Alumni

Nevada Alumni Council

The Nevada Alumni Council, led this year by Lauren Sankovich ’98, is a 27-member advisory board for the Nevada Alumni Association. With four major areas of focus: membership and marketing; student involvement; community outreach; and chapter development, the council works to enhance and evaluate the quality of current Association activities, as well as develop new initiatives to engage alumni with their alma mater.

During the Annual Homecoming meeting on Friday, Oct. 23, the Nevada Alumni Council unanimously approved a new slate of officers as well as four new board members (see photos below).

Nominations for the 2010/2011 Alumni Council are open until Aug. 1. If you are interested in receiving more information about becoming a board member, please email the Office of Alumni Relations at nvalumni@unr.edu or call 888.NV ALUMS.

Lauren Sankovich ’98 Alumni Council President

1. As a student at Nevada, you were a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. How did your experiences in the Greek system and as a student at Nevada help shape you personally and professionally?

The Greek system and the University provided me the opportunity to perform in leadership roles, meet individuals from all walks of life and make lifelong personal and professional relationships. My college experience taught me how to manage my time, manage my finances and prepare technically for my career.

2. What is one of your most memorable moments when looking back at your time on campus?

Football games, study groups with good friends and the Beer Barrel—of course!

3. You are currently a partner at Muckel Anderson CPAs in Reno. What made you realize you wanted to be an accountant?

It was not until I actually worked for a public accounting firm as an intern that I realized that I truly wanted to be an accountant. I enjoyed the client interaction, the teamwork approach with my fellow co-workers and the dedication and hard work it takes to know and understand all the rules and regulations that surround tax and financial accounting.

4. Can accounting firms provide more than just the once-a-year tax consultation and preparation?

The stigma that accountants are only consulted after year-end to either prepare a tax return or perform the annual compliance audit has been hard for accountants to shake off. Accounting firms are capable of providing so much more if utilized in a proactive manner. Accountants can and should be an integral part of any financial decision-making process. To get the most out of an accountant, clients should meet with their accountant at least quarterly and should contact their accountant before any major financial decision is made. At the very least, an accountant can assist in reducing one’s tax liability, eliminating unnecessary business expenditures, increasing revenues and maximizing profit margins—none of which has anything to do with tax preparation!

5. What do you hope to accomplish as the 2010 Nevada Alumni Council president?

I hope to be able to continue the council’s long-lived goal of cultivating a common bond of pride and affinity between alumni and students. I believe we can do this by increasing the awareness of the council in our community and by creating more opportunities to bring the community back onto campus.

Questions With

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 ’83, ’03, ’09
Tim Crowley ’92
Roger Diedrichsen ’71
Larry Digesti ’72
James Eason ’95
Jill Johnson Fielden ’91
Cary Groth (Director, Intercollegiate Athletics, ex officio member)
Stephanie Hanna ’96
Caesar Ibara ’00
Laura Jenkins ’99
Pamela Jewett ’04
Robert Jones ’70
Ro Lazzarone ’03
William Magrath ’73
Patrick Martinez ’95
Marlene Olsen ’74
Michael Pennington ’95
Eli Reilly (ASUN President)
Jason Sterrett ’02
Ty 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 Mee
Alumni Program Manager

Lindsey Harmon ’06
Alumni Program Coordinator

Hope Hepner
Administrative Assistant II

5 Questions With
’50s
Ed Baroch ’55 (metallurgical engineering) was awarded the Service Above Self Award through his involvement in Rotary. This is one of only 150 designated recognitions amongst the one-million-plus Rotary International members each year. Ed’s selection was based upon not only his work in Rotary, but also his professional and civic functions over the years.

George Corfield, ’58 (mining engineering), is active as a consultant in the Southwest for Laron Inc. George works on business development and engineering products. George and Liz, their three children and five grandchildren all live in Arizona.

