From the President

Dear Nevada Alumni,

As summer approaches several very important Nevada Alumni Association events are right around the corner. On April 22, the association welcomes the next graduating class into our alumni family during Graduation Celebration. Graduates have a chance to celebrate their achievements together one last time before Commencement while enjoying food, fun and friends. It is also a way for us to introduce these soon-to-be alumni to our organization and encourage them to stay connected to Nevada.

This time of year we also celebrate the Class of 1960 on May 14-15 at their 50th reunion during Golden Reunion weekend. Several activities are planned for this special group of alumni as they return to campus to celebrate together. The Golden Wolves, alumni who graduated more than 50 years ago, are also invited to celebrate with the newly inducted Golden class.

Does hearing “Red Light, Green Light” bring back childhood memories for any of you? As summertime approaches, what better way to kick it off than at the second annual Alumni Skate Night at Roller Kingdom on June 6? The event is from 5:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. and alumni are invited to come out and relive their youth at this fun-for-all-ages event!

Also, mark your calendars for one of our most popular events of the year, Pack Picnics on the Quad. These start July 7 and continue each Wednesday through Aug. 11 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Bring your family and friends out all six nights and enjoy free music, bounce houses, face painting, balloon animals, games and more!

Finally, dues-paying members continue to help the Nevada Alumni Association with funding for programs and events throughout the year. We continue to enhance the member benefits with new partnerships at businesses such as the new Mexican food restaurant on campus, Cantina del Lobo; Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival and events throughout United States and Canada and Business Energetix, just to name a few. If you have not yet joined or have let your membership lapse, I encourage you to sign up today by visiting www.unr.edu/alumni or calling 888. NV ALUMS. Start taking advantage of all we have to offer!

Thank you for supporting the Nevada Alumni Association!

Sincerely,

Lauren Sankovich '98
President, Nevada Alumni Council

Nevada Alumni Council Executive Committee
Lauren Sankovich ’98
President
Michael F. Dillon, Jr. ’94
Past President
Julie Rowe ’94
Treasurer/President-elect
Seema Donahoe ’02
Vice President for Chapter Development
Kelly Bland ’91
Vice President for Community Outreach
Jeff Pickett ’89
Vice President for Marketing and Membership
Rita Laden ’96
Vice President for Student Outreach

Board Members
Chad Blanchard ’93, MS ’03, MBA ’09
Cindy Buchanan ’95
Tim Crowley ’92
Roger Diedrichsen ’71
Seema Donahoe ’02
James Eason ’95
Jill Johnson Fielden ’91
Cary Groth (Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, ex officio member)
Stephanie Hanna ’96
Samantha Hudson ’94
Cesar Ibarra ’00
Laura Jenkins ’99
Robert Jones ’70
Ro Lazzarone ’03
William Magrath ’73
Patrick Martinez ’95
Martene Olsen ’74
Michael Pennington ’95
Eli Reilly (ASUN President)
Jason Sterrett ’02
Tj Windfeldt ’01

Staff Members
John K. Carothers
Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations
Bruce Mack
Associate Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations
Amy J. Carothers ’01
Director, Alumni Relations
Christy Jerz ’97
Assistant Director, Alumni Relations
Juliane Di Meo
Alumni Program Manager
Lindsey Harmon ’06
Alumni Program Coordinator
Hope Hepner
Administrative Assistant II

Class Chat submissions are due May 14, 2010.

’40s
Mary (Higgins) Reed ’42 (English) is a coordinator of a writing-for-fun class at Highland Senior Center near San Bernardino, Calif. She has enjoyed teaching the class for the last 14 years. She also has had the privilege of playing the Austin pipe organ at her church for the last 36 years. Mary encourages other ‘40 grads to submit their volunteer work as well.

Louie Joseph ’49 (physical education) celebrated his third retirement on Nov. 1, 2009 after 58 years in education. In his most recent role, he worked for the California State Department of Education, where he was Field Consultant assigned to the Los Angeles Unified School District. Previously he was with the education department of Chapman University and originally retired in 1993 from K-12 public education as a superintendent and High School Principal. Louie resides in Anaheim, Calif. with his wife of 51 years, Adelle, and has four grown children and five grandchildren.

