“This year’s Hall of Fame class features some of the greatest individual performers in the history of Wolf Pack Athletics,” Athletics Director Cary Groth said. “Trevor Insley was one of the top wide receivers in NCAA history and left his mark in the national record books, while Mark Lewis helped put Nevada baseball on the national map, earning All-America honors while helping the Wolf Pack to its first ever appearance in the NCAA Regionals. Limin Liu was the most successful swimmer in school history, winning three individual national championships, and Lyle Overbay earned All-America honors and helped Nevada baseball to a pair of conference championships and an NCAA Regional appearance before going onto a successful Major League career. Dawn Pitman is the second Wolf Pack women’s basketball student-athlete to be inducted into the Nevada Hall of Fame and is just one of two players in school history to have recorded at least 1,500 points and 900 career rebounds, while Tony Shaw established himself as one of the top defensive backs in school history and was named to Nevada’s prestigious Team of the Century for his efforts.”

2010 Nevada Hall of Fame Inductees:


One of the most prolific receivers in NCAA history, Trevor Insley set six NCAA records during his senior year, including career receiving yards (5,005), career receptions (298), single-season yards (2,060), most career games gaining 100 yards or more (26), most 200-yard games in a season (six) and single-season yards per game (187.3). A 1999 All-America selection by the Associated Press, Sporting News and Football News, he fell just three receptions short of breaking Jerry Rice’s all-divisions NCAA career receptions record. Insley earned first-team All-Big West honoree in 1998 and 1999, turning in 134 receptions for 2,060 yards and 13 touchdowns in 1999. A finalist for the Biletnikoff Award, which is annually given to the top receiver in the nation, he became the first receiver in NCAA history to go over 2,000 receiving yards in a single season. Insley still holds Nevada’s career records for receptions, receiving yards and touchdowns and the single-season mark for receiving yards. After his career at Nevada, he was signed as a free agent by the Indianapolis Colts and also spent time in the Canadian Football League.

**Mark Lewis – Baseball (1993-94)**

Mark Lewis earned All-America honors at shortstop from the American Baseball Coaches Association, Mizuno and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association in 1994. The 1994 Big West MVP and a first-team all-conference selection, he finished third on the team in batting average in both 1993 (.325) and 1994 (.372). Lewis led the team in RBI in each of his two seasons (42 in 1993 and 63 in 1994). He also paced the team with 84 hits and tied for first with 10 home runs in 1994 to lead the Wolf Pack to the Big West Conference championship and its first ever NCAA Regional appearance. He helped Nevada to a 69-34-1 record in his two seasons and played in the minor leagues for the Montreal Expos.


Limin Liu ‘02 (international business), ’07 M.S. (economics) won three NCAA individual championships during her prolific career, winning the 200 butterfly at the NCAA Championships in 1999 and the 100 and 200 fly in 2000. She still holds school and Big West Conference records in the 100 and 200 fly. A three-time All-American, Liu was named...
the Big West Swimmer of the Year in 2000. She was also part of school and conference record-setting 200 and 400-meter medley and freestyle relay teams. Liu captured the silver medal in the 100 fly while representing her native China at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and also competed in the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. She held the world short-course record in the 100 fly and also won a gold medal at the World Championships.

Lyle Overbay – Baseball (1996-99)

A two-time first-team All-Big West honoree, Lyle Overbay earned All-America accolades from Collegiate Baseball, Baseball Weekly, Louisville Slugger and the College Baseball Insider in 1999. He helped Nevada to an NCAA regional appearance in 1999 and helped the Wolf Pack to Big West titles in 1997 and 1998. Overbay set Nevada’s career records for at bats (864 - since broken), single-season at-bats (260) and career runs batted in (257) and held Nevada’s career doubles record with 62 until 2009. He also ranks in the top five for season (3rd-81) and career runs (2nd-243), season (2nd-102) and career hits (2nd-309), season doubles (T2nd-24) and career home runs (T4th-39), season (3rd-420) and career batting average (8th-.358). Overbay made his Major League debut with the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2001 and is now with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Dawn Pitman – Women’s Basketball (1986-90)

A four-time All-Big West conference honoree, Dawn Pitman ’91 (criminal justice) ranks third all-time in career scoring (1,654 points) and is only one of four players in program history to record at least 1,500 career points. She is also second all-time in career rebounding (918) and is one of just two players in program history to record at least 900 career rebounds. Pitman joins Nevada Hall of Famer Chris Starr as the only two players in women’s basketball history to have recorded at least 1,500 points and 900 career rebounds. She ranks in Nevada’s single-game top 10 in field goal attempts (tied for fifth) and field goals made (tied for eighth) and the single-season record book in scoring (seventh; 17.8ppg) and rebounding (eighth, 8.9). Pitman led the team in scoring and rebounding in each of her last two seasons, including 17.0 points and 7.8 rebounds per game as a senior in 1989-90.