’60s
Donald Barkhurst ’62 (electrical engineering) is enjoying his retirement with his wife, Hope, and five children, Stefanie and K. Carrie, Kemper and twins, Kaleb and Kourtney. Don has worked for numerous companies including Lawrence Radiation Laboratories, Maxwell Laboratories and his own company, Diversus, Inc.

Susan Moss ’66 (art) has written a book Survive Cancer! Susan interviewed survivors who said “NO” to conventional medicine and took charge of their disease in order to find out how to heal themselves.

Dale Placey ’67 (metallurgical engineering) and his wife, Lala, enjoy time at their second home in Stuart, Fla. particularly during sailfish season. The couple has been fishing for sails for 37 years.

’70s
Steve Forbes ’73 (mining engineering) has been granted a doctorate in environmental science and engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso. Steve has 36 years of professional experience and has been in private practice as a professional engineer (environmental) and geoscientist (hydrogeology) for the past 25 years.

Fred Hinnerr ’73 (journalism) has been appointed a local board member for the Selective Service System, 37 years after being one of the last draftees in October 1972. Fred worked as a staff writer for the European edition of Stars and Stripes while in the Army, and is looking forward to this fall’s reunion of worldwide Stars and Stripes alumni in Reno. He is a retired public affairs officer for the State of Nevada.

Mike McCabe ’76 (managerial sciences), senior vice president of the Industrial Group in the Reno office of Colliers International, has received the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors designation.

Tim Bertrand ’79 (prephysical therapy) is proud to announce his daughter, Jessica Bertrand’s, work with ISV (International Student Volunteer) program. Jessica spent five weeks working with elephants at the Nature’s Elephant Preserve in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Jessica, a current student at the University, participated in all aspects of elephant care including harvesting feed, feeding, cleaning, rehabilitation and retraining.

Richard Wagner M.D. ’79 (biology) has been awarded the Distinguished Award for Humanitarian Service by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. Richard helped found Global ENT Outreach (GEO), a humanitarian organization that treats ear disease in underserved populations around the world.

’80s
Mark Elston ’81 (accounting) was just appointed to the Reno Rodeo Foundation Board.

Tom Melancon ’82 (managerial sciences), ’89M.A. (counseling and guidance) is the new manager for the Seattle Federal Executive Board’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Program. A certified mediator since 2007, Tom leads a shared neutrals program, ensuring that public agencies receive mediation, facilitation, coaching and team conflict resolution services from 80 trained specialists in the Puget Sound area.

Brett A. Wyrick ’83 (premedical), a colonel in the Air National Guard, serves as the director of the medical service on the staff of the director of the Air National Guard. His responsibilities include coordinating medical policy, plans and programs for the Air National Guard.

Joyce Hansen ’87 (journalism) earned her master’s in library science from the University of Washington and now works as a librarian for both King County Library System and Seattle Public Library.

Bartley O’Toole ’87 (agricultural education), lieutenant colonel, and his son Senior Airman Bartley O’Toole (current student), both from the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron were recently deployed together to Afghanistan. Lt. Col. O’Toole is the director of operations and his son is an aircrew flight equipment journeyman. Lt. Col. O’Toole has had nine previous deployments in 25 years, but for Airman O’Toole, this is his first deployment. Upon graduation,
Airman O’Toole will work toward becoming an officer in the Air National Guard and hopes to be a pilot or maybe a navigator like his dad.

Cynthia L. Ellis ’88 (anthropology), ’94M.A. (anthropology) has retired from the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C. Cynthia has opened her own skin care salon near her home in northern Virginia.

Bret Koehler ’89M.S. (geology) has been promoted to senior engineering geologist (supervisor) with the California Department of Conservation where he supervises the Office of Mine Reclamation’s Compliance Unit. The unit ensures mining operations in California meet statutory and regulatory requirements and are returned to conditions readily adaptable for alternate land usage. He and his wife, Laurie Hall ’84 (journalism), live in Sacramento.

