Research helps bring locally harvested delicacy to chefs’ kitchens

Research by the University’s Sudeep Chandra has shown that removal of invasive crayfish at Lake Tahoe will help improve clarity at the pristine lake and take away a food source for other invasive species that threaten water clarity and ecosystems. Chandra’s work contributed to the decision by the Nevada Division of Wildlife to issue permits for commercial harvesting of crayfish and, from there, the Tahoe Lobster Company was born.

A study last summer by Chandra showed that while water clarity is measured at the center of the lake, the near-shore zone is the critical area for fish habitat and a place where invasive species, including crayfish and warm-water fish such as the invasive bass, can thrive. It is in this near-shore zone that a harvest will have the most positive impact.

Crayfish were introduced to the 22-by-12-mile lake in the late 1800s and Chandra estimates as much as 8 million pounds of the invasive species are scattered around the lake today. He is helping the Nevada Department of Wildlife identify the best places and practices for harvest, and he worked closely with entrepreneurs who brought the harvest idea forth to public agencies.

“It’s a good project all the way around,” said Fred Jackson of Tahoe Lobster Company. “It’s a blend of science and economics, and it took a lot of time to figure out a business plan. We’ve had a huge positive response from local restaurants, and some from out of the area as well.”

The project was highlighted as a prime example of a public-private partnership benefiting the economy and environment at the 16th annual Lake Tahoe Summit, hosted Aug. 13 by U.S. Sen. Dean Heller. It has also received considerable media coverage.

Chandra, a leading Lake Tahoe scientist who has studied invasive species and limnology at the lake for 20 years, is based in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources and has studied lakes and their ecosystems around the world.

He notes that crayfish harvesting occurs profitably in other areas of the country.

“It can have a positive effect on the economy and the environment,” Chandra said. “And with a little butter and garlic, it’s tasty too.”

—Mike Wolterbeek ’02
Archeology team digs Virginia City history

This summer, the University of Nevada, Reno, in cooperation with the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, sent a team of archaeologists to excavate the site of one of Nevada’s most important early hospitals. St. Mary Louise Hospital in Virginia City opened in 1876 and served the mining community until the early 20th century.

Sarah Cowie, assistant professor of anthropology in the University’s College of Liberal Arts, directed the excavation. Cowie’s team consisted of undergraduate students, graduate-student field supervisors and volunteers. Cowie said the excavation and subsequent study of the artifacts recovered will provide insight into the health care, gender roles, ethnicity and religion in the West.

The excavation continued a tradition dating back to 1990 of University archaeologists working with support from the Historic Preservation Office and the Comstock Historic District Commission to examine sites in Virginia City, including Piper’s Opera House, an African American saloon, Chinatown and Cornish Row.

The State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service provided funding for the dig. Artifacts were brought back to the University’s Historical Archeology Lab, where they will be analyzed, cleaned, conserved and entered into a database. Within about a year, they will be curated at the University’s Anthropology Research Museum in the Ansari Business Building, which is open to the public.

— Claudene Wharton, ’86, ’99M.A.

Career contributions of professor and gaming expert recognized

Bill Eadington, economics professor and director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming in the University’s College of Business, received the Goldman Lifetime Award for Advocacy from The National Council on Problem Gambling. The Council only bestows its Lifetime Awards “in exceptional times and circumstances, to individuals who exemplify at least 20 years of service on behalf of those affected by problem gambling.”

Last November, Eadington was also inducted into the Gaming Hall of Fame, the highest honor accorded by the gaming industry, with previous inductees including Phil Satre, Steve Wynn, William Harrah and Bill Pennington.

At that time, Frank J. Fahrenkopf, Jr., ’62 (foreign affairs), president and CEO of the American Gaming Association, said, “We owe Dr. Eadington much of the credit for our current understanding of the economic and social impacts of commercial gaming.”

Eadington has written extensively on issues relating to the economic and social impacts of the industry. He has authored several books, including “The Downside: Problem and Pathological Gambling” and “Gambling: Public Policies and the Social Sciences.”