’60s
Roswell Rogers ’60 (civil engineering) retired in 2004 and enjoys traveling with his wife, Adair. The couple has traveled extensively throughout United States and Canada and recently returned from an 8,000 mile trip.

Mark Paloolian ’69 (physical education) recently completed a biography entitled Brutality: The Tragic Story of Stanley Ketchel, the Michigan Assassin. The biography is an engaging true story about a boxer from the turn-of-the-last century who reached the pinnacle in boxing achievement only to be cut down at the tender age of 24. Mark retired in 2003 after teaching for 33 years in the public schools.

’70s

Roger Ashby ’70 (zoology) has been named vice president of finance for Advanced Refining Concepts, a privately held developer and manufacturer of fuels that produce cleaner emissions and more efficient combustion. Roger is a veteran of the Nevada business community having served for more than 35 years in the banking field.

Joe Sellers ’70 (physical education/history), ’71M.A. (school administration), long-time high school football coach, was recently inducted into the Bob Elias Kern County Sports Hall of Fame. Joe played football at the University of Nevada then began a stellar football coaching career at Wooster High School, where he went 214-37-7 in 27 seasons. He has won numerous coaching honors.

Ronald Digesti ’71 (zoology), ’73M.S. (zoology) is the managing partner of the San Francisco office of the law firm of Callahan, Thompson, Sherman & Caudill, LLP. Ron resides in San Jose, Calif. with his wife, Yolanda. They have two grown children, Christina and Anthony, and three grandchildren. They enjoy travel, fishing, shooting, hiking, bicycling and scuba diving.

Zan (Poulsen) Coonce ’76 (elementary education), a fifth grade classroom teacher at Brown Elementary School in the Washoe County School District for the past 12 years, is one of 87 mathematics and science teachers to win the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is given annually to the best pre-college science and math teachers from across the country and is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade mathematics or science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. The winners are selected by a panel of scientists, mathematicians and educators.

To make science come alive, Coonce created a sixth grade Living Museum, where students practice public speaking and share their knowledge of science during the science fair. Students research the childhood, education, and achievements of a scientist. They create posters, costumes, and props to depict their scientist and write and deliver a speech in character.

She is an active member of the Technology Committee, where she established a technology plan for the school and secured a $50,000 grant to purchase new computers.

Coonce and the other awardees were given a citation signed by the President of the United States, a paid trip for two to Washington, D.C. to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities, and a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

Carole (Brennan) Hess ’71M.A. (special education) recently retired from the Washoe county School District and has plans to travel with her husband, George, and spend time with their four (almost five) grandchildren.

Lorraine Honyumptewa ’73 (business education) is enjoying retirement after 30 years with the Division of Child and Family Services.

Terence Sullivan ’81, (pre-medicine) was deployed to Afghanistan for a year in January. He is on active duty with the Nevada National Guard, where he was the director of logistics, and deployed with the 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Mountain) from Vermont. Colonel Sullivan will be part of the Afghan National Security Forces Development Assistance Bureau where he will head up the Future Plans cell. He is very proud of his daughters, Lyndsey (journalism) and Emily (business), who are currently attending the University and are members of Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Bob Gabrielli ’78 (journalism) has been named director of corporate, foundation and government relations for the Nevada Museum of Art. Bob previously worked as development officer and grants manager of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern Nevada. He was previously employed by the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation.

‘80s

Mary (Jacques) Keating ’81 (accounting) was recently hired as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act reporting and accountability officer for the State of Nevada. Mary recently served as an administrative services officer for the Department of Health and Human Services. Her major purpose in the new position is to ensure that the State of Nevada accurately reports the usage of its $2.2 billion in ARRA funds.

