It all started with a dream.

During the Great Depression, Lovelock native Alice Gottschalk Downer wanted to be a teacher. She worked and saved to attend the Normal School at the University of Nevada, and went on to teach for 25 years. Robert Downer, Alice’s husband and a WWII Navy combat veteran, completed his degree after the war ended. The couple’s three children, Catharine (Kay) Sanders, Bob Downer and Craig Downer, followed their parents’ footsteps to the University. Kay and Neil Sanders had three sons, Chris, Eric and Scott, who carried on the Nevada tradition. Eric Sanders was drafted by the NFL in 1981 and played six years for the Atlanta Falcons and six years for the Detroit Lions. “The University of Nevada has been pivotal in our lives, making it possible to reach our goals,” Kay Sanders says. “We are proud graduates and enthusiastically support our alma mater.”

How many University of Nevada, Reno alumni make up your family tree? Let us know, and you could all be featured in an upcoming issue of Nevada Silver & Blue. For details, visit unr.edu/alumni or call 888.NV ALUMS.