Zeb Hogan travels the globe by plane, boat, truck and horseback so he can wrestle monster fish in murky waters. The University researcher and faculty member is also a National Geographic Explorer. He is on a mission to find, study and protect the world’s largest freshwater fish—megafish weighing more than 200 pounds and measuring more than six-feet long—that are in peril of extinction.

His research has taken him to dozens of places, such as Mongolia, Thailand, China, Spain, Australia, Brazil and Europe, to study the two-dozen threatened species of megafish, and has landed him on the National Geographic Channel with a series of shows highlighting his work.

Hogan, a conservation biologist in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, has teamed up with National Geographic for the Megafishes Project. This summer Hogan’s work in Thailand with giant freshwater stingray and in Mongolia with the rare, six-foot-long Hucho taimen trout were chronicled on the fish-focused “Hooked” television series. This fall his work with giant catfish in Spain and white sturgeon in Washington state will also be featured on the National Geographic Channel.

“The publicity is good if it highlights some of the valuable work that comes out of the University,” Hogan said. “I am proud to be associated with the University and so obviously I’d like to promote the work done here. I’m also happy if the publicity raises the profile of freshwater biodiversity conservation, since freshwater biodiversity is highly threatened yet the issue does not receive very much attention.”

Approximately two dozen fish meet the megafish criteria, including catfish, carp, trout, sturgeon, sawfish, paddlefish, gar and the giant freshwater stingray. Hogan said dams, pollution and overfishing are the biggest threats to freshwater megafish.

“It’s really our actions that threaten the megafish species, not the other way around” he said. “Seventy percent of megafish are endangered … and they need our help for survival.”

—Mike Wolterbeek ’02

Look Online
Learn more about Hogan and National Geographic’s megafish project and see more amazing pictures at: www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

Photos by Brant Allen, UC Davis

Photo provided by Zeb Hogan

TOP: Hogan displays an Alligator Gar along the Trinity River near Palestine, Texas. ABOVE: A member of Hogan’s team in Thailand prepares to release one of the largest freshwater stingrays ever documented. Caught and released in February 2009, it has a seven-foot disk, 14-foot overall length and weighs as much as 770 pounds.
University President Milton Glick predicted before the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center opened, “It will be a place where high technology will meet high touch, which is exciting for anyone who will walk in its doors.”

The Knowledge Center has indeed become a place of “high-touch,” as well as high-tech, as it has established itself as a community hub for cultural events.

“People from the community are coming to the Knowledge Center for artists’ showings and receptions, authors’ book-signings, and presentations by national speakers,” said Steve Zink, vice president of information technology. “I see a new tradition in the making—one of the Knowledge Center becoming a community venue for cultural events and mind-opening discussion.”

Since the 295,000 square-foot state-of-the-art building opened in August 2008, it has hosted events such as English Professor Cheryll Glotfelty’s book-signing reception for her anthology, Literary Nevada; the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony; and the Will James art exhibit and film screening of The Man They Call Will James, to name a few.

Acclaimed book artist Charles Hobson, whose work has been exhibited across the country, and in Europe and Japan, presented at the Knowledge Center in July and displayed his work there throughout the summer. (Please see page 40 for photos from this event.)

The North American Basque Organizations also held their international conference there in July. Last fall, the Knowledge Center hosted the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization ceremony in which 41 citizen candidates from 23 countries became U.S. citizens. Speaker Daniel Benjamin, who served on the National Security Council under the Clinton administration, spoke about national security issues at the Center.

Zink said: “The Knowledge Center was designed to accommodate events that stimulate the mind. The Whittemore Tower Entrance and Reception Gallery, as well as the Wells Fargo Auditorium, provide ideal spaces for these activities. We are very grateful to the donors who helped us create these spaces that now benefit the whole community.”

— Claudene Wharton ’86, ‘99M.A.
Alternative crops are promising for Nevada farmers

University researchers are literally working in the field to test alternative, low-water-use alternative grains, warm and cool season crops for biofuels, and revegetation grasses for land that has little water on it. According to Jay Davison, area forage and alternative crops specialist with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, they are having success.

“We successfully grew white and brown varieties of tef for the first time in Mason Valley, and the yields were comparable to the commercial varieties grown in Fallon,” Davison said. Tef is used primarily to make injera, an Ethiopian flatbread, but the international export market has dramatically expanded in the last two years.

“We also had yields of amaranth comparable to what the literature suggests.”