Tony Shaw – Football (1980-83)

A member of Nevada’s Team of the Century at defensive back, Tony Shaw, was named the 1983 Big Sky Defensive Player of the Year. He earned first-team All-Big Sky honors in 1983 and helped Nevada to the semifinals of the 1983 NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. Shaw tied for first in single-season interceptions at Nevada with nine in 1983 and ranks tied for fourth in career interceptions with 17 at Nevada. After his playing career ended, Shaw went on to become a police officer and firefighter in Sparks.

Including this year’s six honorees, 154 individuals and two teams have been selected for induction in the Nevada Athletics Hall of Fame in since its inception in 1973. Plaques honoring each inductee can be found in the Hall of Fame Room at Legacy Hall, which is open to the public during business hours.

The group will be inducted into Nevada’s Hall of Fame on Friday, Oct. 29 at a reception in Legacy Hall. They will also be recognized at halftime of the Hall of Fame football game against Utah State at 1:05 p.m. Pacific Time on Saturday, Oct. 30 at Mackay Stadium.

For more information or to purchase tickets for this year’s Hall of Fame Reception, call (775) 682-6902. Tickets for the Hall of Fame game are available by calling (775) 348-PACK (7225) or going online at www.nevadawolfpack.com.

—Rhonda Lundin, associate athletics director for communications
The University of Nevada has accepted an invitation to join the Mountain West Conference, University President Milt Glick and Director of Athletics Cary Groth announced Aug. 18.

“We have had a great experience in the WAC. We have appreciated the strong competition and the wonderful colleagues,” Glick said. “The offer to join the Mountain West Conference is an opportunity we cannot turn down. The Mountain West is a strong conference, and this will enhance our natural rivalry with UNLV and continue our rivalry with Boise State. We believe joining this conference is in the best, long-term interests of our fans and program and also view this invitation as acknowledgement of our work to build a strong, competitive program.”

Nevada joins California State University, Fresno in accepting invitations to join the Mountain West Conference.

“The addition of Fresno State and Nevada further enhances the Mountain West Conference,” MWC Commissioner Craig Thompson said. “Our Board of Directors has continued to be diligent and aggressive in executing our strategy for positioning the MWC in the national landscape. We are excited to welcome these two institutions into the Mountain West. Both fit geographically and create new conference rivalries.”

The Mountain West Conference was founded with eight members in 1998. TCU joined the conference in 2005 and Boise State University accepted an invitation to the league on June 11, 2010.

“The invitation to join the Mountain West Conference is a reflection of the success and tradition that our student-athletes, coaches and staff have demonstrated both academically and athletically,” Groth said. “It is an honor to join the Mountain West Conference and partner and compete with its outstanding member institutions. Our relationship with the Western Athletic Conference has been a good one, and we will greatly miss our colleagues in the WAC. It has always been our goal to work actively to put the University of Nevada in the best position possible, and we are excited to be a part of the Mountain West Conference.”

The Wolf Pack is enjoying an era of unprecedented success on and off the field. The University of Nevada sponsors 16 NCAA Division I sports, and the Wolf Pack has captured 20 WAC Championships in the last eight years, including five men’s basketball crowns from 2004-08, three women’s swimming and diving titles from 2007-09, three softball championships (2006, 2008-09), two indoor track and field titles (2003-04) and individual titles by cross country in 2004, football in 2005, women’s soccer in 2006 and men’s golf in 2007. Nevada has also earned five consecutive bowl appearances, eight straight men’s basketball postseason invitations (NCAA appearances from 2004-07), two women’s basketball postseason appearances and NCAA championship team invitations for men’s golf, volleyball, softball and women’s soccer.

Nevada’s graduation rates and Academic Progress Rate numbers are at all-time highs, and the University is listed as one of the best in the nation in providing opportunities for women in sports.

