“I believe in a better tomorrow for our children and their families.”

With this mantra, Max Coppes, a pediatric oncologist, accepted the joint leadership role as the Nell J. Redfield Chair of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief for Renown Children’s Hospital, a position that is part of a 2014 partnership agreement between the School of Medicine and Renown Health. Dr. Coppes is shown here with Katie Mewes.

Dr. Max Coppes has been named to the joint role of Nell J. Redfield Chair of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief for Renown Children’s Hospital, a position that is part of a 2014 partnership agreement between the School of Medicine and Renown Health. Dr. Coppes is shown here with Katie Mewes.

by ANNE Mc MILLIN

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With this mantra, Max Coppes, a pediatric oncologist, accepted the joint leadership role as the Nell J. Redfield Chair of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief at Renown Children’s Hospital, effective April 1, 2016. The new position was made possible through generous philanthropic support from the Nell J. Redfield Foundation, along with investments by Renown Health and the School of Medicine.

Dr. Coppes has lab, research and clinical health management expertise, and he plans to bring the academic model of research, teaching and patient care to his department for the betterment of its patients.

“If I can’t guarantee parents and their kids that this department is contributing to a better tomorrow, then I’m not doing my job,” Coppes said. “I want to be an advocate for the health and well-being of children in this community.”

To do so, Coppes is looking at socio economic factors that contribute to children’s health in the context of overall public and population health.

Coppes will help put the health of the region’s children at the forefront through the work
of the Child Health Institute and the numerous community partners that improve children’s lives in our area. He will initially focus on implementing a pediatric residency at Renown to bring additional pediatricians to our region. Coppes’ leadership in pediatrics will also better position our region to attract needed children’s subspecialists and expand clinical research opportunities to elevate the standard of pediatric care available in the area.

“We are pleased to see Dr. Coppes selected to serve in this role that is crucial to achieving better health for children in northern Nevada,” said Jerry Smith ’03 (honorary degree), director of the Neil J. Redfield Foundation and chair of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Board of Trustees. “The vision was to attract an outstanding candidate to take the lead on this important work. Dr. Coppes’ experience and expertise in pediatrics and academic medicine has the potential to transform the health and welfare of our community’s youngest and most vulnerable.”

Dr. Melissa Piasecki, executive associate dean at the School of Medicine, said Coppes brings a wealth of academic expertise to the medical school, and by extension, northern Nevada.

“He is a distinguished scholar in childhood cancer research and has a long record of working with medical students, residents and fellows. He is uniquely positioned to lead the department of pediatrics and advance the care of children in northern Nevada.”

Coppes came to Reno in 2014 from the British Columbia Cancer Agency in Vancouver, where he served as president with responsibility for six regional cancer centers and two cancer research centers. During his career, Coppes also served as senior vice president at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and held positions at several prestigious facilities in the U.S. and Canada including The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto, Georgetown University, The National Cancer Institute and the Cleveland Clinic. He also speaks five languages.

Most recently, Coppes served as the executive vice president, chief academic and medical officer at Renown, but is eager to jump into his new role that puts him on the School of Medicine faculty roster and offers him an opportunity to contribute in a different fashion.

This new role represents another step in fulfilling a 2014 partnership agreement between the School of Medicine and Renown Health, as the two organizations collaborate to improve the health and health care of northern Nevadans.

“The integration of these clinical practices creates a tremendous opportunity for residents and medical students to have an enhanced medical education while providing optimal medical patient care, which supports the goal of a healthy Nevada,” said Dr. Cathy Goring, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the School of Medicine.

“We’re bringing the expertise of our organizations together to provide our best medical care to the community,” said Sy Johnson, Renown Health executive vice president and chief operating officer. “We are pleased to welcome School of Medicine physicians to offer a multispecialty practice alongside other services on our campus.”
Amping up business incubation and industry research and development

“‘It creates opportunity,’ Vice President for Research and Innovation Mridul Gautam said of the new Nevada Center for Applied Research which opened May 19.

Rebecca Albion, coordinator of the University’s Shared Research Facilities, demonstrates imaging equipment in the Biosciences Entrepreneurial Lab to Mike Kazmierski, president and CEO of EDAWN. The imaging system automates visualization of a variety of samples with a range of detection methods including fluorescence, colorimetry, chemiluminescence and chemiluminescence.

by JANE TORS ’82 • photos by TIM DUNN

Many of the University’s most sophisticated labs and equipment—and the brain power and infrastructure that make them work—are now available to local industry.