Davinson said. Both grains are used to produce gluten-free flours for people with celiac disease who cannot tolerate gluten, a protein in wheat, rye and barley.

“Because more people are being diagnosed with celiac disease, we have an opportunity to develop a niche market for these grains on a commercial scale since the price per pound is much higher than conventional grains,” Davison said. “In addition, we have excellent climatic conditions for them.”

Davison and others are working to develop and expand the existing market for tef and investigate the development of a tef processing plant for cleaning and grinding in the Fallon area.

The project will continue for one more year so researchers have a minimum of two growing seasons to replant and conduct experiments for more conclusive results.

—Deanna Heller ’75

‘New’ math to help in next generation reactors

Mathematics researcher and faculty member Pavel Solin knows how to make a nuclear reactor run more efficiently. He will use scientific computing to prove it as part of a national effort to develop the next generation of nuclear technologies.

Solin is receiving a $587,000 grant from the Department of Energy as part of an investment in cutting-edge nuclear energy research and development under the new Nuclear Energy University Program.

“I will be using new, highly sophisticated computational methods to improve the quality of computer simulations of the processes in nuclear reactors, which are described via very complicated equations,” Solin said. “The processes inside the reactor involve, among others, neutron flux, thermal hydraulics, structural materials and oxygen release, and require advanced coupled flow, thermal and structural analysis as the reactor swells with changing temperatures and pressures.”

The difference between Solin’s work and current methods is that the latter typically only analyze one physical process at a time. Solin’s methods can solve many physical processes simultaneously.

“Our methods will be used to support the design of a new generation of nuclear reactors; and we will run computer simulations of the old reactors to prolong their useful life as well,” he said.

Solin and his collaborators will work with engineers at the Idaho National Laboratory, the central location for these projects, who are designing the systems for the new reactors.

—Mike Wolterbeek ’02
EMMA GARCIA
As the 2009 Nevada representative to the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship’s Second Annual Student Congress, Garcia spent a week in Lexington, Va., in June honing diplomacy and mediation skills with other students from across the country, all nominated by their state’s senior senator. The chemistry and political science major is a senior and a member of the Multicultural Greek Council as well as an academic tutor with the TRiO Scholars Program. She plans to become an obstetrician-gynecologist specializing in international women’s issues.

DAVID SCHACTER
A spring 2009 graduate of the University, Schacter was a four-time national champion boxer at Nevada. Schacter recently completed an eight-week internship with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid—a former amateur boxer himself—in Washington, D.C. With a 31-2 record, Schacter is only the fifth collegiate fighter in National Collegiate Boxing Association history to win four straight titles. He also has studied abroad in Costa Rica, Thailand and China, where he trained with martial arts experts.

ELI REILLY
Elected student-body president this spring, Reilly is only the second two-term ASUN president in University history. He has spent much of his last year as president working to sustain University funding levels. He has also previously served as ASUN’s vice president for programming. The senior history major is a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and is the first person from his family to attend college.

LOOK ONLINE
Watch Sen. Harry Reid’s introduction of Schacter during a Capitol Hill news conference at: www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue

Casting call: economics pundits

During prosperous economic times, economists are not always the most sought-after media interviewees. In fact, many economists will tell you that for many years they had a difficult time getting anyone to take an interest in their passion.

However, with today’s global economic problems, University of Nevada, Reno economists have suddenly found themselves in high demand, being asked to comment on economic policies and recovery efforts by various media—print, broadcast and online.

The University’s economics professors have risen to the challenge, seeing these troubled economic times and the media’s interest as a chance to “raise the economic literacy of our population,” as economics professor Elliott Parker put it.

Parker and his colleagues, including economics professor Mark Pingle, have offered commentary on the stimulus package and the state of our economy numerous times in the Reno Gazette-Journal and on local television stations. Parker has also been quoted in and written commentary for the Las Vegas Sun.

The San Francisco Chronicle and MSNBC, as well as local media, have recently called upon the expertise of economics professor Tom Cargill. The Wall Street Journal published an editorial on Obama’s economic strategies written by economics professor Brad Schiller.

Economics professor and boxing industry expert Bill Eadington has been called upon more than 150 times this year alone, and by such heavy-hitters as USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, The Sacramento Bee, MSNBC and FOX News.

“Clearly our economics faculty members are well-respected, locally and nationally,” said Mark Nichols, economics chair. “Although they do not always share the same economic and political views with one another, they offer good commentary based on sound economic knowledge that stimulates debate and thought on our current economic situation and possible solutions.”