James Pappas ’82 (biology), ’86M.D. recently announced the opening of Active Sports Medicine in Reno. The practice specializes in preventing and treating orthopedic injuries. With more than 15 years experience as a partner in the Reno Orthopedic Clinic, James was the longtime physician for the University of Nevada’s Department of Athletics. A Reno native, James has built a reputation as the “team doctor,” lending his expertise to both high school and college athletes throughout Northern Nevada.

Karl A. Frost ’83M.S. (geology) recently was appointed to the position of chief geologist for Infrastructure Materials Corp. Karl has provided geological services to Infrastructure Materials for the past 16 months, assisting in the exploration of the company’s resources.
Nancy (McMullin) Bobb ’83 (civil engineering) has retired from the Federal Highway Administration after 25 years. She is enjoying her retirement and has no plans to work again!

William “Bill” O’Donnell ’83 (renewable natural resources), an assistant state conservationist with USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, has volunteered for a second time to serve in Afghanistan to help rebuild that country’s agricultural sector, this time for a 13-month assignment. Bill is one of 50 agricultural experts deployed in Afghanistan through early 2010.

Jefferson Stewart ’83 (accounting) founded a father/daughter Valentine dance that is now the largest of its kind in the nation, with more than 4,200 in attendance last year. For more information, including tips on how to start a father/daughter Valentine dance in your area, visit www.fatherdaughterdance.org.

Dale Erquiaga ’85 (political science) has been named executive director of government affairs, public policy and strategic planning for the Clark County School District. He previously owned a facilitation and planning consultancy based in Phoenix. While in Arizona, he completed his master’s degree in leadership from Grand Canyon University.

Glenn Brown ’86 M.S. (second from left)

Glenn Brown ’86 M.S. (animal science) has volunteered to serve a one-year assignment in Iraq to help rebuild the country’s agricultural sector as an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Glenn was instrumental in the opening of Iraqi Farmer Cooperative, marking the community’s progress toward sustainability. Glenn worked on the project with two other USDA Provincial Reconstruction Team agricultural advisers.

Mark D. Ridley ’86 (criminal justice) was recently named deputy director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Mark joined NCIS in 1987. He served as special agent afloat aboard the USS Forrestal (CV-59) in 1990 and posted assignments in Long Beach, Calif.; Sasebo, Japan; Jacksonville, Fla.; Camp Lejeune, N.C.; and Camp Pendleton, Calif., where he became the first special agent in charge of the Marine Corps West Field Office. In 2007, Mark was selected to be executive assistant director for criminal investigations.

Jacqueline (Voorhees) Rickard ’88 (art) is enjoying retirement and spends her time creating beautiful baskets out of pine needles and beads.

John Faber ’86 (criminal justice) was selected as one of Virginia’s “Legal Elite” in real estate and land use law after a process of nomination and voting by attorneys throughout the state, as reported by Virginia Business magazine.

Mark Smith ’86 M.S. (civil engineering), the founder and chief executive officer of California’s Vector Engineering for 23 years, has launched the nonprofit Smith International Foundation. The foundation teaches individuals, rural communities and non-governmental organizations to work with resource companies and manage the impacts from resource extraction.

Linda (Ward) Lee ’87 (elementary education) is in her second year as a special education team leader where she coordinates six teachers and seven parents. This year she celebrated her 20th wedding anniversary, with her husband, Michael, in both London and Paris.

‘90s

Alison Gaulden ’92 (journalism) recently started her own consulting business training volunteer campaign managers to run election campaigns to aid local candidates.

Robyn Campbell-Ouchida ’93 (journalism) was named editor of UNLV’s William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration’s alumni magazine, Premier. She is also the editor of Nevada Public Radio’s newsletter, Earborne. She resides in Henderson, Nev. with her husband and two sons.