The University’s new Nevada Center for Applied Research (NCAR) is supported by a $3.1 million grant through the State of Nevada Knowledge Fund and the Governor’s Office of Economic Development to advance the incubation and growth of businesses, including emerging bioscience and technology companies, research collaborators and spin-outs from the University.

Here’s how it works

Say an entrepreneur or business has an idea for a new biofuel source, new drug or insect control agent, new autonomous system, or an engineering or computational solution. Exploring and testing the concept would require the right equipment and expertise, and the work might require the use of multiple laboratories, testing centers and experts. Many ideas stop at this early stage because the path ahead is too daunting or costly.

“That is for the business or entrepreneur looking to move an opportunity or idea forward,” said Carlos Cardillo, NCAR director. “We have created an applied research-and-development-technology center that delivers the intellectual and
A unique structure

NCAR works with businesses and entrepreneurs to help determine the assets and expertise they need and then develop a customized plan and fee structure. The right technical support is assembled, and important related services, such as training and waste management, are provided.

“We believe our structure is unique,” said Ellen Purpus, the University’s associate vice president for enterprise and innovation. “NCAR further facilitates research and development by taking care of infrastructure so companies can focus on growing their business.”

The physical assets available through NCAR include the new Biosciences Entrepreneurial Lab (BEL), located in the University’s Applied Research Facility, and the University’s Shared Research Facilities. The BEL is a “wet lab” space managed by NCAR and fully equipped to accommodate scientific research involving chemicals, compounds or biologics. Shared Research Facilities is the collective name for a network of existing, sophisticated laboratories, centers and makerspaces on campus – some with capabilities unique to northern Nevada – now being made available to industry through NCAR.

“NCAR will provide startups and established companies with a central and public access point to utilize a wide-range of technical services, intellectual capital, testing and research capabilities in a cost-effective manner,” said Steve Hill, executive director of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development.

Strengthening existing resources

Building, equipping and staffing a single, sophisticated biosciences lab would require a considerable investment, likely millions of dollars. However, NCAR is leveraging primarily existing resources and therefore is far less costly. The BEL, for example, is in an existing space on campus that has been repurposed to direct the facility toward the state’s current economic development priority.

Glenn Miller, professor of natural resources and environmental sciences in the University’s College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, sees the value of offering existing services and resources to industry in an orchestrated manner. He moved a piece of high-end, chemical analysis equipment from another campus lab to the BEL. It is now available to industry and is enhanced by being part of a complete lab with additional specialized equipment, technical support and related services.

“Enhancing existing infrastructure and resources is a good investment on the part of the Knowledge Fund,” said Mridul Gautam, the University’s vice president of research and innovation. “Ultimately, this investment and effort will help translate basic, fundamental research into real-world application. It’s a public good; it creates opportunity,” Gautam said of NCAR. “This is a strong example of serving the land-grant university mission in the 21st century.”
Matt Boroughf Memorial Scholarship Endowment established

by CURTIS VICKERS ’07 M.A.

After graduating from Reno High School in 1992, Matt Boroughf ’99 (mechanical engineering) spent two years at Truckee Meadows Community College. His love of working with his hands eventually led him to his pursuit of a degree in mechanical engineering at the University. By working full-time through his entire academic career, Matt achieved his goal of graduating debt-free. After graduation, he utilized the skills he learned at the University to land a job with Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company.

“Matt is a great example of a student who entered the University with a lot of potential and took full advantage of the opportunities available on campus to realize that potential,” Manos Maragakis, dean of the College of Engineering, said. “His career trajectory, combined with the lasting impact he has made on his friends and family, is an inspiration.”

In 2015, Matt lost his battle to sinus cancer. His wife, Laura, has chosen to honor the memory of her husband by establishing a scholarship in his name to benefit students like Matt: hard-working mechanical engineering students who have taken a less traditional path to the University.

“Laura’s decision to honor the memory of her husband by supporting students with similar passions will help ensure that generations to come are capable of gaining an education that allows them to make an impact on our community,” Maragakis said. “Like Matt, our mechanical engineering students are invested in finding innovative ways to solve many of the problems that affect our living standards. Laura’s generosity may make the difference between a student being able to afford attending the University or not.”

Richard Wood ’02, ’05 MBA supports Nevada Student Ambassadors

by CURTIS VICKERS ’07 M.A.

For many students and parents, their first trip to the University campus included a guided tour of the buildings and grounds. Led by one of 106 friendly volunteer Student Ambassadors, these tours help parents and prospective students find out if the University is the right school for them.

