Nevada Alumni Council

For 2013, the 27-member Nevada Alumni Council will be lead by new president Rita (Mann) Laden ‘96Ed.D. and six executive committee officers. We also welcomed five new board members.

4 Questions with: Rita (Mann) Laden ‘96Ed.D. Nevada Alumni Council President

When you began working towards earning your undergraduate degree, what career path did you intend to take and why?

I came from an environment where very few went to college, especially women. Also, women didn’t generally work outside the home, so I had no professional role models. I started college having absolutely no idea what degree program to enter into. Starting my sophomore year, I worked full time in the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and that’s when everything changed. It was then I realized that my life would be spent assisting other students obtain their degrees and become successful. Upon completion of a bachelor’s degree in psychology, I was hired in the Division of Student Services and remained in various Student Services positions until I began teaching in 2007. So, I guess you could say that once I decided on a field, I never looked back.

Having earned your doctor of education degree at Nevada, what would you like alumni to know about the University’s graduate program experience?

I found the graduate faculty to be excellent. While working on my doctorate I was also employed full time and that’s when everything changed. It was then I realized that my life would be spent assisting other students obtain their degrees and become successful. Upon completion of a bachelor’s degree in psychology, I was hired in the Division of Student Services and remained in various Student Services positions until I began teaching in 2007. So, I guess you could say that once I decided on a field, I never looked back.

You have had the unique experience of not only graduating from Nevada, but also working at your alma mater. What is one of your fondest memories serving as associate vice president for Student Services on campus?

Before I was associate vice president, I served as Greek advisor. There was a time period when I received a significant number of complaints from neighbors about behavior of fraternity members. I spoke to the Interfraternity Council and the fraternity presidents, but the behavior did not improve. So, I called a meeting of all the fraternity alumni advisors. As a young, single woman, the odds were pretty good … me, and a room full of men … and it’s there that I met Steve, my husband of 23 years. So, from that point forward, I saw every challenge created by the Greek system as an opportunity. My 22 years in Student Services were also filled with wonderful memories of student leaders who struggled with very complex and important campus issues. I remember the debates that lasted long into the night as they attempted to make the right decisions to positively impact the lives of other students. I keep in touch with many of these leaders and enjoy watching them serve the University as alumni and make a difference at the state and national levels.

As the 2013 Nevada Alumni Council president what do you hope to accomplish?

My theme as Nevada Alumni Council president is “connections.” I want to help alumni stay connected to the campus. I want our graduates to connect with what it means to be alumni of a growing Tier I institution. I want to help instill in our graduates a pride that they take with them wherever they go. And, lastly, I would like that pride to carry over into their commitment to the university through financial giving and support of all the exciting arts and athletic events on campus.
Robert E. Yim ’50 (chemistry) has published a memoir, *Sleeping with Mae West and Other Stories*. The book is a collection of short stories of growing up in an Oriental family in a Western cattle town, World War II experiences in the U.S. Navy, medical school and private pediatric practice.

Manzoor Hussain ’70M.S. (integrated pest management) authored the book *ISLAM: An Essential Understanding for Fellow Americans*, which has been published by Vantage Press, New York. This book provides factual information to readers and works to foster better relations between Muslims and other Americans.

Frank Y. Jackson ’70 (political science) was inducted into the inaugural Hall of Fall for Antelope Valley High School in Lancaster, Calif., as part of the centennial celebration for the school. Frank is a associate justice for the Second District Court of Appeal for the State of California.

Stephen W. Martarano ’79 (journalism) hosted a standing-room only discussion on some of Sacramento’s most notorious crimes. The panel was part of the monthly “Living Library Speaker Series” at Time Tested Books in downtown Sacramento. Steve was a crime reporter for several years at the now-defunct *Sacramento Union* newspaper.

Judy L. Taylor ’80 (political science), ’95M.A. (history) recently published the third story in her *Cindy Nesbit Mystery Series*. Since retiring from the printing business, Judy has traveled in Europe and written several articles for local magazines. Judy lives in Sparks with her in-corgi-able Corgi, Hooligan.

Benjamin J. Rodriguez ’82M.D. taught and performed surgery in China in March and June of 2012. He also taught in Egypt in March and June of 2012. He also taught in Egypt.

Tana L. Shivers ’06 (journalism) and David Ellis ’08 (general studies) were married Aug. 4, 2012 in Las Vegas. Tana and David met at the University of Nevada, Reno, where David was a member of the men’s basketball team from 2005-08. They are looking forward to a honeymoon in Cabo San Lucas and following the men’s basketball team around the Mountain West Conference.