Anne-Marie Cuneo ’94 (economics), ’97 M.S. (economics) has been promoted by the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada to director of regulatory operations. Anne-Marie joined the PUC in 1998 as a senior utility analyst and has served as manager of the
Patrick Ronan ’94 (health education) has joined Digestive Care, Inc.’s senior management team. DCI is a fully integrated pharmaceutical company dedicated to developing products to alleviate complications and symptoms of gastrointestinal disorders. Patrick, former FDA chief of staff, is the founder and president of Greenleaf Health, LLC, a full-service regulatory consulting firm in New York and Washington, D.C., that provides strategic guidance for companies developing innovative solutions to pressing public health challenges around the globe.

Jay Daugherty ’95MJS (trial judges), currently a State of Missouri trial judge, has been elected chair of the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association’s National Board of Trustees. ALS is more commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. Jay has also served as chair of the association’s Strategic Planning Committee, vice chair of the Research Committee and co-chair of the Governance Task Force.

Ronda Ryan ’96 (journalism) graduated from the University of San Francisco Dec. 18 with a master of science degree in organization development.

Adriana Fralick ’98 (speech communications) has been named general counsel in the office of Governor Jim Gibbons. She previously worked as general counsel for the Nevada Commission on Ethics, beginning in 2006. Adriana has a law degree from the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

James Iredell ’99 (political science/English), ’02M.A. (English) recently debuted Prose. Poem. A Novel, a precisely written series of poems that when collected tell an addictive story. James masterfully pushes the reader through every detail, but as each page is turned, form and genre melt into a vital story.

Tasha (Palmer) Lopez ’99 (chemical engineering) has recently relocated from southern California to Silicon Valley and accepted a new role within IBM as the Cognos new sales specialist for the western United States. Friends can reach her at tasha_lopez@yahoo.com. She looks forward to reconnecting with friends in Reno.

‘00s

Kurt Dietrich ’00 (civil engineering), ’08 (professional construction management) recently passed the Professional Traffic Operations Engineer Exam with flying colors.

Wendy (Ridgeway) Hummel ’00 (elementary education/special education), ’06M.Ed. (special education) and Andrew Hummel ’99 (civil engineering) would like to announce the birth of their twins, Nathan Andrew and Tristan Garrett on May 19, 2009. They join big sister Courtney Rose, 3.

Linda (Dickie) Leavitt ’00 (marketing) and Lucas Leavitt ’00 (geological engineering) are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Brinley Dell on Sept. 21, 2009. She joins big sister Elle, 2.

Heidi (Kientz) Ross ’00 (human development and family studies) and her husband Eric Ross ’00 (business administration) would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Ayden Siena on Jan. 12, 2009.

Jaimie (Bertelson) Dianda ’01 (English/Spanish) and Chris Dianda ’99 (agriculture and applied economics) welcomed a baby girl, Gianna Marie on March 30, 2009.

Jessica Smith ’01M.A. (anthropology), ’06Ph.D. (anthropology) and Scott Smith ’04 (mining engineering) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Dahlia Jean on Jan. 1, 2009. She joins big sister, Autumn, 3.

Lisa (Mortensen) Bagley ’02 (accounting/computer information systems) and her husband, Dennis Reed Bagley II, are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Lylia Marie, born Aug. 8, 2009.

Karin (Beutel) Carrasco ’08 (speech communications) and husband, Adam Carrasco, would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Amelia Joe, Sept. 4, 2008.

Kim (Gubanich) Luikart ’95 (biology) and Bill Luikart are happy to announce the birth of their twins, Jackson and Rita on July 9, 2009.

Joell (Stiner) Key ’96 (criminal justice) and her husband, Jimmy Key, would like to announce the birth of their son, Jace Ryan on Dec. 15, 2009. He joins his older brother, Jackson Robert.

Veronica (Chavez) Simonowski ’98 (journalism) and her husband, Andreas Simonowski, are proud to announce the birth of their first son, Nolan Parks, on Nov. 11, 2009.

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Employed by the City of Reno since 1998, Kurt spends his free time working on steam locomotives and serving on the executive board for the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

Jessica Hensler ’01 (journalism), ’07MBA earned her Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification from the University of California, San Diego. This intensive 12-week program teaches a set of tools, techniques and operating principles that represents the best of practices in quality and process improvement resulting in improved performance and reduced costs. With this certification, she has the credentials to be a Lean Six Sigma leader within an organization, which she is now applying in her current position for health care clients and design projects.

