research portfolios who can elevate the status and visibility of a program. More modern research space is critical to our efforts to recruit top-notch faculty and increase research productivity.

For every important research project, there is usually an equally important human element that combines the experienced “know-how” of a veteran faculty member and the exuberant “why-not” of a younger faculty member. Just one example is occurring through the work of professors Suk-Wah Tam-Chang, Ken Hunter and Nelson Publicover. Suk-Wah is a chemist, Ken a microbiologist, Nelson an electrical and biomedical engineer. Together, they are making important advances in the field of biosensors, which uses biological molecules as sensing elements. And to think that the partnership began because of the mentorship that Ken, our former vice president for research, provided to a younger faculty member, Suk-Wah. In order to meet the needs of our state—serve students, create new knowledge and contribute to the community—growth is an imperative. We need to do more for Nevada.

Sincerely,

Milton D. Glick

President

<http://www.unr.edu/president>

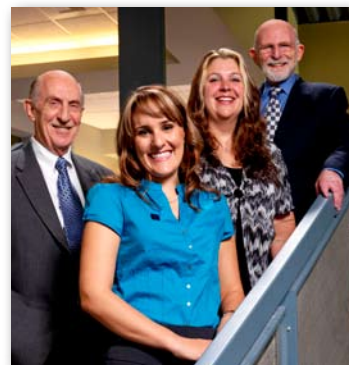


Photo by Jeff Ross

Joe Crowley, Sarah Ragsdale, Rebecca Bevans and Milton Glick at the new student union.