Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Carman brings experience and leadership

Kevin Carman tossed his guitar in the car and set out on a 2,100-mile journey from Baton Rouge, La., to Reno, Nev. He settled into his office in February for another journey, this one at the helm of academic and outreach programming for the University as the new executive vice president and provost.

The former dean of the College of Science at Louisiana State University, Carman got right to work when he arrived. He laid out plans for a “listening tour” to get to know the people and places on campus.

“I want to be as visible as possible,” he said. “I’m hoping to visit each department this spring to hear concerns and ideas—and to let people get to know me. I want to be available to students, faculty and administration, and the community.”

True to his word, he can be seen crossing campus for meetings, and to visit and get to know people and their departments.

“I have much to learn about the University, and my specific goals will come into focus as I learn more. I am very eager to get to know the University community and to begin developing meaningful working relationships and friendships.”

A number of items top Carman’s to-do list. He said the fundamental issues are much the same for all higher education institutions—such as the challenges of increasing enrollment to reach a broader, more diverse student body while also enhancing graduation success rates.

“Some broad goals will be to enhance student success, facilitate and promote research with a particular emphasis on multidisciplinary research, and communicate the importance of the University and higher education in general to legislators and citizens of Nevada,” he said. “We cannot maintain the status quo and see success; we are on the right track.”

Some immediate issues he will work to move forward include exploring new core curriculum requirements; reorganizing research support; increasing supplemental instructors to help professors; and initiating boot camps, a week of intense orientation for new students that has shown great success at LSU and other institutions.

As the chief academic officer, Carman will oversee the University’s six colleges plus the Division of Health Sciences, Division of Extended Studies and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

“Kevin’s focus on enhancing the student experience and student success strongly aligns with the commitment and direction we have set here in Nevada,” said University President Marc Johnson. “He brings an impressive breadth of experience, and it is apparent he shares our aspirations for further enhancing the mission and role of our University.”

“This is a great institution with a wonderful legacy, and I am excited to be part of what I see as a very bright future,” Carman said.

—Mike Wolterbeek ’02
Team discovers, studies giant goldfish and other non-native fish in Lake Tahoe

Giant goldfish have invaded Lake Tahoe. It may sound like a science-fiction plot, but, as University of Nevada, Reno researchers have discovered, these unusually large fish are among the non-native fish species living in the lake that straddles the Nevada-California state line.

The environmental concern is that these invaders damage the habitat for native fish. For example, in the Tahoe Keys, the establishment of non-native, warm-water fish has virtually eliminated the native minnow population.

According to Christine Ngai, a researcher in the University’s Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory, thousands of non-native fish, mainly largemouth bass and bluegill, have been removed from the lake, and a surprising number of giant goldfish—some as large as 4 pounds and nearly 15 inches long—have been removed as well.

“In Lake Tahoe, since 1960, there has been a tenfold decline in native fishes, but what we also know is that these recent invaders could further depress the native population through competition and predation,” said Sudeep Chandra, a freshwater scientist in the University’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science and director of the University’s Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory.

A “warm-water-fish pilot control project” began in 2011 and is one of many research-based, aquatic invasive-species prevention and control programs currently implemented in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Researchers are studying the proliferation and migration of non-native, warm-water fishes and exploring the feasibility and effectiveness of removal methods. The research project and the giant, invading goldfish have sparked international interest and considerable media coverage, including a Feb. 22 segment on NBC’s Today Show.

—Jane Tors ’82

Linguistics students travel to Mexico, deliver research in Spanish

At the University of Nevada, Reno, students have the opportunity for their education to take them to unexpected places. Allyson Stronach, an undergraduate linguistics major at the University graduating this May, is one of seven University students who was given the chance to travel to Oaxaca, Mexico after taking a linguistics class with Professor Brook Lillehaugen last spring.

Students learned about the Zapotec language and culture and were also able to translate documents in the language from the 16th and 17th centuries into English. Lillehaugen, who travels often to Oaxaca, offered her students the chance to travel and participate in Coloquio Sobre Lenguas Otomangues y Vecinas, an annual linguistics conference on Otomanguean, a large family of languages generally spoken in Mexico and other neighboring countries. The students then presented research papers in Spanish.