Whitney (Waldroup) Hovenic ’02 (psychology), ’08M.D. (medicine) recently married Dr. Tom Hovenic. The couple is now in Columbia, Mo. where she is in her dermatology residency.

Brett DeGroff ’03M.A. (journalism) recently participated in freeing a man wrongly convicted of murder who had spent nine years in prison. Brett’s participation came as part of his work with the Michigan Innocence Clinic. Brett expects to earn his J.D. from the University of Michigan in December.

Courtney (Ross) Broussard ’04 (marketing) recently married Julius Broussard on Aug. 17, 2008. They started the franchise Bevinco of Idaho in 2005, which conducts inventory control for bars and restaurants.

Scott Kelley ’04 (journalism) has joined Allegra Print and Imaging as sales manager, and now oversees all aspects of sales and marketing in the northern Nevada area. Scott also completed his first year on the Washoe County School Board, during which time the board of trustees hired Superintendent Heath Morrison and passed a $450 million budget that kept schools open and teachers employed. Scott announced his engagement to Brooke Westlake in November to finish an exciting 2009.

Stefanie Pulido ’04 (business administration), senior associate for Muckel Anderson CPAs, recently earned her CPA designation. As a senior associate, Stefanie specializes in auditing with emphasis in the gaming industry, employee benefit plans and homeowners’ associations. She also has experience in indi-
individual, corporate, nonprofit and partnership taxation. She joined the firm in 2005 as a staff accountant and was promoted to senior associate in 2008. Stefanie currently serves as the co-treasurer for the VSA arts of Nevada, an organization devoted to providing art opportunities throughout the state.

Stephanie Jiroch ’05 (journalism), ’07 (psychology) has recently been hired as an account executive with 944 Magazine, one of the leading lifestyle media companies that appeals to young, upwardly mobile, image conscious adults and connects them with the top brands in the United States through a wide range of platforms. Stephanie currently resides in San Francisco.

Ryan Riggan ’06 (business management) joined Heritage Bank of Nevada as a commercial loan officer specializing in small business administration loans and other government-guaranteed lending. Ryan, who has worked in banking for six years, previously worked for Nevada Security Bank and Bank of America.

Leandro Romero ’07 (geography) recently won best paper presented by a master’s student at a meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers in San Diego. The paper was titled “Adjudicating Modern Water under Ancient Rules: An Instance of "Translation between two Laws" in Kona, Oahu.”

Jamie Brant ’08 (journalism) has been promoted to account executive at MassMedia Corporate Communications, a regional public relations, advertising and marketing communications firm. Jamie has been with MassMedia since 2008, most recently as an assistant account executive. In her new role, she will be responsible for account management, creating press materials, copyediting, media buying, event planning and management, and client and media relations for accounts on a local and national level.

Joshua Mooneyham ’08 (civil engineering) and his new wife, a former ski team athlete, Amanda (Goyne) Mooneyham ’09 (biology), have found a new home in Sacramento. Joshua is working with a state-of-the-art material recovery facility and sanitary landfill as a civil engineer under the guidance and support of another Nevada grad, Wayne Trewhitt ’62 (civil engineering). His duties include the oversight of the landfill, projecting future fill sequences, aiding in the monitoring of the recovery facility and

Kickin’ it with K-von | Audio books: Can you hear me now?

Tired of listening to the same old songs on the radio? Are you disheartened by the fact that although you have an iPod full of 13,000 tunes, you are bored with all of them? Perhaps it’s time you take advantage of the best-kept secret in America: Your local library.

Most Americans find themselves in transit a minimum of 45 minutes a day. Why waste that time pretending you’re making a music video with Fergie? Just so you know, when you are rocking out in your car . . . we can see you, and you look ridiculous. Instead of embarrassing yourself, go to a library and check out a few audio books. Your tax dollars have already paid for them and there is a huge selection to choose from. For me it has accomplished two things: 1) Made my car rides more interesting, and 2) brought inner peace.

