Alumni Award Winners

Professional Achievement

James T. Butler ’54 (history)
Jim, a Reno native, is a lifetime educator, as well as an organization and community leader. Graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno and the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned a master’s in 1958, Jim taught school in Reno/Sparks, and in 1965 became the executive director of the Nevada State Education Association. He joined the National Education Association in 1969, where he managed the legal defense fund and then served as regional director for the association’s seven-state Pacific Region, including Nevada. He was executive director of the Texas State Teachers Association until 1988, when he returned to Washington, D.C., as director of AARP VOTE, the group’s nationwide voter education program. Today he consults in public affairs for the National Association of Children’s Hospitals.

Ernest Maupin ’68 (accounting)
Ernie graduated from Nevada with high distinction and was admitted to the Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Gamma Sigma honorary societies. He obtained his juris doctor degree in 1971 from University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law and was hired by the local law firm Walther & Key in June 1973. He has since become president of the firm, which is now known as Maupin, Cox & LeGoy. He specializes in estate planning, taxation and related areas and is licensed to practice before all state and federal courts in Nevada and California, the United States Tax Court, the United States Claims Court, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He served on the University of Nevada, Reno Planned Giving Advisory Council from 2003 - 2009, serving as chairman from 2003 - 2006.

Marc Markwell ’95 (civil engineering)
Marc is a third-generation Nevadan and the fourth member of his family to graduate from the University of Nevada. Following graduation, Marc earned a juris doctor degree at Pacific McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. He is a licensed attorney in California and Nevada. Marc went on to join Granite Construction, initially as a project manager and later as the business manager for Nevada operations. In 2004, Marc joined Dermody Properties as the development manager and then became partner. In his five years at Dermody, Marc oversaw the development and construction of more than 3 million square-feet of industrial and other commercial property. Marc is currently employed by Sierra Nevada Corporation where he manages a national portfolio of office space, warehouses and hangars.

Terrance Oliver ’71 (journalism)
Terry has had a career in the casino industry in 10 major markets since 1973. Since 1997, Terry has served on the board for Peninsula Gaming, LLC, which operates two Diamond Jo riverboat casinos in Dubuque and Worth County, Iowa, the Evangeline Downs Race Track and Casino in Opelousas, La., and the Amelia Belle Riverboat Casino in Amelia, La. From 1988 to 2009, he served as founding partner, chairman of the board, interim chief executive officer and board director for Progressive Gaming International Corporation, a software management systems company based in Las Vegas. In 1984, he was a founding partner for Fitzgerald’s Gaming Corporation, board member and served as corporate casino vice president and chief operating officer, retiring in July of 1996.

Tom D. Whitaker ’60 (electrical engineering)
Tom graduated from Nevada with the ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate citation while playing four years of football and two years of baseball. During his junior year, Tom was the national pass receiving champion in college football. After graduation, Tom signed with the Dallas Cowboys. In 1962, he joined General Electric Company as an engineering management trainee. During his 20-year career at GE, his assignments included sales management, marketing, strategy planning, engineering, manufacturing, customer service and finance. In 1971 he received his MBA from the University of California, Berkeley. For more than 20 years, Tom has served as chairman and CEO of Motion Analysis Corporation, the world’s leading provider of video-based computer imaging motion capture equipment used for animation and full feature movies, video games and broadcast. In 2005, Motion Analysis was awarded four technical achievement Oscars by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

University Service

Sheila Linn ’66 (history), ’91M. Ed. (elementary education)
Sheila transferred to the University of Nevada, Reno as a sophomore where she joined Delta Delta Delta sorority. After graduation, Sheila worked for Braniff International as a flight attendant for 16 years. She was assigned to work a December 1969 flight chartered by Ross Perot to deliver Christmas gifts to our country’s P.O.W’s in Hanoi. While that goal was not achieved, it was on that trip that she met Travis Linn and decided to volunteer for three months in a leprosarium for the Thomas A. Dooley Foundation in Katmandu, Nepal. After moving to Reno in 1984, Sheila went to...
work for the Washoe County School District as a librarian until she retired in August 2010. Travis, the founding dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism and a professor of journalism, died suddenly in January 2003. Sheila established a memorial scholarship in his name.