“I think it is very hard to imagine what a place or people are like while you sit in a classroom,” Lillehaugen said. “To get to be there in person and see where and how they live, makes it very real.”

—Stephany Kirby, Class of 2013

Professor Lillehaugen and her students at the conference in Oaxaca, Mexico. Brook Lillehaugen, Ellyn Morrill, Brent Coulter, Rebecca Whistler, Cameron Rees, Allyson Stronach, Enrique Valdivia and Oanh Luc.
Greater Nevada Credit Union fundraising challenge boosts Marching Band

Greater Nevada Credit Union members, University alumni and other donors rallied since last fall to raise money during “It’s Time to Support the Band,” a fundraising campaign to benefit the University’s Marching Band, known as the “Pride of the Sierra.” The initial $15,000 matching gift challenge was met and the campaign continues.

The credit union launched the campaign last year with a pledge of $20,000 in donations for each of the next two years. In addition, Greater Nevada Credit Union held a branch contest selling $1 Wolf Pack Marching Band drum cards and has pledged to match additional gifts to the band up to $15,000 per year.

Joint fundraising efforts between Greater Nevada and the University raised nearly $60,000 during the first year of the campaign.

“Through this fundraising campaign, Greater Nevada Credit Union has demonstrated terrific leadership and creativity, and has set a vital foundation for the Marching Band,” said University President Marc Johnson. “This effort signals a commitment to students, as well as to arts, music, athletics and education, all of which contribute to the vibrancy of this region.”

Funds raised help to hire additional instructional staff, fund band scholarships and cover travel expenses. A separate campaign continues to support the purchase of new band uniforms.

—Natalie Savidge ’04

Nerve regeneration research and therapy may get boost from new discovery

Advances in neurological medicine and research are possible with the discovery of a new neural guidance/cell-death mechanism relationship.

The team of neuroscientists in the University’s Department of Biology obtained the evidence through studies of fruit flies and reported their discovery in an article published in the prestigious science publication Cell Reports.

“Although the fly is a relatively simple organism, almost every gene identified in this species appears to be carrying out similar functions in humans,” said Thomas Kidd, associate professor in the University’s Department of Biology, in whose lab the work was performed.

“We’ve found something no one has seen before: that blocking the cell-death pathway can make nerves deprived of guidance cues figure out the right way to connect with other neurons,” said Gunnar Newquist, lead author of the Cell Reports article and a post-doctoral neuroscience researcher in Kidd’s lab. “This was completely unexpected and novel, but really exciting because it changes the way we look at nerve growth.”

Understanding the mechanisms is of great interest not only for understanding how our brains form, but also as a starting point to devise ways to stimulate the re-growth after injury, especially spinal cord injuries.

“Our work suggests that therapeutics designed to keep neurons alive after injury may be able to stimulate neurons to start re-growing or sprouting new connections,” Kidd said.

—Mike Wolterbeek ’02
As a freshman, **Jade Keen** was named a Randall Scholar and received the four-year scholarship for freshmen majoring in conservation biology, natural resources management or range management. This spring, she received the Regents’ Undergraduate Scholar Award. She has also received the NationalSmart Grant; the Gilman International Scholarship; the Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Scholarship; the Honors Study Abroad Scholarship; the Honors Undergraduate Research Award; and the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts Scholarship. She earned a degree in wildlife ecology and conservation with minors in Spanish and biology last fall.

**Richard Kelley**, a doctoral student in computer science and engineering, received the prestigious Regents’ Graduate Scholar Award, which is given annually to an outstanding graduate student at Nevada. The award recognizes not only academic accomplishments but also a stellar record of leadership and service to the institution. At Nevada, Kelley developed and taught a popular computer science summer camp for high school students, filled an expanded teaching assistant role by teaching three courses as an instructor and worked with his advisor on research into human-robot interaction and artificial intelligence. He graduates in May.

