Message from the President

Dear Nevada Alumni,

Back in December, as I was heading out the door in cap-and-gown for Winter Commencement to speak to the new graduating class, my son Ethan asked me what I was doing. I responded, “Daddy is president of the Alumni Association, and this is one of my new responsibilities.”

“What’s an alumni?,” he asked. I gave him the rudimentary answer that you would give an 8-year-old kid.

As I left the house and was driving in my car, I thought more about his question. What does it really mean to be an alumni?

One thing for sure, I knew the true answer was beyond the simple answer I gave my son.

So, what does it really mean to be an alumnus of the University of Nevada? And what inherent responsibilities do we have as alum?

With the year ahead of us, I brought this question before the entire Alumni Council—and now I bring it you—with the challenge of looking beyond the obvious answer.

As we move through our second year as a Tier 1 institution (ranked by U.S. News & World Report), my goal is to work with the council and many of you to tangibly define the answer.

We all know there is strength in numbers, and bound with our common passion and love for our University, I believe the Alumni Association should be a driving force behind the continuing success and standing of our alma mater.

Once Nevada. Always Nevada.

Jeff Pickett ’89, President
University of Nevada Alumni Council

See you in cyberspace!

Visit these sites and search for “Nevada Alumni” or “Nevada Silver & Blue”.

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twitter.com
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'50s
David W. Lowe ’59 (journalism) is serving his second term on the board of directors of Valley Electric Association, Inc., the power company that serves Pahrump, Sandy Valley, Amargosa Valley, Beatty and Fish Lake, Nev. David is currently the board secretary.

'60s
George V. Allison ’60 (political science) was recently awarded the 2011 Judge Howard D. McKibben Model of Professionalism Award. This award is given by the Nevada State Bar and in conjunction with the Professionalism Summit Committee and the Washoe County Bar Association. It is a lifetime achievement award that recognizes a member of the Nevada State Bar who is committed to the rule of law and embodies the principles of respect, courtesy and civility.

William F. Magee ’67 (history) received the Governor’s Volunteer Service Award for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Substance Abuse Treatment Program in 2004. Bill’s work on this program is ongoing.

'70s
William G. Cobb ’71 (economics) has been appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge for the District of Nevada. Bill was a member of the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education. He resigned this position upon his current appointment.

Michael E. Kearney ’78 (accounting) has joined the Las Vegas office of the national law firm Ballard Spahr. Michael will work as counsel in the business and finance department. His practice focuses on complex commercial transactions, mergers and acquisitions.

'80s
Richard A. Mitchell ’82Ph.D. (English) is a professor in the English and Humanities Department at Alfred State College, N.Y. Rick had three of his original poems, “Opening Days,” “Coupons,” and “Charlie’s Store,” published in the Fall/Winter 2011 edition of The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature. Prior to his current position, he taught at SUNY Delhi, N.Y. and at North Country Community College in Saranac Lake, N.Y.
Michael F. Dillon, Jr. ‘94 (political science) and his wife, Siobhan McAndrew, would like to introduce their daughter, Riley Quinnlan Dillon. Riley was born on May 4, 2011 and she plans to graduate from the University of Nevada, Reno on her birthday in 2033.

Dawn R. Lawrence ‘95 (speech communications), ‘97M.A. (speech communications) and Benjamin M. Roelofs welcomed their daughter, Olivia Ella Roelofs, on Jan. 6, 2012.

Dana M. (Weikel) Searcy ‘05 (management) and her husband, Adam, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Lucy Elizabeth, born Jan. 9, 2012.

Misty C. Shore ‘05 (accounting/information systems) and Arlo C. Schenk ‘08 (nursing) welcomed their daughter, Sadie Aspen, a little earlier than expected but in good health, on Sept. 17, 2011.

Harold S. Peterson ‘08Ph.D. (atmospheric science) and his wife, Kelly, celebrated the birth of their first child, Jessica Ann Peterson, on Oct. 19, 2011.

Darren J. Welsh ‘88 (political science) and his wife, Madeleine, would like to introduce their son, Myron James Webster Welsh. Myron was born Sept. 23, 2009.

Gregory S. Wood ‘97 (journalism) and Erin Wood celebrated the birth of their son, Taylor Steven, on Jan. 19, 2012.

Rachel A. (Balvin) Graffam ‘07MBA and Daniel R. Graffam ‘08 (civil engineering) welcomed their daughter, Charlotte Josephine Graffam, on May 20, 2011.
Dennis G. Eckmeyer '83 (industrial mechanics) has earned the Chartered Financial Consultant professional designation from the American College, Bryn Mawr, Pa. Candidates for this designation must complete a minimum of eight courses and 16 hours of supervised examinations. Dennis has been in the financial services industry for 25 years and has been a financial adviser with New York Life and Eagle Strategies for seven years.