Tammy (Fong) Morgan ’89 (Spanish), ’91M.A. (foreign languages and literature), associate professor of Spanish, has been appointed director of the University Center for Excellence in Teaching at Indiana University, South Bend. She will direct the center’s faculty development programs. She loves her job, but desperately misses the mountains of Reno.

‘90s

Glen Krutz ’90 (political science), ’93M.P.A. (public administration) was recently promoted to full professor of political science at the University of Oklahoma. He also published his second book, Treaty Politics and the Rise of Executive Agreements: International Commitments in a System of Shared Powers, with University of Michigan Press. Besides teaching and research, Glen serves as associate director of the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center.

Neal Hyman ’93 (criminal justice) is a former law clerk of retired senior Washoe County District Judge Peter I. Breen. His practice focuses on all aspects of construction defect litigation and representation of homeowners associations for general counsel matters. The practice handles all types of personal injury claims, such as auto accidents, slip/trip and falls, nursing home liability and premises liability.

Tim Mueller ’93 (geography) recently self-published a book about baseball titled Homeruns & Jackpots: Baseball in Nevada. The project was a journey that took Tim the better part of 10 years to write.

Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales ’93 (journalism/social psychology), ’97M.A. (journalism) has been appointed by Gov. Martin O’Malley of Maryland to the Maryland Health Care Commission. Sylvia is one of six new appointees to the 15-member commission, an independent regulatory agency that plans for health system needs, increases accountability and improves access to health care. Sylvia also recently received the Maryland Volunteer Lawyers
Rick Moberly ’93 (civil engineering) and his wife, Sandra, are proud to announce the birth of their first son, Garrett Allen, on Feb. 18, 2009.

Coleen (Cooley) Karkazis ’94 (journalism) and her husband George Karkazis are pleased to announce the birth of their identical twin daughters, Karissa and Katerina, on Jan. 21, 2009.

Erin (Taggart) Frock ’97 (journalism), ’05 M.A. (counseling and educational psychology) and Joe Frock ’98 (elementary education) would like to announce the birth of their son Tanner Arlen on March 30, 2009. He joins big brother, Xavier, (3).

Wendy (Courtney) Miller ’97 (history), ’03 M.Ed. (educational leadership) and Kelly Miller ’96 (resource management), ’02 M.Ed. (secondary education) are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Addison Jane, on Dec. 1, 2008.

Jenny (Boland) Lambert ’00 (finance) and her husband Ken Lambert ’94 (finance) are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Eva, on March 5, 2009.

Alissa Mortensen ’00 (recreation/fitness management) and Jessen Mortensen ’01 (civil engineering), ’02 M.S. (civil engineering) would like to announce the birth of their son, Paden Jessen, on July 23, 2009.

Sarah (Crawforth) Carone ’01 (early childhood education/human development and family studies), ’08 M.Ed. (special education) and Scott Carone wish to announce the birth of their daughter, Zoë Taylor, on August 30, 2008.

Jeannette (Goree) Smith ’01 (journalism), ’07 M.A. (educational leadership) and her husband, Matthew Smith, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Cassidy Grace, on May 13, 2009.

Brooke (Miles) Atkins ’02 (journalism) and David Atkins ’94 (geography) wish to announce the birth of their son, Miles Jamison, on May 2, 2009. He joins big sister and future Wolf Pack alumni, Paige, age 2.

Karolyn (Keck) Shields ’02 (interior design) and her husband, Jeremy Shields ’01 (biology), are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Maura Elizabeth. Currently, Jeremy is a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and Karolyn is an interior designer with Steelman Partners in Las Vegas.

Jennifer Andrews ’04 (criminal justice) and Randy Leise would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Abbey Ruth, on Feb. 2, 2009.

Kathryn (Senfield) York ’05 (accounting) and Erik York ’96 (business administration) happily announce the birth of their first son, Jake Alan on March 3, 2009.

Laura Zahm ’06 (secondary education) and Jerre Zahm are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Julia Mae on May 19, 2009.