**Olivia Pennell**, Wolf Pack student-athlete and rifle-team member, is the recipient of the Elite 89 award for the 2013 NCAA Division I Rifle Championship. Pennell holds a 3.97 cumulative grade point average and is majoring in economics. She is the first Wolf Pack student-athlete to win the prestigious award, presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative GPA participating at site for each championship. Pennell finished 38th in the small bore. She will graduate this May with her degree in economics and plans to pursue two degrees: a master’s in business administration and a master’s in sports management.

University researchers and visiting scholars tour the Snake Range Subalpine climate/environmental monitoring site in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest at 11,000-foot elevation in eastern Nevada.

### Higher Ed institutions build environmental hazards and climate network

Climate data from 13 geospatial monitoring stations across the Great Basin are being made available to researchers, educators and the public by a group of researchers from the Nevada System of Higher Education. They developed the long-term climate monitoring network to measure variations in climate change and are now expanding the network to include all types of hazard monitoring in the region.

“This would be a Nevada-based environmental hazards data and information network,” said Scott Mensing, professor of geography at the University of Nevada, Reno and one of the project’s principal investigators. “Anyone in the state could have access to it.”

Mensing and his colleagues from the University of Nevada, Reno, the Desert Research Institute (DRI) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) envision an information and data network that would incorporate the robust climate monitoring network they created as part of a $15 million National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) awarded to NSHE in 2008. They know of no other network like it.

“We’re looking to keep this going for the next 10 years and into the future,” Mensing said. “These decades of data are important for research, education and infrastructure planning.”

Called the “Nevada Climate-Ecohydrology Assessment Network” (NeVCAN), the data gathered can help scientists better understand the Great Basin’s responses to climate change.

The monitoring stations quantify the daily, seasonal and annual climate variability by collecting data in areas such as rain, runoff, soil, snow depth, wind direction and speed, and tree growth.

The team of more than 25 researchers from across the three campuses is creating partnerships with other programs and agencies in Nevada for wildland fire, flood, droughts and earthquake monitoring. Mensing said the effort has positioned Nevada as a prime climate change data destination, which strengthens the state’s reputation for research and innovation.

—Mike Wolterbeek ’02
TEDxUniversityofNevada wins award and highlights local inspirational stories

Eighteen individuals shared their educational and inspirational stories on Jan. 25 at TEDxUniversityofNevada, an independently organized TEDx program sponsored by the College of Business, in the Joe Crowley Student Union Theatre on the University of Nevada, Reno campus.

“The event exceeded my expectations,” said Bret Simmons, College of Business associate professor, event license holder and spokesperson. “Our audience of 100 consisted of people from campus and the local community who witnessed some excellent presentations.”

The all-day event included four sections: health and hope; the promise and challenge of education; business and entrepreneurship; and bold ideas worth spreading.

Presentations on the promise and challenge of education ranged from Washoe County School District Superintendent Pedro Martinez to 13-year-old Logan LaPlante whose presentation, “Hackschooling Makes Me Happy,” has gained widespread interest and generated nearly 200,000 views on YouTube.

“Many of our participants commented about how inspired they were at the end of the day,” Simmons said. “The event was the University’s way of highlighting the wealth of ideas and stories we have in our community.”

Simmons and the TEDxUniversityofNevada event were honored with the 2013 New Entrepreneurial Activity of the Year Award from Nevada’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (NCET).

TEDx was created in the spirit of TED’s mission, “ideas worth spreading.”

The program is designed to give communities, organizations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue through TED-like experiences at the local level. Presentations at the University’s event focused on the theme “Creating Community Conversations.”

—Stephanie Kirby, Class of 2013

Business-education program shows collaboration, flexibility

A unique pilot program provides specialized professional development for midlevel managers and supervisors of Barrick Gold Corporation and serves as a model of business and university collaboration.

