Foundation Banquet

With more than 800 guests in attendance, the 32nd annual University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Banquet presented by the E.L. Cord Foundation was held Sept. 18 featuring keynote speaker Wolf Blitzer, lead CNN political anchor and anchor of The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer. Funds raised from the Foundation Banquet help support University students and faculty. Generous support of the event was also provided by the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino, Thelma B. and Thomas P. Hart Foundation, Ann Carlson ’59 (business), ’78M.Ed., Barrick Gold of North America, NV Energy, McDonald Carano Wilson and the Reno Gazette-Journal.

1. CNN’s lead political anchor Wolf Blitzer.
2. Former First Lady of Nevada Dema Guinn and Danielle Swanson, Kenny C. Guinn Memorial Millennium Scholarship award winner.
4. John and Cindy Maher, Cathy Trachok ’76 and Regent Rick Trachok ’74.
5. University of Nevada, Reno President Marc Johnson and Karen Penner-Johnson with Wolf Blitzer.
The E. L. Wiegand Foundation announced an $8 million grant during a Sept. 16 press conference to support the E. L. Wiegand Fitness Center, a four-story facility to be constructed on the University of Nevada, Reno campus, offering more than 100,000 square feet of multi-use space for fitness and recreation. This significant grant will elevate the campus experience and contribute to the health, wellness and success of students for years to come.

(1) University President Marc Johnson, Reno Mayor Bob Cashell ‘76, GSA Vice President Dave Brackett, ASUN President Ziad Rashdan, Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval ‘86 and E. L. Wiegand Foundation President Kristen Avansino.

(2) E. L. Wiegand Foundation Executive Board Member Greg Ferraro ‘85, President Marc Johnson and E. L. Wiegand Foundation Chairman Skip Avansino ’65.

(3) Nevada System of Higher Education Regent Jason Geddes ’90, ’95Ph.D., Chairman Kevin Page and Regent Rick Trachok ‘74.

(4) ASUN Director of Legislative Affairs Alex Bybee, ASUN Chief of Staff Richard Corn and ASUN President Ziad Rashdan.

(5) Reno Mayor Bob Cashell ’76 (center) with Marisa Avansino and Skip Avansino ’65.

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Citing a University of Nevada, Reno education as their “greatest possible asset,” University President Marc Johnson encouraged the more than 1,400 bachelor’s and advanced degree recipients during the Dec. 7 Winter Commencement ceremony to continue a lifelong pursuit of learning, knowledge and discovery. A total of 1,075 bachelor’s degrees and 386 advanced degrees or certificates (master’s and doctoral degrees and education specialist certificates) were awarded during the ceremony.

(1) Carol Hellwinkel, Chelsea Fricke, Erica Potts, Lindsay Olson, Megan Lee, Julia Cabal, Jasmine Smith and Danielle Usiak.

(2) Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism graduates.

(3) Master’s degree graduates from the College of Business.

(4) Proud graduates return to their seats after receiving their degrees.

(5) Helmi Hirvela, Krista McCord, Jeanette Junio, Sarah
Nevada Writers Hall of Fame

Richard O. Davies, University of Nevada, Reno history professor emeritus, was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame Nov. 14. Silver Pen awards for best emerging writers were given to Christopher Coake, a creative writing professor at the University and author of *You Came Back*, and Tupelo Hassman, debut author of *Girlchild*.

Warren Lerude/Laxalt Book Signing

Warren Lerude ’61 (journalism), professor emeritus of the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism and longtime Reno newspaper editor and publisher, released his new biography of Robert Laxalt during a Sept. 25 event hosted by the journalism school, University Libraries Special Collections and the University’s Center for Basque Studies. *Robert Laxalt: The Story of a Storyteller* traces Laxalt’s development as a writer.

(1) Warren Lerude ’61 (third from right) and the Laxalt family.
(2) College of Liberal Arts Dean Heather Hardy, Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations John Carothers and Dean of University Libraries Kathy Ray.
(3) RANGE magazine editor/publisher C.J. Hadley and Warren Lerude ’61.
(4) Judy Nash ’65, Cathy Guild ’00, Susie McQuaid ’69 and Andie Crowell ’78.