Stephen Martarano ’79 (journalism)

After graduating, Steve worked 10 years as a reporter at the Sacramento Union newspaper. Steve is currently a public affairs specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Sacramento Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife Office. Steve was called to duty in early June to assist with the federal government’s gulf spill response efforts. He spent several weeks stationed out of Grand Isle, La., the first area impacted by oil, helping the hundreds of media representatives cover the tragic event. Prior to starting with the federal government, Steve worked for the State of California for 18 years, the last 11 with the California Department of Fish and Game as the agency’s supervising information officer. Steve has recently established two journalism-related endowments to benefit students at Nevada.

Alumni Association Service

William Doherty ’80 (accounting), ’87MBA, ’00Ph.D. (counseling and educational psychology)

In 1980, Bill asked a guest speaker in his computer programming class if he hired interns; that turned into his first professional position as a programmer for Harrah’s. During a 10-year career, he worked his way into a management position and earned his MBA from Nevada. While at Harrah’s, he began teaching part time for the College of Business and secured a donation of $250,000 of computer equipment from IBM to train information systems students at the University and Truckee Meadows Community College. His work at the college convinced him that education was his passion and in 1990 he became a full-time professor of computer technologies at TMCC. Over the past 20 years at TMCC, Bill has maintained several professional certifications and completed a doctorate in educational psychology from Nevada.

Outstanding Young Alumnus of the Year

Paul Klein ’03 (criminal justice)

Paul is the owner/creative director of KLEIN advertising. He has won multiple local and district ADDY® awards including a “Best of Show.” Paul has also won the Jim Fish National Advertising Award twice. For several years Paul has been the editor/creative director of Wolf Pack Edge magazine, which covers all 19 NCAA sanctioned sports and club sports at Nevada. Paul is a member of several nonprofit organizations within the community. He has served or serves as a founder and vice-president of marketing/membership for the Nevada Greek Alumni Chapter, vice-president of marketing/membership for the Nevada Young Alumni Chapter, public relations director of the Advertising Association of Northern Nevada, commissioner for the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Alumni Board, director and marketing committee chair for the Reno-Tahoe Young Professionals Network, and president of Ad2 Reno.

Alicia Parlette ’04 (journalism)

Alicia was a writer whose series about her battle with cancer was published in the San Francisco Chronicle in 2005 and garnered widespread public attention. Alicia was featured on NPR. She was named ABC News’ “Person of the Week.” Reader demand for more updates on her condition spawned three more chapters throughout the summer of 2005. Her work was adapted and published as a book, Alicia’s Story, by the San Francisco Chronicle Press. Alicia had graduated summa cum laude from the Reynolds School of Journalism in 2004. After earning a prestigious Hearst Fellowship, she became a copy editor at the San Francisco Chronicle. In March 2005, at age 23, she was diagnosed with alveolar soft part sarcoma, a rare form of cancer that affects fewer than 200 people per year. In late 2005, the Reynolds School honored Alicia with the Laxalt Distinguished Writer Award. Alicia passed away April 22, 2010. Donations in her honor may be made to the Alicia Parlette Fund for Aspiring Journalists, Reynolds School of Journalism.

David White ’99 (biology)

In 1999, David received the University of Nevada, Reno Outstanding Senior Award and began his path toward dentistry with a scholarship to the University of Michigan School of Dentistry. In 2007, he completed an executive management program from Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management. He returned to Reno in 2003 and became volunteer director of the University’s Pre-Dental Society. Since 2003, he has guided more than 100 students into dental schools across the country. In 2009, he was granted an adjunct faculty position within the biology department. He is also on faculty at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine, working in admissions and student clinics. In 2009, he founded the University’s Dental Alumni Chapter in hopes of creating a pipeline from students to alumni. In 2008, he was awarded the Young Professionals Network’s 20 Under 40 award for his service to the community.