Eadington joined the University in 1969. In 1990, he was awarded a Foundation Professorship at the University, and since 2004, he has held the Philip G. Satre Endowed Chair in Gaming Studies.

— Claudene Wharton, ’86, ’99M.A.
Clarissa Martins, a senior majoring in biochemistry, received a 2012 Thomas J. Bardos Award for her research involving cancer and nutrition. She was among 17 chosen from 16,000 applicants worldwide. In 2011, Martins earned the Nevada Idea Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Undergrad Research award. While attending Edward C. Reed High School in Sparks, she joined the University’s Dean’s Future Scholars program, which includes on-campus experiences and interaction with a University mentor to prepare students for college. Martins’ research focus is inspired by her mother, who died from pancreatic cancer. Martins plans to graduate in 2013 and wants to pursue a career in clinical oncology research.

Huili Weinstock is the 2012-13 president of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada. Weinstock took office in March, and this year marks his third term as an ASUN leadership member. He was elected student president of Argenta Hall during his first semester, joined ASUN’s event production department as a volunteer and is a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. Weinstock plans to graduate in 2013 and wants to pursue a career in clinical oncology research.

CHELSEA HEJNY has a penchant for social marketing and entrepreneurialism, and last year she served as project team leader in three different entrepreneurial competitions at the campus, statewide and national levels. The College of Business senior was part of the University’s 2011 American Marketing Association competition team, which placed third nationally. Hejny graduates this year with a degree in marketing.

USAC celebrates 30 years, continues to expand

The University Studies Abroad Consortium, USAC, has added several new programs, including programs in Istanbul, Turkey; Haifa, Israel; and Florianópolis, Brazil. The consortium is celebrating its 30th anniversary this fall, having sent more than 30,000 students to 40 locations in 25 countries.

USAC began as a partnership between Boise State University and the University of Nevada, Reno, offering a study-abroad experience in the Basque country. In 1982, Carmelo Urza was hired to lead the first group of students abroad to San Sebastián, Spain, and he remains director of the consortium today.

The consortium, which has been headquartered at the University for all of its 30 years, now consists of more than 30 universities throughout the United States and works with hundreds of universities worldwide.

—Jaclyn McBride, Class of 2013

Dean’s Future Scholars welcomes new director, more than 400 students

After 10 years with the Dean’s Future Scholars, Director Bob Edgington is passing the reins to Mariluz Garcia ’03 (elementary education), ’07M.A. (counseling and educational psychology). Garcia served as a graduate assistant for Dean’s Future Scholars for three years during her coursework and has worked in the Washoe County School District as a school counselor for the past five years.

Dean’s Future Scholars is an academic outreach program aimed at increasing the numbers of low-income, first-generation students graduating high school and gaining access to higher education. Each year, 50 sixth-grade students are selected by their Washoe County School District teachers to join this College of Education mentoring program that will follow them for the next six years and into college.

The Dean’s Future Scholars Program employs 31 University students who mentor more than 400 local students in grades six through 12 each week during the school year. The majority of the University student mentors are program alumni themselves. One goal of this long-term mentoring process is to encourage the scholars to strengthen math skills and to take advanced placement and honors classes to prepare them for the rigor of higher education.


“With the proper support, students can overcome any challenge,” Garcia said. “We want to take the next step and secure stable funding sources for the program. Educating a diverse workforce and providing students the skills, ability and ambition to go to college is an investment for all.”

—Jaclyn McBride, Class of 2013

Alumna Mariluz Garcia ’03, ’07M.A. (right) now serves as director of the Dean’s Future Scholars Program.

LOOK ONLINE
Learn more and see the studies abroad experience through the videos of Lee Palmer ’07 (civil engineering) at http://usac.unr.edu/
University library first in nation to offer 3D printing campuswide

The University’s DeLaMare Science and Engineering Library in the Mackay Mines Building is the first academic library in the United States to offer 3D printing and scanning as a library service to enable all students in a multitude of disciplines to make plastic 3D models from a computer drawing for their research and studies.

