I have learned that nothing is more important than family and good friends. When you have a family and true friends, you can be yourself with all the flaws that we all have. They are still there for you, and support you, and make you look good even when you’re not feeling good. You can’t ask for more than that.

When you go through the good times—and more importantly, when you go through the bad times—you’ve got to have support. Fortunately, I have my friends and family for support. I hope I return that to them as well.

I used to be a Type-A, run-and-gun, rock-and-roll all the time guy, always a high achiever. I’m not suggesting I don’t want to do well, but some things have become more important than achieving that pinnacle of success. I’m very competitive, I don’t like to lose, and I still work hard, but I’ve slowed down a bit. At the end of the day, all of that is not as important as it used to be.

It’s a privilege to be a father and husband, but truly a privilege to be a grandfather. Any grandparent will tell you the joy of his life is being a grandparent. I want to do what I can to give my grandchildren good lives and teach them the important lessons that my mom and dad taught me—to be a hardworking, responsible person who gives back more than he receives. I want them to become responsible, productive members of the community. I don’t want them to grow up with a sense of entitlement. If you give back more than you receive, you will have a fulfilling and rewarding life.

As a grandparent, you do everything you possibly can to make them a good citizen. I’ve reached some successes, thankfully, but the greatest success will be when they bury me and I know my grandkids turned out well, and I hope to have some influence on them. I think that I can bring some experience, and hopefully wisdom, to the equation.

I try to take each day at a time. I’m very fortunate that I’ve checked off almost everything on my bucket list. I’ve had great friendships and great opportunities. If I checked out tomorrow, I won’t have any regrets. I can die a satisfied person.

At the same time, I learn every day how much I don’t know. I challenge myself to learn something new every day. I try to slow down. I don’t worry so much about everyday life. It will take care of itself one way or another.

I was back on campus during Spring Commencement for the Class of 1965’s Golden Reunion, and it was fantastic. I hadn’t seen some of my classmates since we walked off the stage 50 years ago. It was a kick! It was great to see so many old friends. It was so good to catch up and hear people talk about getting reconnected to the University.

In some ways, the school is so much the same, but it’s also changed—the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, all the buildings on campus—we had the Virginia Street Gym and the football field was over by The College of Business.

I’m excited about all the plans the University has to work with the community. These are very exciting times. Reno is a university town. It has the four seasons, recreational opportunities and opportunities for good jobs.

What successes I’ve enjoyed in my adult life, I attribute directly to my experience at the University—the friends I made, the people I met—it made me the person I am today.

I was always raised in a culture of giving back. If you can’t give back financially, you can give your time. I’m passionate about the work I do as chair of The Children’s Cabinet Foundation. It’s truly a public/private organization that works to address the issue of kids and families who are in need. We’re there as a safety net to catch these kids and their families who are in need and help turn their lives around. To me, it’s just the right thing to do. It’s more than feeling good—you can see real results.

In working with the University, I have several new passions now, including working to raise the profile of Special Collections as well as supporting Nevada’s student-athletes.

My political background keeps me interested in the Special Collections Department at the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. I’ve been working with Dean of Libraries Kathy Ray and Jacquelyn Sundstrand, manuscripts and archives librarian, to raise money for Special Collections and raise the profile of what they do.

Working with Athletic Director Doug Knuth and Strength Coach Matt Eck, my wife, Gloria, and I have also made a commitment to the athletic nutritional program for our student-athletes. I played football for Coach Trachok during the 1961-63 seasons. Gloria and I thought the most immediate impact we can make on these student-athletes is nutrition because that helps them perform on the athletic field and helps them in the classroom. I like what Coach Brian Polian said to us—he’s not coaching these athletes for the next four years, but for the next 40. I hope we can make a small contribution to his efforts.

From a conversation with Senior Writer Roseann Keegan. As a student at the University of Nevada, Reno, Keith Lee served as ASUN president in 1964-65, following in the footsteps of his father, Keith, who was also ASUN president in 1932-33. Lee graduated with honors from the University of San Francisco School of Law. He has been a practicing attorney in Nevada since 1970. He has served in a number of different capacities in local and statewide political campaigns. He has a notable career as a lobbyist, beginning with the 1983 session of the Nevada State Legislature. He has also lobbied Nevada’s Congressional Delegation since 1989. Lee served 17 years as a member of the Nevada Board of Bar Examiners and was a member and chair of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. He was named a 2014 Distinguished Nevadan, the most prestigious award conferred by the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents. Lee is past recipient of the Nevada Alumni Association’s University Service Award and a member of the University’s Century Campaign Cabinet.