Jacquelyn Ferek ’95M.Ed. (special education)

Jackie moved to Nevada in 1979 to attend college in a sunny place that had mountains.
Alumni Award Winners

She fell in love with the Reno campus, the desert and the mountains. Jackie attended Nevada and worked in human resources positions in the casino and health care industries. She enjoyed helping people learn at the workplace so, she returned to the University to become a teacher. Jackie enjoys many outdoor activities including hiking, biking and skiing. Giving back to her community is very important to Jackie. She is involved with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, health and safety programs for children, trail building with the Tahoe Rim Trail group and the University of Nevada, Reno Alumni Association.

Christopher Vargas ‘95 (finance)
Chris is a managing partner and financial adviser at Legacy Wealth Planning, formed in 2006. After graduating in 1994, Chris played football in the Canadian Football League until 1998. He began his financial planning career shortly after retiring from football. At Legacy Wealth Planning, Chris has helped individuals, small business owners, and nonprofits define their investment goals and make appropriate investments to achieve those goals. He has earned Directors Club recognition for his work with his clients. Chris has stayed involved with the University through the Nevada Alumni Association, Football Alumni Association, and currently sits on the board for the Athletic Association of the University of Nevada (AAUN).

Chapter of the Year

School of Medicine Alumni Chapter
The University of Nevada School of Medicine Alumni Chapter was reestablished in 2008 under the leadership of Dr. Louis Bonaldi ’75, ’77M.D., The main goal of the chapter is to support initiatives within the School of Medicine and to provide opportunities for alumni to reconnect with their medical school alma mater. The chapter has supported medical students traveling abroad to medical missions, an annual student scholarship, and Synapse, the medical school alumni magazine. In addition, they made a $25,000 gift to name a group study room in the new William N. Pennington Health Sciences Building. The chapter holds an annual alumni reception each May in conjunction with the medical school hooding ceremony. In addition to celebrating the 10- and 25-year class reunions, they announced the winner of their chapter’s Outstanding Alumnus award.

College Distinguished Alumni

Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources
Junro Edgar Wakayama ’85Ph.D. (biochemistry)
Ed coordinates the development and acquisition of therapeutics, drugs and diagnostics targeting chemical threat agents, including chemical warfare agents, nontraditional agents, and toxic industrial chemicals. He is currently tasked to develop medical countermeasures against chemical threat agents at the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to protect the public. Before his career in public service, Ed served 22 years in academia (three medical schools) and held several academic appointments including: Clinical Laboratory Science, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and Biochemistry Department (adjunct faculty), and the University of Nevada School of Medicine. In addition, he chaired the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program at UNLV (1991-1989) and served as clinical laboratory director at the UNLV Health Clinic (1994-1998). Ed is board-certified as a clinical pathology laboratory director and has published and presented more than 50 papers.

Business

Joseph Bradley ’78 (economics)
Joe is a life-long resident of Reno, graduating from the University of Nevada with a bachelor of science degree in economics in 1978. He received his juris doctorate from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1983 and joined the firm of Bradley, Drendel & Jeanney the same year. Through his legal work and as trustee of the E.L. Cord Foundation, Joe continually strives to improve conditions within the northern Nevada community. In addition, he is deeply committed to the progress of University. In 2009, he served as chairman of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and is the current president of the Athletic Association. Joe’s wife, Liza ’96 (accounting), and children, Gina and Sam, rival his passion for Wolf Pack athletics.

Education

Robert Edgington ’75 (school administration)
Robert is a native Nevanadan and Sparks High School graduate. He taught elementary students and counseled in the Washoe County School District for 30 years. For the past eight years, Robert has served as the director of the Dean's Future Scholars' Program at the the University of Nevada, Reno College of Education. The program recruits low-income students in the 6th grade and mentors them through high school graduation. The program is funded primarily by grants and private donations. The program graduates over 80 percent of the students mentored and almost all of these graduates enroll in college. Robert is married to Patricia Miltenberger. They have two children, who are both teachers, and four grandchildren.
Engineering

Kenneth H. Gardner ’84
(mechnical engineering)