In fact, at times University economists are specifically asked to air their opposing views. For example, Parker and Cargill shared their opposing views on KRUN TV’s “Dunbar Report,” commenting on the potential effectiveness of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act after one of President Obama’s televised speeches.

—Claudene Wharton ’86, ’99M.A.

Business professors pen newspaper articles

As a land-grant institution, outreach is central to the mission of the University. Because of this mission and the recent demand for business- and economic-related information, College of Business Dean Greg Mosier recently offered to have faculty from the college author a weekly column in the Reno Gazette-Journal containing helpful business information and economic commentary. The newspaper took the college up on its offer, featuring the College of Business articles each Wednesday in the Business section.
University researcher and faculty member Sudeep Chandra and undergraduate student Joanne Heslop faced huge, hungry mosquitoes and the never-ending daylight of the desolate Siberian Arctic region as they called a 90-foot barge home for one month this summer. Chandra and Heslop were part of the Polaris Project, an international team of scientists and students studying the effects of climate change.

Ancient carbon from Pleistocene era animals, along with chunks of green grass growing in the primeval soil, is being flushed into Arctic lakes and rivers as the long-frozen permafrost thaws, producing methane gas and possibly carbon dioxide that may be causing further global warming.

“Few Western scientists, much less students, ever get the chance to work in the Siberian Arctic,” R. Max Holmes, director of the Polaris Project, said.

According to Chandra, “Programs like this one make me very hopeful that scientists and students from different countries will be able to bring much needed information to the public’s attention.”

The project is supported by the National Science Foundation’s International Polar Year Program.

—Mike Wolterbeek, ’02

Pedaling is on the rise

Cyclists have converged on campus in significantly higher numbers than ever before: the number of registered bikes at the University increased nearly 200 percent over the past six years.

In response to an upswing in environmental consciousness and rising gas prices, the University's OPTIONS campaign is encouraging the campus community to consider non-driving ways of getting to campus such as biking, carpooling and public transit. The response from students and faculty has been strong. The campus drive-alone rate is now 44 percent. That’s a 15 percent drop from 2002, when 57 percent of students and faculty were getting in the car each morning to come to work or attend class.

The University is working toward a sustainable campus in many other ways as well, including using bio-diesel fuels for campus shuttles and subsidizing public transportation for faculty and students.

—Skyler Dillon, Class of 2010
Zink appointed to congressional advisory committee

Years ago, at the inception of the digital age, Steve Zink became fascinated with the concept of the future of recordkeeping and archives. Today, many of his ideas are manifest in the new Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, which establishes a new model for merging and using information, technology and knowledge in a higher education setting.

Now, the University’s vice president of information technology and dean of the University Libraries will contribute to these topics on a national scale. Zink has been appointed to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, which reviews the management and preservation of congressional records and advises the Archivist of the United States.

The Advisory Committee promotes a more complete documentation of the legislative process. It is comprised of the officials in Congress responsible for its records (Clerk of the House, Secretary of the Senate, Senate Historian, and House Historian) and the Archivist of the United States, who is responsible for the administration of the archived records of Congress. House and Senate leadership appoint public members of the committee, who represent historians, political scientists, congressional archivists, and other users and caretakers of legislative records.

In addition to overseeing all library and information technologies for the University, Zink is a tenured professor, author and editor.

—Skyler Dillon, Class of 2010

Roadside Heritage Project explores eastern Sierra Nevada U.S. 395 corridor

The University is helping to shed new light on the science and history of the eastern Sierra Nevada in California along the U.S. 395 corridor stretching from Topaz Lake through Bishop, Mammoth and Lone Pine.

Through the Roadside Heritage Project, funded by a $2.5 million National Science Foundation grant, the University and its partners produced a dozen 7-minute audio “episodes” explaining various features of the region, such as its geothermal characteristics, mineral deposits, unique desert terminal lakes and the region’s volcanic history.

“These are informative, entertaining stories of the area, brought to life by vibrant interviews with locals and experts alike,” said Mike Collopy, director of the University’s Academy for the Environment.

One component of the project is bringing this information to middle-school students by guided field trips in which the students explore the science of the region firsthand.

The students also conduct interviews and use current technologies to produce their own educational stories about the region.

Project partners include the Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education, University of California, Berkeley’s Lawrence Hall of Science, and University of Nevada, Reno’s Raggio Research Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education.