Jeffrey P. Salomone '83 (premedical), '90M.D. has been elected the 25th president of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma. Jeffrey is an associate professor of surgery at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., and practices trauma and critical care surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital.

Lauren (Belaustegui) Ohlin '84 (journalism), '90M.A. (speech communications) was named Outstanding Fundraising Professional for 2011 by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Sierra Chapter. Lauren was a journalist and editor for 10 years before entering the field of fundraising. She has more than 15 years experience helping non-profits, colleges and K–12 schools raise funds. Currently, Lauren is the grant analyst for Washoe County School District in Reno. She also serves as president-elect for the statewide Grant Professionals Association.

Thomas R. Putney '85M.S. (geology) received an Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies for his work on the Bay Creek Park Brownfield Redevelopment Project. This project transformed a contaminated site into a public gathering place which provides public access to the estuary, an interpretive center, farmer’s market, a place for fishing and crabbing and a location for outdoor events.

Thomas E. Verducci '85 (finance) has been with The Hartford for almost 25 years. Tom is the team lead for the State of Nevada Employee’s Deferred Compensation Plan.

Brenda A. (Lewis) Jahnke '86M.S. (nursing) serves as the director of clinical education for Northern Nevada Medical Center. Brenda has more than 29 years of experience in clinical and academic education, quality improvement and project development.

Daniel B. Moore '86 (mining engineering)
recently joined Allied Nevada Gold Corporation as vice president of technical services in their corporate office in Reno.

John E. Boyd ‘88 (accounting) has been an Edward Jones financial advisor in Reno for the past 19 years. John was recently named a principal with the firm’s holding company, the Jones Financial Companies, LLLP. He is one of only 41 individuals chosen from more than 42,000 associates across the United States and Canada to join the firm’s 323 principals. John will remain in Reno and continue to serve investors throughout the area.

‘90s

Mark L. Stovak ‘90 (biology), ’95M.D. is the program director of the Sports Medicine Fellowship Program and the Family Medicine Residency Program at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Mark and his wife, Leslie A. Greenberg ’95M.D., have three children, ages 11, 8, and 6. Leslie recently opened a private medical practice, Greenberg Family Medicine, in Wichita, Kan.

Stephanie S. Kruse ‘91MBA is president and CEO of KPS3 Marketing, a full-service marketing, advertising, public relations and digital agency founded in 1991. As CEO, Stephanie takes a lead role in organizational strategy and business development. She is also the chief strategist for clients in the marketing, branding and communications/PR realms.

Sean A. Sever ‘91 (journalism) was appointed communications director for the Nevada Department of Transportation. He will oversee NDOT’s public information, multimedia, customer service, hearings and photography sections. Sean lives in Carson City with his wife and three children.

Mark L. Zimmerman ’92 (mathematics), ’04M.A. (teaching of mathematics) is vice-principal at Incline High School in Incline Village, Nev. He has made it his personal mission to be a positive role model for students, to provide them with a challenging academic curriculum and to furnish them with every tool available so they may achieve the utmost success. Mark began his teaching career at McQueen High School in Reno as a math teacher and assistant football coach. He helped lead the McQueen football team in 10 state championships.

Brett Scolari ‘96 (health science), a stockholder in the Reno office of the statewide law firm Jones Vargas, has been named to the board of trustees for the Renown Health Foundation. The board of trustees is responsible for planning, governance, management, budget oversight, community representation and fundraising. In addition to his commitment to Renown, Brett is also a board member for the Joshua L. Anderson Memorial Foundation and Reno Continental Little League.

Brandon H. Camp ‘97 (marketing) recently purchased LeFiell Company, a capital equipment manufacturing operation located in Stead, Nev. Brandon worked in their marketing department while attending college and became their marketing director before leaving the company in 2000 to pursue a multi-state sales position for another company. Brandon has been a local business owner since returning to his adopted hometown of Reno in 2005.

Wolf Pack pride warms the South Pole

Sgt. Bartley James O’Toole ’11 (criminal justice), a survival equipment specialist in the Nevada Air National Guard, unfurls a Wolf Pack flag at the South Pole. O’Toole recently returned from a mission supporting the National Science Foundation’s United States Antarctic Program. “Everything used by the NSF in Antarctica, including food, clothing, supplies and personnel, is brought in on National Guard LC-130 Hercules aircraft,” O’Toole said. Along with two other Nevada National Guard members selected by the New York National Guard, O’Toole flew daily supply and personnel missions, medical evacuations and search-and-rescue missions throughout the continent. They flew about eight missions each day in temperatures that ranged from 20 degrees Fahrenheit to 50 degrees below zero.