We arrived at our destination and were marched over to the head librarian’s desk. This woman was very old, very scary, and thought all kids were too loud, even when we were just breathing. The first thing she did was force my brother and me to fill out a card with all of our contact information . . . which I believe she needed so she could find us and kill us if we did not read enough books. It was then realized we were being enlisted against our will for the “Book Reading Summer Camp.” This was a clear violation of my human rights. The librarian would explain that if we read five books a week for the next two months we could attend their pizza party.

I discovered audio books about four years ago and it makes me feel like a successful and busy executive who has an assistant reading for me. Walking into the library again after a long absence will probably bring back a lot of memories. I can still recall my summers as a kid when I’d be having a splendid time and suddenly my mom would stand in front of the TV blocking the view.

“Step away from the Nintendo. We’re going to the library!” She’d announce.

“Noooo!” I’d scream. My brother and I would run and hide throughout the house in the best place we could find. For me it was usually in a laundry basket. It would take my mom .5 seconds to find us, grab us by the ears and force us into the car. (Note: this was before they had laws that protected children, so we were very vulnerable in those days.)

Now, when I see a traffic jam, I think, “Oh goody, I’ll get to read five books a week for the next two months we could attend their pizza party.”

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“Two months!” I thought, not sure if I would live that long.

I was then handed a library card and told to go pick out a few books. Off I went, straight to the comics. Again I was grabbed by the ear and directed elsewhere. After my initial resistance to reading, I found that as the weeks wore on, I couldn’t wait to go back to the library. What an adventure to learn about so many different topics. Everything from dinosaurs to detectives . . . I even read one book about a dinosaur detective—I think his name was Sherlokosaurus.

Tired of listening to the same old songs on the radio? Are you disheartened by the fact that although you have an iPod full of 13,000 tunes, you are bored with all of them? Perhaps it’s time you take advantage of the best-kept secret in America: Your local library.

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researching new ideas in waste management practices. Amanda is working toward her medical degree at University of California, Davis in their rural prime program.

Richard Koehler ’09Ph.D. (geology), of the Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys in Fairbanks, Alaska, joined a team of scientists invited by the Haitian government to evaluate the fault system that ruptured in the magnitude seven earthquake in Haiti on Jan. 12. Richard’s invitation for the two-week Haiti fault investigation was based partly on his field experience working along the same fault zone in nearby Jamaica prior to his employment with the state of Alaska. Richard has extensive field experience in California, Nevada, Turkey, Taiwan and Guatemala.

Awards, Awards, Awards!

Twenty Under 40

Thirteen University of Nevada, Reno alumni were honored at the third annual RGJ Twenty Under 40 Awards on Nov. 5. Sponsored jointly by the Reno Tahoe Young Professionals Network and the Reno Gazette-Journal, the awards program pays tribute to young area professionals who have made a positive impact on the community. Awardees: Gary Aldax ’92 (journalism), Polly Boardman ’00 (geology), Alexia Bratiotis ’01 (journalism), Greg Crawford ’01 (biology), ’05 (nursing), Mike Dillion Jr. ’94 (political science), Caesar Ibarra ’00 (accounting), Joelle (Gruppe) Jay ’92 (education), Kurt Neddenriep ’94 (finance), Julie (VanHouck) Rowe ’94 (journalism), Brett Scolari ’94 (health science), David Taylor ’99 (journalism), Scott Walquist ’02 (journalism), Fritzi Witsoe ’07 MBA (business administration).

Silver Spike Awards

Several University of Nevada, Reno alumni were honored at the annual Silver Spike Awards on Jan. 28. This annual event showcases the best in public relations tactics, programs and professionals in our community. Awardees: Mark Curtis, Sr., Professional Of The Year; Scott Walquist ’02 (journalism), Outstanding New Practitioner; Natalie Savidge ’04 (journalism), Public Relations Hall of Fame; Karl Walquist ’75 (journalism).