Remembering Friends

Eleanor Lloyd Doan ’36 (journalism/psychology) died June 5, 2010. Eleanor was born June 4, 1914 to Fred and Gladys Doan. Eleanor lived in Weed, Calif. from 1915 to 1920 and in Ashland, Ore. from 1920 to 1923. Her father worked on the Southern Pacific Railroad in California as an executive and for the FBI. The family moved to Sparks, where she graduated from Sparks High School in 1932 and the University of Nevada in 1936.

In 1937, she received teaching credentials from Wheaton College in Illinois. Eleanor then lived and worked in Hantineburg, Pa. from 1938 to 1942 and in New York City from 1942 to 1945 during World War II. She later moved to Glendale, Calif. where Eleanor was one of the original board members and first employee of Gospel Light International (GLINT), where she worked 34 years. Eleanor served as director of product development, marketing research coordinator and promotional publicist.

She belonged to Gamma Phi Beta Alumni Society, Kappa Tau Alpha (journalism honorary), Chi Delta Phi (literary honorary) and was president of Doan Family Association America, California chapter. Eleanor was also an original board member and trustee for Mustang Seed and served on the board of Seed Sowers and other organizations. She completed 70 books for Gospel Light and about 50 more through other publishers. A world traveler, she led over 32 tour groups.

Eleanor is predeceased by sisters Ruth and Freda.

Jack J. Furin, former Nevada employee, died on June 12, 2010. Born in Uniontown, Pa. to Jim and Mary Furin, Jack was the loving older brother of Eileen and Jean. He graduated from North Union High School in 1944 and became a student and assistant trainer at the University of Pittsburgh before transferring in 1946 to become the head trainer at the University of Nevada, Reno. At the time, he was the youngest man in the country to hold such a position. He returned to Pittsburgh and graduated with a degree in education and ultimately completed with a master of arts from Pennsylvania College in 1968.

Starting with a job at his high school alma mater, more than 40 years of Jack’s life were dedicated to education with positions from Pennsylvania to California before retiring after 21 years in the El Monte School District as a teacher and vice principal.

Jack’s life-long loves of sports, especially baseball, allowed him to spend many years coaching, scorekeeping and mentoring young athletes. He is survived by Hamiet, his loving wife of 47 years, children Monica, Anne, Joe and grandchildren Danielle, Tyler, Elisa, Gabriella, Sophie, Jarrett, Isabella, Jake, Lauren, Dana and Adrianna. Jack touched many lives with his wisdom, guidance, dedication, humor, friendship and love.

Edward “Ed” Grundel Jr. ’43 (mining engineering) died June 12, 2010 following a courageous battle with prostate cancer in Carmichael, Calif. Born April 5, 1921 to Edward and Ethel Grundel in San Jose, Calif., he graduated from Hollywood High School in 1939. He would go on to attend the University where, being the first in his family to graduate from high school, he would work many jobs with the railroad and the National Youth Administration to earn his degree. He served as president of his Phi Sigma Kappa chapter, class senator, and with numerous service organizations on campus. He met and married Carmelina ’45 (Berglind) while at the University and valued their 64-year marriage of love and adventure together as the greatest reward of life.

After graduation, Edward served in the U.S. Marine Corp. Specifically, he served in World War II in the Pacific as a first lieutenant artillery battalion forward observer.

Post war, Ed worked as a photogrammetric engineer for 16 years while raising his family in San Lorenzo, Calif. He and Carmen returned to school to earn teaching credentials and his master’s in education at California State University at Hayward. He taught high school math while Carmen taught elementary school for 20 years in the Bay Area. After retirement, the couple fulfilled their own education interests, through a passion for genealogical research and their sense of adventure with extensive travel across six continents. Ed researched and wrote numerous books on his and Carmen’s genealogy and family history. With the pursuit and promotion of education as a priority in their lives, they have both funded scholarship trusts for current and future students of education at Nevada.

Preceded by Carmen’s passing in 2007, he is survived by his three children, Edward J. (Nancy), Janine (Flip), and Kurt (Muir); five grandchildren: Fay (Larry), Justine, Carmen (Jason), Eric (Sharlene), Edward B. (Corey), and great-grandchildren Rachel, Lain, Bryn, Edward, Andrew, Melissa, Megan and Matthew.

Remembrances may be made to the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Class of 1943 Scholarship Endowment, Mail Stop 0162, Reno, NV 89557.

James “Jack” Davis’50 (arts and science), founding president of Nevada’s community college system, died Oct. 24, 2009 after a short bout with pneumonia. Jack was president of Western Nevada Community College from 1972 to 1983 and also built extended WNCC rural colleges in Fallon, Gardnerville and Elko during his tenure as president. Born in San Diego on Nov. 22, 1925, Jack joined the Merchant Marines during World War II and later was an army company commander during the Korean War.

Jack played as a linebacker on the University’s championship football team coached by Joe Sheeketski. He was also a college light heavyweight boxer.

Jack loved Nevada and its people and served them in an educational capacity for most of his life. He was principal of Battle Mountain Elementary School in 1954, principal of Fallon High School in 1958, and then became superintendent of the Unified Churchill County School District. He became an associate professor at the University after receiving his doctorate from Stanford, and taught here for seven years from 1965 to 1972. He created the Research and Educational Planning Center at the University’s College of Education. He was also an educational consultant to many state departments of education and school districts and actively promoted vocational education in Nevada and on a national level. He authored the book, The Principal’s Guide to Educational Facilities.