“We’ve brought the technology out of the lab and into access for all students,” said Tod Colegrove, director of the DeLaMare library. “It’s a first for universities around the country where the machines are typically part of a specialized program or research lab.”

Using specialized software, the machine can build a three-dimensional, real-world plastic model from a computerized drawing of an object. It can be as simple as a box or as complex as a protein chain from a theoretical model.

“In the arts, sciences and engineering, breakthroughs in learning or research often require going beyond pencil and paper,” he said. “With technology and a supportive environment, it becomes possible to breathe life into ideas—in the library.”

The library has a waiting list for projects, which can take anywhere from 40 minutes to 40 hours, depending on the complexity.

“Our first job—a rotor for an impeller pump being prototyped by a team of senior engineering students—came in literally as we were pulling the printer out of the box. The machines haven’t stopped running since,” Colgrove said.

—Mike Wolterbeek ’02

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Making Nevada safer, one mine at a time

There are an estimated 200,000 abandoned mines across Nevada, remnants of historic mining operations. Of those, an estimated 50,000 present a safety hazard.

Through a summer internship program, now in its third year, these mine sites also present a learning and employment opportunity for students from the University’s Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering.

Eight interns have been extending the reach of the Nevada Abandoned Mine Lands Program, a safety program administered through the State of Nevada Division of Minerals.

The internship program dispatches two student field crews to locations across Nevada. The interns inventory the mine’s features to determine the appropriate course of action, which can include securing the entrance, sealing a mine shaft and posting warning signs.

“Each new mine site we discover is totally different from the last,” said Kelly Elloyan, a mining engineering major and program intern. “Being able to see what obstacles had to be overcome with regards to the design of the mine is quite interesting and very educational.”

The program seeks to hire students following their freshmen or sophomore year to provide an early industry-related work experience.

“We see the internship as part of a continuum that starts with recruitment of students and continues through retention and graduation,” said Alan Coyner ’97MBA, a member of the Mackay School’s Advisory Board and director of the Division of Minerals.

—Jane Tors ’82

2012-13 Performing Arts Series

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Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2012 / 7:30 p.m.

SYBARITES
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Argenta Concert Series features world-class performances

The School of the Arts at the University of Nevada, Reno kicked off its Argenta Concert Series, a world-class chamber music offering, with a performance by the Grammy-nominated St. Lawrence String Quartet in September. The series continues with additional performances in the Nightingale Concert Hall, featuring such internationally acclaimed guests as Philadelphia Orchestra principal violist CJ Chang, Minnesota Orchestra former concertmaster Jorja Fleezanis, as well as the University’s own Argenta Trio.

A fall highlight of the season is a performance by the School of the Arts artist-in-residence and jazz pianist Uri Caine leading the Mahler Project Nov. 30.

In words of artistic director and cellist Dmitri Atapine: “The Argenta Concert Series establishes itself as important for Nevada by offering our community and state a unique chamber music experience, where collaborations with leading performers of today lead to our increased presence in the world of classical music.”

—Cynthia Pratt ’94MBA

New, one-stop resource for Las Vegas entrepreneurs and small businesses

Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman led the ribbon-cutting ceremony to welcome the new Business Success Center, which offers a wide variety of business programs to support southern Nevada entrepreneurs and economic development in Las Vegas.

Part of the City of Las Vegas’ business incubator program and located at the Urban Chamber of Commerce, the Business Success Center is managed by the Nevada Small Business Development Center. Services provided include professional business consulting, microloans, entrepreneurial training, economic and demographic analyses, regional business and economic research, environmental and energy-efficiency assistance, support in obtaining government grants and contracts, and other programs that support veterans and Nevada’s changing demographics.

The Business Success Center, located at 1951 Stella Lake St., is part of the Nevada Small Business Development Center’s network of support offices in Nevada urban and rural settings. The Nevada Small Business Development Center is hosted in Nevada by the University of Nevada, Reno and funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

—Claudene Wharton, ’86, ’99M.A.