—Claudene Wharton ’86, ’99M.A.

KOLO-TV’s Brent Boynton interviews Mike Collopy at the top of Mammoth Mountain as the station's John Tyson operates the camera. Boynton and Tyson produced six television news segments on the Roadside Heritage Project that aired in May.

Look Online
Listen to or download the Roadside Heritage episodes.
www.roadsideheritage.org

Steve Zink

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

KOLO-TV's Brent Boynton interviews Mike Collopy at the top of Mammoth Mountain as the station's John Tyson operates the camera. Boynton and Tyson produced six television news segments on the Roadside Heritage Project that aired in May.

Zink appointed to congressional advisory committee

Years ago, at the inception of the digital age, Steve Zink became fascinated with the concept of the future of recordkeeping and archives. Today, many of his ideas are manifest in the new Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, which establishes a new model for merging and using information, technology and knowledge in a higher education setting.

Now, the University’s vice president of information technology and dean of the University Libraries will contribute to these topics on a national scale. Zink has been appointed to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, which reviews the management and preservation of congressional records and advises the Archivist of the United States.

The Advisory Committee promotes a more complete documentation of the legislative process. It is comprised of the officials in Congress responsible for its records (Clerk of the House, Secretary of the Senate, Senate Historian, and House Historian) and the Archivist of the United States, who is responsible for the administration of the archived records of Congress. House and Senate leadership appoint public members of the committee, who represent historians, political scientists, congressional archivists, and other users and caretakers of legislative records.

In addition to overseeing all library and information technologies for the University, Zink is a tenured professor, author and editor.

—Skyler Dillon, Class of 2010

Roadside Heritage Project explores eastern Sierra Nevada U.S. 395 corridor

The University is helping to shed new light on the science and history of the eastern Sierra Nevada in California along the U.S. 395 corridor stretching from Topaz Lake through Bishop, Mammoth and Lone Pine.

Through the Roadside Heritage Project, funded by a $2.5 million National Science Foundation grant, the University and its partners produced a dozen 7-minute audio “episodes” explaining various features of the region, such as its geothermal characteristics, mineral deposits, unique desert terminal lakes and the region’s volcanic history.

“These are informative, entertaining stories of the area, brought to life by vibrant interviews with locals and experts alike,” said Mike Collopy, director of the University’s Academy for the Environment.

One component of the project is bringing this information to middle-school students by guided field trips in which the students explore the science of the region firsthand.

The students also conduct interviews and use current technologies to produce their own educational stories about the region.

Project partners include the Eastern Sierra Institute for Collaborative Education, University of California, Berkeley’s Lawrence Hall of Science, and University of Nevada, Reno’s Raggio Research Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education.

—Claudene Wharton ’86, ’99M.A.

KOLO-TV’s Brent Boynton interviews Mike Collopy at the top of Mammoth Mountain as the station’s John Tyson operates the camera. Boynton and Tyson produced six television news segments on the Roadside Heritage Project that aired in May.

Look Online
Listen to or download the Roadside Heritage episodes.
www.roadsideheritage.org

Steve Zink

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas
Mapping fault lines in the Reno-Carson urban corridor

The Nevada Seismological Laboratory at the University has finished the first phase of seismic surveying through downtown Reno as part of a $1 million U.S. Geological Survey study to create an earthquake hazard map in the Reno-Carson City urban corridor.

“There are several suspected faults in the downtown area, and we don’t know much about them,” said John Louie, professor of geophysics in the Seismological Lab and principle investigator of the project.

Researchers conducted full-scale seismic reflection soundings up to a half-mile deep using a “mini-vibe” truck. Louie, co-principal investigators Pat Cashman and Ilenna Tibuleac, and seven graduate students worked with two USGS researchers to make thousands of soundings to complete the high-resolution, noninvasive seismic imaging study using industry techniques for oil and gas exploration.

The truck, using a relatively light 700-pound reaction weight, stops every 30 feet, sets the shaker on the asphalt and vibrates the ground for a few minutes. Hundreds of monitoring sensors connected by cable transmit the seismic reflection soundings to the recording truck. It is a slow process, with the truck creeping less than one mile a day.

“This is a process of discovery,” Louie said. “We’ve looked for the suspected faults, may possibly find faults we don’t know about, and will be able to identify the most hazardous faults.”