Rebecca L. Wikler ’07 (journalism) and Bradley C. Allured ’09 (physics) were married Oct. 6, 2012 at Galena Creek Park in Reno. Bradley is a graduate student in physics at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Rachel R. Eliakis ’10 (speech communications) married Benson Brown ’97 (English), ’12M.A. (speech communications) in Reno on Aug. 26, 2012. The couple met in 2008 when Ben returned to the University of Nevada, Reno to further his education. Rachel and Ben look forward to many travels and lazy days at Lake Tahoe.
tember and performed surgery in the Philippines in November. Benjamin is the president of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and he accepted a professional achievement award from the Nevada Alumni Association at the Homecoming game in October.

Christina M. (Menicucci) Lane ‘86 (criminal justice) was recently named manager of corporate social responsibility for International Game Technology. Chrissy is responsible for developing and leading the company’s global strategy and governance framework for charitable contributions, employee volunteerism and community engagement.

J. Marie Gibson ‘88M.S., ‘94MBA, is an instructor in the College of Business at the University of Nevada, Reno, author and business consultant, was the recipient of the national Caregiver Friendly Award for her recently published book, The Caregiver’s Journal. Marie’s book is focused on helping adult children successfully manage the hospitalization of a parent or other loved one.

Katherine E. (Griswold) Grey ‘88 (journalism), ‘12MBA has been named vice president of strategic marketing for Dignity Health’s St. Rose Dominican Hospitals in Las Vegas/Henderson. Dignity Health is the fifth-largest health system in the nation. Her prior health care experience includes Washoe Health Sys-
tem (now Renown) and Saint Mary’s Regional Medical Center in Reno. Kate graduated with her MBA from the University of Nevada, Reno in December, but due to her move to Las Vegas, she had to enroll in one MBA class at UNLV. However, she will never wear scarlet and gray.

Jeffrey N. Pickett ’89 (finance) was recently honored as the AIGA Reno/Tahoe Fellow Award winner. The AIGA Fellow Program recognizes members who have made a significant contribution to raising the standards of excellence in practice and conduct within their local or regional design community as well as their local AIGA chapter. The Fellow Award is the highest honor AIGA Reno/Tahoe may bestow upon its members.

‘90s

K. Scot MacDonald ’90M.A. (journalism) is a marketing associate in imaging at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Scot recently published his third book and first novel, The Shakespeare Drug, with Kerrera House Press.

A.G. Burnett ’92 (international affairs) was appointed chairman of the Nevada Gaming Control Board by Governor Brian Sandoval. A.G. has been on the board since 2011. Prior to this appointment, he was the deputy chief of the Corporate Securities Division of the Gaming Control Board. A.G. has also served as senior deputy attorney general in the Gaming Division of the Nevada Attorney General’s Office.

Steven Aramini ’96 (journalism) was recently named the American Advertising Federation’s 2011 Ad Person of the Year in Northern Nevada. Steven is the Bauserman Group’s creative director and lead copywriter. He is responsible for the quality and integrity of all of the agency’s work, including brand development, print, radio, television, out-of-home, collateral, direct mail, promotions, interactive and social media for clients across the region.

Anthony Illia ’96M.A. (English) recently won a 2012 Hermes Creative Award for feature writing from the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. The article “Hammering Out of the Hangover” appeared in the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The three-decade-old national awards program recognizes excellence in business communication.
Vincent L. Illia '96 (speech communications) was recently acknowledged in the Top 100 for 2012 with Peterbilt Motor Company. The award represents the top 100 salesmen in North America for Peterbilt. Vince recently delivered a record $2.7 million, 20-truck order to Las Vegas Paving Corporation. In addition to being the truck sales manager for Peterbilt of Las Vegas, he is also a licensed commercial real estate agent for Win Win Realty & Property Management.

Bryan Samudio '96 (journalism) and Alexandra K. Sacks '11 (journalism, sociology) are working together on the television show Wolf Pack All Access. The broadcast station KRNV News 4 Reno and Wolf Pack Sports Properties are teaming-up to do this coaches-style show. The show is scheduled for a 26-week run. Bryan is the host and anchor for the show, as well as the weekend anchor and a weekday reporter for KRNV. Alyx works as a reporter for the All Access show and daily for KRNV.

Glenn Hibl '97 (accounting) purchased long-time Sparks company Johnson Bearing and Supply. Glenn formerly worked as an accountant at Grant Thornton. He also spent time at Allied Washoe Petroleum and as a consultant for The CFO Group. Prior to that, he spent 10 years at Globe Turbocharger, working his way up from the inventory room to running the sales department. Johnson Bearing and supply will be targeting the mining industry.