Nevada’s previous conference affiliations have included the Pacific Athletic Association (1914-1920), the Far Western Conference (1924-1939 and 1953-1969), the West Coast Conference (1969-79), the Big Sky Conference (1979-92), the Big West Conference (1992-2000) and the Western Athletic Conference (2000-present).

—Rhonda Lundin, associate athletics director for communications

Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas
“Dr. Soccer” Brings Unique Title and Approach to Wolf Pack

Her student-athletes call her “Dr. Soccer” and joke about sitting down on the couch in her office.

But the doctor part is no joke for first-year Nevada women’s soccer coach Melissa Price who earned her Ph.D. in sport psychology from the University of Virginia this spring.

“Coaching is sports psychology,” Price said. “Everything I do with the team and all the information I provide is based on research about the importance of sport in their lives.”

It was a whirlwind few weeks this winter for Dr. Price who earned her first head coaching job when she was named the fourth coach in the history of the Wolf Pack women’s soccer program on Jan. 20 and then defended her dissertation on Feb. 12.

“It was exciting. My friends and family joked that 2010 started off great for me. It all fell into place in a very short period of time,” Price said.

Price returned to the University of Virginia for her doctoral hooding in May, the culmination of a journey she decided she wanted to embark on in 1997-98. She earned her bachelor’s degree in kinesiology in 1997 from University of Maryland, where she was an all-region and honor roll goalkeeper for four seasons, and received her master’s degree in sport and exercise psychology from Virginia in 1999. She has had her work published in The Sports Psychologist, the Journal of Applied Sport Psychology and the Encyclopedia of Sports Medicine.

Prior to joining the staff at the University of Nevada starting in 2008, Price served as an assistant coach at Virginia, the University of Illinois and the University of Miami, helping her teams to a total of four NCAA Championship appearances. She has also spent time conducting numerous coaching and academic presentations as well as coaching summer camps and soccer programs.

“I took a week off when I went back to Virginia and walked in a graduation ceremony for the first time since high school,” Price said. “The doctoral hooding was a pretty special ceremony. It was the final piece, and a moment for me to step away and enjoy the process. In the end, I got to the place I wanted to be.

“I had thought I wanted to be a college professor, but I missed coaching student-athletes. I value being a role model for them and providing experiences within a team environment that are challenging and important for young women. That is what I missed the most and why I wanted to come back to college coaching.”

Price has focused much of her research throughout her academic career on leadership in female student-athletes and how youth learn life skills through their participation in sports, and that research has paid dividends with the Wolf Pack soccer team.

“We’ve matured tremendously as a team, and that is a testament to our student-athletes and their openness to accept our staff and the ideas we bring to the table. The emotional maturity of the team - our ability to perform under pressure and deal with adversity - has changed. We still have to grow, but we want to win a championship and believe that everything we do is helping us get to that point,” Price said.

“There are four dimensions to soccer: technique, tactics, physical conditioning and psychology. A lot of people don’t train the psychological dimension as much as the other three in practice, but it is just as important to make time for the psychological aspect of the team.”

According to Price, developing leadership skills in student-athletes holds value far beyond the benefits it provides in sports.

“We want to give our student-athletes the tools they need to be successful on and off the field,” Price said. “Leadership is not just about team captains. Others on the team can be leaders in some capacity. We strive to promote leadership skills in all of our players so they can develop into confident women. Playing soccer at Nevada is about developing the ‘whole’ person and our goal is that the skills they learn being on this team translate to life beyond soccer.”

Nevada’s student-athletes agree that the approach that Price brings to the program has benefitted the Wolf Pack.

“She is very smart in having us do activities that bring concepts from life into the game,” Wolf Pack senior midfielder Cristen Drummond said. “She understands us and is able to listen to us to help us develop both the physical and mental parts of the game. I feel like my class has matured a lot since she has been here, especially in terms of being leaders and role models on and off the field.”

“Not a lot of soccer players get to say they were coached by a doctor, and that is pretty cool,” sophomore goalkeeper Dana Moreno said. “Missy has tried to open up a whole new way for us to look at the game. She balances out the way we think about soccer by making it more personal and putting emotion in the game. She has taught us how to have a better mentality by teaching us how to visualize ourselves doing positive things while we are playing. She has a totally different teaching method than other coaches. The way she talks and informs us is just so knowledgeable.”

―Rhonda Lundin, associate athletics director for communications