Christine Hanson ’07 (psychology) and Eric Hanson ’07 (psychology) would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Kate Mackenzie, on Sept. 5, 2009.
A

Service 2007 Educator Award, as well as the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association Public Service Award.

David LaPlante ’93 (finance/economics) was recently honored with two awards for his innovative digital marketing accomplishments in Nevada. David was named to Nevada’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology Hall of Fame in recognition of his accomplishments in the community and in business as CEO of Twelve Horses, which recently merged with Boston-based One to One Interactive. He was also recognized by the Nevada Business Journal as a 20/20 Visionary for exhibiting foresight in his business and adapting to make the current economic climate work for him and his business.

Brenda (Hanifan) Reynolds ’93 (management) is the general manager of Nevada Sea Food Co. and would like to announce that the company is celebrating 60 years of business for many years of patronage. Be healthy and EAT FISH!

Nicole Smith ’93 (physical education) recently received her doctorate degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and accepted an assistant professor position at San Diego State University in the School of Nutritional and Exercise Sciences.

Christiana Bratiotis ’95 (psychology) graduated from Boston University with her doctorate in social work and sociology in May 2009. She is currently a post-doctoral fellow with the Compulsive Hoarding Research Project at Boston University School of Social Work.

David Pearson ’95 (speech communications) has been named president of PlaneTechs, the leading provider of aircraft technicians for the aviation and manufacturing industry. In this new role, David will lead the company’s relationships with new and existing clients and oversee PlaneTechs growth throughout the United States and around the world. David currently resides in Chicago.

Wendy (Miller) Dlakic ’97 (biochemistry) received a master’s in education in curriculum and instruction from Montana State University-Bozeman in May 2009. She is currently employed as a research scientist in the department of chemistry and biochemistry at MSU-Bozeman. Wendy enjoys her two children, fly-fishing and skiing in her free time.

Thomas Lowder ’97 (physical education) has taken a position as assistant professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance at the University of Houston where he will be researching the effects of exercise and stress on the immune system and teaching courses relating to exercise physiology.

Patrick Coughlin ’98 (health science/pre-medicine) was among the 270 graduates awarded the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine at the college’s 118th commencement.

Kelly M. Frank ’99 (journalism) has been named interim public information officer at the Desert Research Institute. Kelly previously worked as media coordinator for Truckee Meadows Community College and also has experience as a news operations manager.

Alexia Bratiotis ’01 (journalism) has joined The Summit/Bayer Properties in the position of area marketing manager. Alexia will oversee all aspects of strategic communications, special events and marketing for Bayer Properties sites on the West Coast, including The Summit in south Reno and Front Range Village in Fort Collins, Colo.

Trevor Johnstone ’01 (art) and Tourine Johnstone ’02 (criminal justice), owners of Johnstone Studios, were recently awarded a prestigious national award, the AN-NE Marketing Award from Professional Photographers of America. The award celebrates the effectiveness and creativity of photographers’ marketing activities—from campaigns to individual pieces and Web sites.

Michelle (Gravenstein) Salazar ’01 (accounting) has been elected to the Washoe County Debt Management Commission. The commission reviews and approves debt issuance by local entities, as well as oversees the entity’s indebtedness and debt management plans.

Kathleen Sassi ’01 (nursing) recently traveled to Santiago and Saint Augustine in Luzon, Philippines as part of a mission trip with Ohana Medical Mission. She saw 2,500 patients in four days.

Mike Dicus ’02 (biology) recently returned to Reno from Portland, Ore. to accept a position as an associate dentist at Caughlin Crossing Family Dentistry in Reno. While in dental school Mike was awarded the Wilson/Schell memorial award for clinical excellence in oral surgery. He resides in Sparks with his wife and two boys.