Christopher P. Finke '98 (health science) has been promoted to technical manager for Aervoe Industries. Most recently, Chris operated as a senior chemist for Aervoe Industries which manufactures paint, lubricants and cleaners. He will now oversee quality control and research and development at the facility in Gardnerville, Nev.

Jace C. Hider ‘99 (marketing) and his wife, Michelle, live in San Jose, Calif., with their two children, Colton, 4, and Kylie, 2. They often return to Reno to cheer on the Wolf Pack at Mackay Stadium.

David L. Taylor '99 (journalism) joined the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows as the marketing director. Taylor will lead marketing and public relations efforts for the club ser-
Alexia Bratiotis ’01

The Society of America in a variety of capacities, including two terms as president. Currently, Alexia serves as the co-chair of professional development.

Nicole M. Shimabuku ’03

A proud Nevada alum and comedian. Recently selected as the face of ScambBook.com, he creates weekly videos that help you avoid online fraudsters. View the clips at Youtube.com/KvonComedy.

Vic T. Delossantos ’01

finance) has been appointed small business banker in Reno and Tahoe for Bank of America, where he will provide personalized attention to small business owners. He brings 14 years of experience working with small businesses and is currently part of the International Rotary Club, Reno Central. Additionally, Vic served for five years as the chairman for the Bank of America Volunteer Network, where he continues to enjoy volunteering for Bank of America-sponsored events.

Jennifer J. Andrews ’04

(criminal justice) has recently accepted the position of marketing manager/demand generation specialist at docSTAR in Schenectady, N.Y. Jennifer currently resides in New York with her husband, Randy, and daughter, Abbey.

‘00s

Alexia Bratiotis ’01 (journalism) has been promoted to general manager of The Summit in Reno. Alexia is responsible for the management and the local implementation of marketing and communications strategies for the 600,000-square-foot outdoor lifestyle shopping center. She has served on the board of the local chapter of the Public Relations Society of America in a variety of capacities, including two terms as president. Currently, Alexia serves as the co-chair of professional development.

Nicole M. Shimabuku ’03 (psychology), ’09M.A. (counseling and educational psychology) is the coordinator of student activities and leadership at Truckee Meadows Community College. Nicole became engaged to Frederick J. Perdomo ’03 (civil engineering) on May 5, 2012 on Portuguese Beach in Sonoma County, Calif. Rick is a litigation attorney in the Tobacco Enforcement Unit at the Attorney General’s Office in Carson City, Nev. The couple plans to wed in July 2013 in Virginia City, Nev.

Jennifer J. Andrews ’04 (criminal justice) has recently accepted the position of marketing manager/demand generation specialist at docSTAR in Schenectady, N.Y. Jennifer currently resides in New York with her husband, Randy, and daughter, Abbey.
Nevada Alumni Association honors Fall 2012 Senior Scholars

More than 100 family, friends, college deans and others from the University’s administration joined the Nevada Alumni Association in honoring the Fall 2012 Senior Scholars Dec. 6. These top graduating seniors from each school or college at Nevada were recognized for their hard work and dedication throughout their collegiate journey. In addition to the scholars selected, a faculty mentor who had the most impact on their academic career at Nevada was honored alongside them during the event. BACK ROW: Mentors Bob Felten, Paul Devereux, Chris Feldman, David Sanders, Erin Stiles and John Cannon. MIDDLE ROW: Scholars Tiffany Moore, Audrey Hill, Jade Keehn, Melinda Havenstrite, Kristen Renda and Danielle Schwiesow. FRONT ROW: Ikketsu Hayashi, Shane McGuire and mentor Jennifer Hollander.

College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

Jade Keehn - 3.991
Mentor: Chris Feldman

College of Science

Shane McGuire - 3.959
Mentor: Jennifer Hollander

College of Liberal Arts

Kristen Renda - 3.973
Mentor: Erin Stiles

College of Education

Melinda Havenstrite - 3.957
Mentor: David Sanders

Division of Health Sciences

Ikketsu Hayashi - 3.940
Mentor: Paul Devereux

College of Business

Audrey Hill - 3.901
Mentor: Robert Felten

Reynolds School of Journalism

Tiffany Moore - 3.930
Mentor: Robert Felten

College of Engineering

Danielle Schwiesow - 3.965
Mentor: John Cannon
Patrick V. Barron '04M.S. (geography), '04Ph.D. (English) is the co-editor of the recently published book *Haiku for a Season*. Patrick is an associate professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Grant A. Korgan '04 (mechanical engineering) battled temperatures of 50 degrees below zero, winds of 35 miles per hour, and whiteouts as he propelled himself for 12 days across the ice of Antarctica. Grant, who was paralyzed in a snowmobile accident in 2010, became the first adaptive athlete to reach the South Pole after completing the 75-mile trek in a sit-ski last January. He has published a book on his experiences, *Two Feet Back*.