—Mike Wolterbeek ’02

New director at helm of Seismological Laboratory

Graham Kent is well-known to researchers in Nevada. He has been studying the tectonics of Western Nevada for 10 years, including earthquake fault hazards in Lake Tahoe and Fallen Leaf Lake through sonar profiling. His research interests also include the Walker Lane Belt, a geological region roughly aligned with the border between the states of California and Nevada.

This summer Kent was named director of the Nevada Seismological Laboratory and professor of geophysics. It is a homecoming of sorts, since Kent graduated from South Lake Tahoe High School. He comes to Nevada from UC San Diego's Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where for the past 13 years he has been a research geophysicist at their Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics.

“There’s a lot of opportunity for answering grand science questions in this region, which requires a variety of different seismic techniques,” Kent said. “I’m a hi-tech geek at heart and hope to bring the ability to work on some of the larger National Science Foundation-driven science questions, such as formation of the Sierra Nevada mountain range.”

After 11 years at the helm, former director John Anderson stepped down from the position to focus on teaching and research. “I never meant this to be my last job, to be director for life,” he said. “It’s part of my long-term plan; it’s someone else’s turn now.” He predicts Kent will “be a fantastic director for the lab.”

—Mike Wolterbeek ’02

Sports Medicine experience at the Reno Rodeo

Rodeo competitors know it’s not a question of if you’ll get hurt, but when... and how badly. Competitors in the 2009 Reno Rodeo simply accept injuries as part of their sport. Luckily, University of Nevada School of Medicine physicians and students along with medical volunteers from the Reno Rodeo Association provided medical assistance and expertise as needed to both competitors and spectators at the June 18-27 event. The team treated a wide variety of injuries ranging from sprained ankles and broken fingers to broken jaws and torn skin.

“This was an educational opportunity for our students to learn how to interact with emergency medical teams and what is potentially involved with medical help in a large crowd setting,” said Dr. Daniel Scott, University director of sports medicine, tapes up the arm of a bareback rider at the Reno Rodeo.

Spogen, chair of the School of Medicine’s Family and Community Medicine Department in Reno.

—Anne McMillin

Look Online

View technology profile of Kent at unr.edu/silverandblue
Reynolds School endowed chair promotes career aspirations, research

David Morrow envisions a solution for the current media industry: his students.

“I want media students to consider careers as chief executive officers,” Morrow said. “It’s a viable path once students understand what drives business and what makes it succeed, and journalism students have the academic foundation and their practical skills to do it.”

Morrow, former editor-in-chief of TheStreet.com, began fall ’09 as the Donald W. Reynolds Endowed Chair in Business Journalism at the Reynolds School of Journalism.

Morrow has directed TheStreet.com since 2001, supervising a staff of 65 reporters and editors. The site has won numerous honors, including “best enterprise reporting” and “best commentary” in 2008 from the Society of American Business Editors and Writers. More than eight million unique visitors come to the site each month.

“I am elated to join the staff at the Reynolds School and to be in a position funded by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation,” Morrow said. “Both are on the cutting edge of guiding the future of business journalism, not only in teaching the next generation of professionals but in steering the future of the profession.”

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation granted more than $2.2 million to the school last year to develop courses in business journalism, especially courses about the coming “green economy.” Part of the Reynolds grant will be used for specialized economics courses for journalism students in the University’s College of Business.

Morrow also will work with Reynolds business chairs at Washington & Lee University, the University of Missouri and Arizona State University and with the Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism at ASU on articles, research projects and training seminars.

“David has the perfect combination of deep experience in business news plus the understanding of journalism on the Internet that is so important to our school,” said Jerry Ceppos, dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism. “He embodies so much of what we do: Marrying the values of traditional journalism with whatever platform works best for delivery of that journalism.”

“No story is more compelling than the story of our economy,” Ceppos said. “But journalists need specialized training to understand the nuances of the story. David will teach our students how to write about the economy in interesting and accurate ways and to identify career opportunities that fuse their knowledge, skills, enthusiasm and ambition.”

—Zanny Marsh

University of Nevada, Reno Performing Arts Series | 2009-10

The Performing Arts Series brings some of the world’s finest performers to the University’s Nightingale Concert Hall. Season Ticket discounts available — call (775) 784-4ART.

Pablo Ziegler Trio
Thursday, September 17
Carducci String Quartet
Thursday, October 22
Esperanza Spalding
Wednesday, November 4
Spanish Brass
Thursday, February 4
On Ensemble
Thursday, March 4

www.unr.edu/pas