Jason Demuth ’03 (marketing) was recently named “Vegas Ace” by Vegas Magazine, a recognition reserved for up-and-coming entrepreneurs in the area. After graduation, Jason has worked for three Fortune 500 companies, working in three countries on more than a dozen resort destination properties, and has recently started his own business, Nexus 30.
Donald Keene ’03MBA (administration) is currently an instructor (assistant professor) specializing in defense supply chain management, defense distribution and joint logistics with the U.S. Army Logistics Management College, a college within the Army Logistics University, at Fort Lee, Va.

Romeo “Ro” Lazzarone ’03 (marketing), has been named a member of the 2009 executive council of New York Life Insurance Company. Members of the executive council are among the most successful of New York Life’s elite sales force of more than 11,000 licensed agents.

Matt Wolden ’03 (health ecology) was recently promoted to service line director for Women’s Health at New York Presbyterian, the University of Columbia & Cornell.

Jennifer Andrews ’04 (criminal justice) has recently been promoted to the position of Web marketing project manager for Cengage Learning, where she has worked for three years.

Jessica (Myers) Nicely ’04 (information systems) ’09MBA has launched her business, The Stylish Scribe, where she offers a full assortment of invitations, note cards, address labels and other stationery that can be ordered in a variety of colors and paper options to complement any event, not just weddings. She also will create a custom design from scratch, with many inspired by exotic wedding destinations. www.thestylishscribe.com.

Stefanie Pulido ’04 (accounting/information systems) recently earned her CPA designation. As a senior associate accountant, she specializes in auditing with emphasis in the gaming industry, employee benefit plans and homeowners’ associations. She also has experience in individual, corporate, nonprofit and partnership taxation. She joined the firm in 2005 as a staff accountant and was promoted to senior associate in 2008.

Elizabeth “Bekah” Gathercole ’05 (speech pathology and audiology) graduated with her doctorate in audiology (Au.D.) from the University of Florida in May 2009. She has accepted a position as a pediatric audiologist at Shands Hospital at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla.

Christine LoRusso ’06 (accounting) has been named a member of the 2009 executive council of New York Life Insurance Company. Members of the Executive Council are among the most successful of New York Life’s elite sales force of more than 11,000 licensed agents.

LaTara Misher ’06 (psychology) recently opened her own book publishing company called LMG Publishing. As a brand new publisher, her company has recently released its first novel Deception by Justice McClain. LMG Publishing is also looking to sign authors in the fiction/erotic/ non-fiction genre. Check out www.lmgpublishing.net for more information.

Kickin’ it with K-von | Cyberspace Update

Confused lately by cyberspace? You are not alone. But, fear not, help has arrived! I’ve put together a quick guide to some of the more popular web sites out there today. Here is a brief summary of what these sites are all about from what I can tell . . .

Twitter: A place where you can post pointless updates about what you are doing, what you are eating, how many times you’ve gone to the bathroom, and anything else you’d like to share with the world that even your own grandmother wouldn’t want to know. It’s what I like to call information overload. Drop it already you NitWits!

Facebook: Think of it as an online scrapbook. Don’t we all just love scrapbooks? A web site where people voluntarily post all of their pictures and personal business. Then other people you vaguely know and don’t care about can leave crude and/or witty comments under your photos. Perfect for turning your private life into public business and has single-handedly broken up many a successful relationship.

MySpace: Just like Facebook but mainly for DJ’s and scantily clad wanna-be models. If your 15-year-old daughter is on this site I suggest you stop paying your power bill and smash her computer immediately.

Friendster: For nerdy people who can’t find friends on MySpace or Facebook.

Craig’s List: An online yard sale. Finally, a place where you can buy used junk from complete strangers including Tupperware, old furniture, appliances, used personal items . . . you name it! Most of the time you will be dealing with characters you’d never otherwise associate with, all in the name of saving a few bucks. If you buy a couch or mattress from this site, please warn me so I don’t sit on it.