Sarah E. Carmona '05 (economics) was listed as number 18 among the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals Top 250 Latino Real Estate Agents in America. Sarah was honored at the NAHREP National Convention in October in Los Angeles. She is the co-owner of Dreams Realty and the co-founder of the Dreams Foundation.

Dessie K. Felder '05 (management) was promoted to chief operating officer for the public accounting firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. in Reno. Dessie is responsible for managing the day-to-day operational aspects of the firm and serves as a member of the board of directors. She has been with Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. for more than 17 years and is also the human resources director of the firm. Dessie holds a Senior Professional in Human Resources certification and is a member of the Society for Human Resources Management.

Michael P. O'Brien '05 (biochemistry), '09M.D. joined Northern Nevada Medical Group's Reno location. Michael is a family medicine physician who was born and raised in northern Nevada.

Andy Turman '07 (psychology) and Alex R. Kilby '08 (marketing) are part of the leadership team of the Seattle company, Bizible. Bizible is one of only 10 companies worldwide to be chosen for TechStars Seattle, a highly competitive startup accelerator. TechStars is backed by more than 75 venture capital firms and chose 10 businesses from an application pool of 600.

Amy L. Beck '08 (journalism) joined The Glenn Group, a Nevada-based advertising, interactive and public relations agency, as a
public relations account executive. Amy is responsible for handling daily client activities while managing and monitoring the strategic direction and long-term client goals for the agency’s public relations clients. Prior to joining The Glenn Group, she gained experience working for the Bonanza Casino and EMPLOYERS.

Jamie P. Brant ’08 (journalism) has been promoted to pet division manager of the Impetus Agency in Reno. In her new position, Jamie will oversee all strategy and activity on the firm’s pet industry accounts. She will also be responsible for developing marketing campaigns, event planning, promotions, brand alignment and client and media relations on a national level.

W. Gregory Mullen ’08 (marketing), ’12MBA was named the senior marketing analyst for the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino. Greg began as the special events coordinator for the Peppermill and shortly after was promoted to promotions manager. During this time, Greg returned to the University of Nevada, Reno to obtain his MBA. He credits his graduate degree for his recent success in the casino marketing industry.


W. Gregory Mullen ’08, ’12MBA

Danielle M. Longley ’11 (journalism) has been promoted to pet division manager of the Impetus Agency in Reno. In her new position, Jamie will oversee all strategy and activity on the firm’s pet industry accounts. She will also be responsible for developing marketing campaigns, event planning, promotions, brand alignment and client and media relations on a national level.

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‘10s

Danielle M. Longley ’11 (journalism, Spanish) has been promoted to account executive in the account service division of The Glenn Group’s Reno office. Danielle handles daily client activities, manages production timelines and monitors long-term client goals. Danielle graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with honors.

W. Gregory Mullen ’08, ’12MBA

Danielle M. Longley ’11 (journalism) has been promoted to pet division manager of the Impetus Agency in Reno. In her new position, Jamie will oversee all strategy and activity on the firm’s pet industry accounts. She will also be responsible for developing marketing campaigns, event planning, promotions, brand alignment and client and media relations on a national level.

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KEY

Nevada Alumni Lifetime Member
Nevada Alumni Annual Member

Submissions are due Feb. 21, 2013 and can be sent to: chatter@unr.edu. We edit all submissions for style, clarity and length.

Robert D. Frenkel ’92 (journalism) and his wife, Joanna Roberts, would like to announce the birth of their son, Bradley Dennison Frenkel (future class of ’33) on Oct. 10, 2012. Bradley joins his 3-year-old big sister, Charlotte Elizabeth (future class of ’30).

Brian P. Johnson ’03 (marketing) and Janet Berry-Johnson would like to announce the birth of their son, Cohen James Johnson, on March 19, 2012.

Daphne L. (Bateman) Monson ’07 (biochemistry), ’08 (nursing) and Joseph D. Monson ’05 (agriculture and applied economics) are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Whitney Rose Monson. Whitney was born Aug. 13, 2012.

Rebecca R. Ogden ’10 (art) and Damon T. Ogden ’02 (mechanical engineering) are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Maura Kelly, on Aug. 23, 2012. She joins big brother Colin, 4.
GET YOUR CHAPTER ON.

AND ON. AND ON...

Whether you’re into “first and 10” or “hang ten,” there’s an alumni chapter for you. Join today at alumni.unr.edu