He was offered the job as founding president of the still yet to be built, Western Nevada Community College in Carson City in 1972. Jack worked tirelessly for many years to expand the college and its facilities, as well as rural satellite colleges.

In 1978, he was appointed by the governor to the Nevada Athletic Commission. He was the executive vice president of the World Boxing Council, founded the North American Boxing Federation and headed the WBC Ring Officials Committee.

Also in 1978, Nevada governor Mike O’Callahan, proclaimed his “appreciation and thanks to Jack Davis in recognition of the exemplary service, loyalty offered to the State of Nevada, and sincere thanks for Jack’s efforts that have so greatly contributed to the economic and social success of the State of Nevada and helped assure the continuing preservation of our free-enterprise system.”

Jack had a great heart and served in other capacities in the Carson City community. He was a fifth-grade Sunday school teacher at the First United Methodist Church for 25 years, president of the Rotary Club, served on the Carson Tahoe Hospital Blue Ribbon Committee and was a member of the Northern Nevada Development Authority. In 2004, Jack was honored by having the observatory on the Western Nevada College campus dedicated in his name: the Jack C. Davis Observatory.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their three children, Susan, Maria (Mark), and Greg (Sharlene), and four grandchildren, Allison, Katelyn, Natalie and Jack.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Reprinted, with photo, from summer, 2010 issue.

Alfred Wheeler ‘56M.S. (mining engineering) died May 6, 2010 in Round Rock, Texas. Alfred was born Sept. 18, 1929 in Stoneham, Mass. He was the son of the late Sidney Wheeler and Florence (Kendall) Wheeler. After high school he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received a bachelor’s in geology. Then he attended the University of Nevada, where he received a master’s in mining engineering. Throughout his many professional careers he specialized in the production of magnesium metal.

Alfred was a resident of Georgetown, Texas and was formerly a resident of Snyder, Texas. He also lived in Calgary and Alberta, Canada, as well as Beersheba, Israel. Alfred was a member of the Society of Mining Engineers and the Texas
James “Jack” Davis ’50  

Gary A. Sorge ’90

Chuck returned to Las Vegas in 2001 to retire, but was enticed out of retirement to apply his engineering skills in various capacities until health problems slowed him down. Chuck is survived by his wife of 54 years, Eva, sons, Richard and Joe, daughter, Julie, and four grandchildren, along with a brother, Sonny, and a sister, Rose.

Gary A. Sorge ’90 (political science), ’99MBA died tragically on June 29, 2010 while heroically saving the lives of his son and the child of a total stranger, which, to anyone who knew him, came as no surprise.

Gary was born June 17, 1966 in Dayton, Ohio to Joseph and Bonnie Sorge. Joseph was a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force and the family lived in various duty stations, from Germany to Massachusetts to Florida. The family settled in Las Vegas when Gary was 14. Upon graduation in 1984 from Clark High School in Las Vegas, Gary moved to Reno to attend the University. While in college, he began a job at Saint Mary’s Regional Medical Center in the E.R. department, and progressed to the performance improvement department, which would ultimately define his career in the medical field. Gary returned to the University while continuing to work at Saint Mary’s. After more than 20 years at Saint Mary’s, Gary moved on to become the practice administrator of Digestive Health Associates in Reno, where he was recently employed.

Gary had the gift of bringing smiles and joy to everyone he was around. He was unfailingly optimistic, and always saw the “silver lining” in everything life brought to him. Above all else, Gary loved his family and friends. He considered his greatest accomplishment in life as having a beautiful and loving marriage and three wonderful sons. Gary prided himself on treating others with respect and kindness and living life to the fullest.

Among his varied interests, Gary enjoyed traveling to exotic locations, racing cars, camping, mountain climbing, skiing, mountain biking, tennis and racquetball, as well as having a deep appreciation for great food and wine. He had the perfect balance in his life between family, friends, work and play and although his time on earth with all of us is over, he will forever live on in our hearts, minds and souls as one of the most wonderful memories that any of us could ever have.

Gary is preceded in death by his father, Joseph. He is survived by his mother, Bonnie; wife, Kelly; sons, Connor and Trenton; a brother, Jeff (Michele); a sister, Jackie (John); in-laws, Roger (Marie); a brother-in-law, Ryan (Lorrain), as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. He touched the lives of everyone he met and will never be forgotten.

For everyone who knew Gary, lift a glass of great red wine (or open a can of Spam and enjoy it with cheese in a can) and toast the memory of a remarkable man who inspired us all and left us far too early. Cheers, Gary.

Creating a Legacy of Education

How to become a member of the Nevada Legacy Society

If you have already arranged for a bequest or other planned gift to Nevada, we would like to honor your support, so please notify us and we will send you the information to become a Legacy Society member.

If you are still considering such a gift, let us know so we can help you and your advisers complete your gift in a way that benefits your estate and makes clear your objectives in making a bequest to the University of Nevada, Reno. For example, you could choose to support student scholarships, capital expansion, equipment purchases, endowed faculty positions, or the area of greatest opportunity or need at the time your gift comes in.

Involvement in the Nevada Legacy Society gives you the opportunity to enjoy the company of others who, like yourself, care about leaving a legacy to protect and strengthen the University of Nevada. Members receive a Legacy Society lapel pin, invitations to exclusive functions on campus and more. Your gift can be recognized publicly, unless you prefer to remain anonymous.

For more information about membership in the Nevada Legacy Society or about including the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation in your future plans, please contact Lisa Riley at (775) 784-1352, or plannedgiving.unr.edu.