‘Mountainous’ news on more than one front

At certain points the events of August 2010 felt like both tailwind and tempest, propelling our campus to unexpected heights, and compelling us on more than one occasion to take a step back to ask if they were in the best interest of our future.

They were events that were undeniably positive. Yet, against this backdrop, we also need to remember that we are losing good colleagues and programs due to a difficult year of budget cuts and curricular review. In the face of such challenge and change, the accomplishments of our faculty, students and staff have truly been extraordinary.

The events of August help illustrate why this is so.

On Aug. 16, the University celebrated the grand opening for the Center for Molecular Medicine. This $77 million facility will house research teams from across the School of Medicine, and will also be home to the University’s Center for Healthy Aging and the Whittemore Peterson Institute. The facility will help broaden our institution’s research portfolio for competitive grants and promises to impact the health and lives of Nevadans.

On Aug. 17, U.S. News & World Report issued its annual “best colleges” rankings, and significant changes in their presentation and methodology this year resulted in a strong ranking for the University of Nevada, Reno. In the 2011 rankings of “best national universities,” the University ranks as a first tier school. It is the first time in our history that we have been ranked in the first tier.

On the evening of Wednesday, Aug. 18, before a packed press conference in Legacy Hall, the University accepted an invitation to become a member of the Mountain West Conference. 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 interest of our fans and program and also view this invitation as acknowledgement of our work to build a strong, competitive and nationally respected intercollegiate athletics program. I have been heartened by the excitement many of you have shared with me regarding this move.

On Aug. 20, we welcomed our largest, most diverse and academically talented freshman class ever to campus. In addition, our fall enrollment is poised to exceed 17,000 students—an all-time record.

Sincerely,

Milton D. Glick
President
www.unr.edu/president