Ken rose from a new mechanical engineering graduate in 1984 to become his own company’s president in 1996. After graduation, Ken was hired by Carrier Air Conditioning with sales positions at their offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. In 1996, Ken formed Engineereed Equipment & Systems Co. in Las Vegas and served as president for 12 years. EES provided HVAC systems for major hotel resorts in Las Vegas. In 2008, Ken sold EES to Johnson Controls, Inc., a Fortune 100 NYSE company. Today, Ken is president of 8108, Inc., an engineering and systems consulting firm specializing in HVAC and low voltage systems technology, as well as renewable and sustainable energy systems. In 2009, the governor appointed Ken to the Nevada State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Liberal Arts

William Douglass ’61 (Spanish)

Bill, a Reno native, earned his doctorate in social anthropology from the University of Chicago. He has conducted field research in Italy, Australia, Latin America, throughout the American West and, most notably, in the Basque area of northern Spain. In 1967, he was hired by the University of Nevada System to start a Center for Basque Studies. He directed the initiative for 33 years and is currently professor emeritus of Basque Studies at the University. Bill has authored a dozen books and more than a hundred articles. He continues to research and publish on a broad range of topics (including his beloved hobby of fly fishing). Bill has an extensive background in the gaming industry. He was part owner of Reno’s Club Cal Neva, Comstock and Riverboat casinos and served on the boards of all three. He is currently president and part owner of Leisure Gaming. Bill was among the original supporters of the Nevada chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

Mackay

Richard Harris ’69 (geological engineering), ’95M.S. (mining engineering)

Richard is a mining and environmental attorney in Reno. He graduated from the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering with a bachelor’s in geological engineering in 1969 and a master’s in environmental science in 1995. He holds degrees in law and mining law from Stanford University. He has served on the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and the Mackay Advisory Board and is presently an adjunct professor of environmental law in political science. His family attended the University dating back more than 100 years. His wife, Ann Marie, is a doctoral candidate in paleoclimatology, expecting to graduate in 2011. Richard travels widely and recently visited his 100th country. His favorite experience was diving with whale sharks in the Galapagos Islands.

Health Sciences

Michael Capello ’82, ’91M.S. (social work)

Michael has worked in child welfare during the last 25 years. He worked in child protective services for the Washoe County Department of Social Services from 1983 to 1989 as a child protection worker and supervisor. He joined the State of Nevada in 1989 as a social services specialist in child protective services and later served as district manager in the Reno office. Mike returned to Washoe County in 1994 where he worked as division director for adult services until April of 1996 when he was named director of the children’s services. The Washoe County Board of Commissioners appointed Michael as director of the Washoe County Department of Social Services in 2000; he retired from county service in January 2009 and is currently employed by Adams and Associates.

Libraries and Science

Russell ’70M.S. (chemistry) and Peggy (Meyer) Boynton ’60 (chemistry)

Originally from southern California, Russ earned a bachelor’s in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. Peggy grew up in northern California and headed to Nevada for college. Russ did a stint in the Navy. In 1960 he and Peggy married and settled in Orinda, Calif., where they still reside. Russ worked for Chevron for nearly 20 years and now has his own business building and repairing computers. Peggy landed a job with the IRS in 1976 and is still working. The Boyntons have a daughter, Anne Louise Boynton Elam, and a grandson, Jonathan. Inveterate travelers, the Boyntons have visited just short of 100 countries in their sojourns.

Reynolds School of Journalism

Barbara Henry ’74 (journalism)

In 1974, then-Reno Gazette-Journal editor Warren Lerude ’61 called to offer Barbara a reporting job. That was the beginning of a 35-year career in the newspaper business. After eight years as a reporter, city editor and managing editor in Reno, Barbara traveled to Washington, D.C., to work on the start-up team for the recently founded USA TODAY. The next 24 years were spent criss-crossing the country working at Gannett Co. newspapers. Barbara became editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, New York, publisher of the Great Falls Tribune, Montana, and The Des Moines Register, Iowa, in 1995. In 2000, Gannett purchased The Indianapolis Star and Barbara was promoted to a Gannett group president’s role, and supervised more than 20 newspapers in the Midwest and South. Barbara retired from Gannett in 2008.

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