YouTube: A place to upload any video clip you can imagine as long as it’s less than 10 minutes long. Since movies are over an hour and well-produced TV shows are 30 minutes, you get the hint about what to expect. Surprisingly, the better the quality of your video, the less people will watch it. But if you film a guy picking his nose on your cell-cam you can expect to have 1,000,000 viewers in three days. And if you don’t think anyone would want to see a kid from the Philippines lip-syncing to Madonna, go to any office and see most of the employees spending three hours a day watching and emailing these clips to all their friends.

Google: A site where you can type anything and get more information than you’d ever want, but not just on restaurants or businesses. Simply input your name and your whole life story is there. “Google” someone you plan on dating and you can feel like a mini-private eye. Better yet, teachers can now Google a paragraph in the term paper you wrote and figure out you plagiarized it!

K-vonComedy.com: Apparently this is some comedian from the University of Nevada, Reno who puts jokes, pictures, and audio clips from his live performances. Talk about self-serving!

The absolute worst part about all of this is that I visit most of these sites regularly. Hope this helps. I’m sure in a few months we will have to do a new update on the most popular sites on the World Wide Web so stay tuned!

K-von ’03 (marketing) is a Nevada alum and comedian. He is currently on a world tour with Maz Jobrani and Darren Carter. Look for him coming to a town near you. His schedule is on his site: K-vonComedy.com
Rick Angold ’07 (finance) has been promoted to assistant vice president, relationship manager in Wells Fargo’s gaming division. Rick works with gaming customers nationwide to provide financial service and advice in the areas of lending, treasury management, foreign exchange and rate risk management.

Annie Flanzraich ’07 (journalism) has been named the new editor of the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*, a South Lake Tahoe-based Swift Communications newspaper. Annie previously held the news editor position at *Swift's North Lake Tahoe Bonanza* in Incline Village, Nev. She won the 2009 Nevada Press Association’s Outstanding Journalist and Journalist of Merit awards, a rare combination. While a student, she edited *The Sagebrush*. Annie has contributed to *Nevada Silver & Blue*, writing “Sagebrush: editors carry on long history of independence” for the winter 2008 issue.

Kerry Kleyman ’07MA (social psychology) was appointed assistant professor to teach psychology courses in the College of Professional Studies, Metropolitan State University. Kerry will teach undergraduate courses in diversity and ethics, personality, and social and general psychology.

Chris Trent ’07 (German/international affairs) has accepted a position with the congressional affairs team at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS provides state-of-the-art science about natural hazards, water and mineral resources, biology, and land imaging. Chris will help policymakers to engage the data to better inform their decisions about climate change, energy policy and other pressing issues.

Kelly Wallis ’07 (journalism) has recently been hired by Ding Communications as junior graphic designer. Kelly has extensive letterpress, design and production experience working for both design firms and printers, most recently in Chicago at Lester and Lucy Letterpress.

Claire Watkins ’07 (English) will have her short story “The Last Thing We Need” published in a forthcoming issue of *Granta*, a prestigious literary journal. Claire’s writing has already been published in *Granta Online* (visit: www.granta.com/Contributors/Claire-Watkins). Her work has also appeared or is forthcoming in *Hobart*, *the Hopkins Review* and *Ploughshares*. She is a master’s of fine arts student at Ohio State University.

Cory Hunt ’08 (political science/geography), appeared with his world champion barbershop quartet, OC Times, on the “Tonight Show” Oct. 1 on NBC. The group taped a segment with Conan O’Brien and several other barbershop groups during the Barbershop Harmony Society’s 72nd Annual Championship.

Kelly Wallis ’07

Become a Mentor. Make a Difference.

The Nevada Alumni Association is launching a new mentoring program. It’s a great way for students to make contacts in the professional world, while allowing alumni the opportunity to give back to Nevada. Through our mentor program, we will partner students with outstanding alumni (like you!) in a variety of fields. You’ll tell us your area of expertise and we’ll match you with a student pursuing a similar course of study.

Please consider mentoring a University of Nevada student! To create a mentor profile, visit www.unr.edu/alumni.