—Roseann Keegan
Robin M. (Snegg) Krueger ’98 (human development and family studies) is the director of community development at Northern Nevada Medical Center. Robin brings experience in public speaking, fund development and community building to her new position. She serves on the board of The Chamber and is the 2012 chair of leadership Reno Sparks.

Kirsten D. Mashinter ’98 (English), ’03M.A. (teaching English as a second language) has accepted a job with PH International working in the Republic of Georgia as a teacher-trainer for the English Language through Civic Education Program.

Barry G. Collier ’99 (general studies) is vice president and commercial loan officer at Heritage Bank of Nevada. His role is to identify, develop and maintain lending and banking relationships with businesses within the community, and manage the credits for companies who have suffered through this challenging economic cycle.

‘00s
Sadie Jo Smokey ’00 (English) joined Logan Simpson Design, an environmental planning and landscape design firm in Tempe, Ariz., following a 10-year career as a news reporter for The Arizona Republic. Sadie Jo resides in Phoenix with her husband and two daughters, Isabella, 6, and Sadie, 2.

Deanna R. LeBlanc ’01 (elementary education), a fourth-grade teacher at East Valley Elementary School in Fernley, Nev., was named Nevada’s Teacher of the Year for 2011. Deanna has taught at East Valley for five years.

Reka P. Danko ’03 (speech pathology), ’08M.D. is now board certified as a diplomate by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Reka is a hospitalist at Northern Nevada Medical Center.

Rachael M. Austin ’04 (accounting/information systems) has been promoted to senior manager at Muckel Anderson

Kickin’ it with K-von | “The Ebook Blues”

Younger folks are supposed to adopt new technology. Yet, I ditched my eBook in a week with no apology ...

While reading on the plane, the stewardess began to cough. “We’re about to land, sir. You need to turn it off.”

Couldn’t touch it with wet hands, but I like to read poolside.

Didn’t trust it near my nephew—he threw one in the water and it died.

Couldn’t easily shop for a digital book.

Even though the salesman promised, “It’s easy on a Nook!”

On the computer, you have to buy from Amazon.

But when I tried to download, they said I did it wrong.

My friend said, “It’s easy, just upload and then transfer,” but, I called customer support, and it just rang with no answer.

Isn’t there something nice about seeing a book on a shelf? Just picking it up with your hands all by yourself?

Between my cell phone, laptop and MP3—what a hassle.

Can I not look at a screen for even a little bit, Apple?

Is that cool with you guys at Sony and Samsung?

If not, implant it in my eyeball and let’s just be done.

Every time I shut the book down, I kept losing my place.

I couldn’t figure out how to put a bookmark in the space.

To the librarian I said, “This works here I think.” She had no idea what I was talking about; just looked at me and blinked.

When I was about to finish a story on my Kindle, the screen went black as the battery did dwindle.

This could be one thing my grandparents got right.

I’m sticking with old-fashioned books, so I can happily read them each night!

CPAs. Rachael is responsible for directing the audit department, including researching new accounting and auditing standards, managing staff training, coordinating peer review and internal inspections, and regulating firm policies encompassing all audit and accounting services. Rachael serves as treasurer on the Artown Board of Trustees and is on the Northern Nevada Community Housing Resource Board, a nonprofit low-income housing board.

Ashlie D. Teixeira-Smith ’05 (nursing), ’11M.S.N. recently joined Northern Nevada Medical Group as an advanced practice nurse. Ashlie has more than five years experience in trauma, surgical critical care and gastroenterology.

Alexis C. Thayer ’07 (accounting), ’08M.A.C.C. has been promoted to senior associate at Muckel Anderson CPAs. In her new role, Alexis will oversee audits of not-for-profit and government organizations and will continue to prepare individual, corporate, partnership and exempt tax returns.

Nonie A. Wainwright ’08 (journalism) has been hired by The Glenn Group as a public relations assistant account executive. Nonie is responsible for handling daily client activities while managing and monitoring the strategic direction and long-term client goals. Before joining The Glenn Group, Nonie served as a public relations/marketing graduate assistant for the University of Nevada, Reno School of Arts and as a media assistant for the Wolf Pack Athletics Media Services. While attending the University, Nonie served as the swimming and diving team captain. She lead the team to win two consecutive WAC Conference Championships and personally had nine “Top 8” conference finishes.

J. Matthew Martin ’09M.J.S. has been elected to the board of trustees of the National Judicial College by the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association.

Join the Pack & see the world!

Our Pack Tracks travel program offers Oceania Cruises to exciting destinations worldwide—and the fun part is traveling with fellow Nevada alumni!

In 2012: Historic Reflections, British Isles Odyssey, Cradle of History, South Africa In 2013: Tahitian Jewels

For more information, visit www.unr.edu/alumni or call GO Next travel at 800-842-9023
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