“We wanted to develop a program that would be similar to what is offered for full-time students at business or mining schools,” said Nigel Bain, general manager of Barrick Turquoise Ridge Joint Venture. “It just so happens that we have that expertise right here in Nevada at the University’s top-notch business school.”

Barrick selected 23 employees for the inaugural, 12-day Barrick Gold Leadership Development Program, which included initial sessions in Reno and in Elko, offered in cooperation with Great Basin College.

The leadership development series courses, taught by University instructors, were identified through a needs assessment jointly conducted by the University and Barrick’s management team.

“These are employees who have come up through the ranks and know their industry very well,” said Jim McElhanahan, director of corporate and business relations for the University’s College of Business. “They have developed the technical knowledge and skills for their field, but they need help in some general areas of business, such as human resources, business writing, presentation skills and team-building, to be more effective managers.”

“We have had very positive feedback from our participants; a few have even added future areas of study,” Bain said.

—Claudene Wharton ’86, ’99M.A.
A year of special anniversaries

The University of Nevada, Reno’s rich history is exemplified in its historical buildings and centers of learning plus longstanding traditions that reflect campus life. This year the University will observe a number of important anniversaries.

FOUNDING FATHER "Mackay Madness," an Associated Students of the University of Nevada (ASUN) event in March, marked the 100th Mackay Day observance, which over the years evolved into Mackay Week and this year was celebrated all month. It honors John William Mackay, who formed a partnership with James G. Fair, James C. Flood and William S. O’Brien that became known as the Bonanza Firm, famed for developing the Comstock Lode. In 1908, the Mackay School of Mines—today the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering—was presented to the University in Mackay’s memory by his widow and his son.

PEAVINE PEAK Each fall, University students hike up Peavine Peak, just north of campus, to add a fresh coat of white paint to the 150-foot high, 140-foot wide block “N.” Two junior surveying students, Clarke Webster and Harvey McPhail, chose the spot in 1913 after McPhail suggested the idea to the student government. Students spent an entire week working on it and finished on Sunday, March 3, 1913, in time for the Santa Clara track meet that day.

GREEK LIFE Founded in 1913, the Theta Theta chapter of Delta Delta Delta celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. The chapter, previously known as Theta Epsilon, was the first Greek organization on the University campus.

BROADCAST Since its first show aired in 1963, KUNR has remained the University’s National Public Radio station. Fifty years later, KUNR remains a listener-supported, nonprofit station broadcasting national and community programming, local and national news, classical and jazz music and more.

REACH FOR THE STARS This year the Fleischmann Planetarium, built by the Fleischmann Foundation, celebrates its 50th anniversary. Max Fleischmann established the foundation to honor his parents, Charles and Henriette, who both had connections to the University. Since Charles Fleischmann was a respected professor and inventor at the University, the Fleischmann Foundation and the University felt the best way to honor Charles and Henriette was to build Nevada’s first planetarium and the world’s first atmospherium.

—Stephany Kirby, Class of 2013

Professor releases book on powerful impact of women’s movement

Mary White Stewart, author and professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, recently released her fourth book, Portraits of Change: Unparalleled Freedoms, Unanticipated Consequences, in which she provides a reflection on mid-century social change as it shaped women’s lives, using a personal lens to illustrate the power of political and social movements.

Stewart, a professor of sociology and director of the School of Social Research and Justice Studies, an administrative unit within the College of Liberal Arts, combines her professional experiences and personal insight to give readers a look at how an individual woman’s life can reflect global changes and vice versa.

“I was inspired to write Portraits of Change because I really wanted to convey the impact of social change as seen through individual lives of women,” Stewart said.

In her book, she traces how the women’s movement and widespread social upheaval of the 1960s and 1970s impacted the women of her own family. In particular, she focuses on the experiences of four generations of women, including herself, as they come of age, marry, divorce and age. She explores, from a sociological and feminist point of view, how each generation responded to social and political constraints and freedoms of their time while analyzing how their individual choices shaped the next generation.

Stewart hopes for her readers to be reminded of how an individual’s personal life is part of a complex social and political environment.

—Megan Akers, Class of 2013