“Our Student Ambassadors perform an important service in greeting and sharing their experiences with prospective and newly admitted students,” said Director of Admissions Steve Maples ’99 M.A., ’02 Ph.D. “Their dedication to the community extends to include a number of volunteer initiatives, like Relay for Life, Toys for Tots, and the Ronald McDonald House.”

A diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students who represent every college on campus, for more than 30 years these generous Ambassadors have told the story of the University and helped potential students see how their goals could be accomplished by the wide range of programs at Nevada. Student Ambassadors represent the values of service and community outreach that are the cornerstone of the University’s mission, a fact that former program co-advisor Richard Wood ’02 (journalism), ’05 MBA is keenly aware of.

“After serving as a Student Ambassador co-advisor, I came to appreciate the dedication of these students and wanted to do something for them,” Wood said. “In addition to their weekly tours, Student Ambassadors help during commencement, and even travel to recruitment events in California and throughout Nevada. It is important to me that this hard work is recognized and honored.”

In that spirit, Wood recently established the Nevada Student Ambassadors Scholarship to be awarded to current Student Ambassadors.

“Student Ambassador Julio Leyva discusses the University with prospective students and their parents during the April 13 student recruitment reception at Red Rock Country Club in Las Vegas.”

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“These dedicated students love the University, and they want to help other students. But the reality is that in addition to everything else they do, our Ambassadors also have to study, and many hold down jobs,” Maples said. “Rich’s endowed scholarship will relieve some of the financial burden these students face in pursuit of their ultimate goal of gaining a college education.”

To learn more about supporting the Matt Boroughf Memorial Scholarship, contact Mui Condon ’02, assistant director of development, mgu@unr.edu or (775) 682-7695.

To learn more about supporting Student Ambassadors, contact Keiko Weil ’87, director of donor relations, kweil@unr.edu or (775) 682-5964.

On Philanthropy

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Instructor Marisa Delgado and campers Stacey and Haley explore spatial reasoning during the Northern Nevada Girls Math and Technology Program camp, held each July at the University.

**Math and tech program opens doors for Nevada girls**

by CURTIS VICKERS ’07 M.A.

Since 1998, the Northern Nevada Girls Math and Technology Program has been providing seventh and eighth grade girls with a chance to expand their math and technology skills during a week-long camp on campus. Students learn problem solving, spatial reasoning, data analysis, probability, geometry and algebra from an all-female faculty in preparation for upcoming math classes when they return to school.

Program Director Professor Lynda Wiest hopes to foster proficiency and confidence in mathematics and technology in girls with the goal of narrowing the gender gap in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, where women make up as few as 25 percent of professionals.

“When you are a member of an underrepresented group, like girls are in mathematics and technology, working alongside other underrepresented members of that group can improve confidence and performance,” said Wiest, a 2015 F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teaching Award recipient. “It is not simply that the girls gain knowledge and skills in these fields. They also gain positive female role models who are successful in math and technology, and they see that they, too, can succeed. This is why it is important for girls to learn from women who use math and technology in their professional lives.”

Aspiring marine biologist and former camp participant Emma said, “I liked working with girls because they understand me. Boys are harder to understand, bond with and trust.” Another former camper, aspiring equine veterinarian Chloe, said she enjoyed working with other girls, because “there was hardly any interruption or craziness during class, and the program really helped me with things we’re learning at school, like graphing.”

In addition to the flagship annual camp, the program offers a dynamic website with math resources and a discussion forum that allows girls to continue their friendships and seek help from their mentors. In 2015, the program began offering an after-school class in coding, with direct application in robotics, for girls in a low-income elementary school.

“We are uniquely positioned to reach out to girls in rural Nevada, due to our residential camp, and to girls who are at-risk, thanks to our generous donors who allow us to offer scholarships to girls in need,” said Assistant Director and Northern Nevada Outstanding Mathematics Educator Award recipient Heather Crawford-Ferre ’06 (elementary education/special education), ’09 M.Ed.

The Northern Nevada Girls Math and Technology Program has most recently received support from Newmont Mining Corporation, the Frances C. & William P. Smallwood Foundation, Barrick Gold Corporation, IGT, the Odyssey Foundation, the Reno chapter of the American Association of University Women and Port of Subs.

To learn more about supporting the Northern Nevada Girls Math and Technology Program, contact Kristen Kennedy ’98, director of development, kristenk@unr.edu or (775) 784-6914.

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**Robert L. Sims Scholar Leader Endowment established**

by CURTIS VICKERS ’07 M.A.

The University lost a dear friend when Robert L. Sims passed away last October at age 83.

Before moving to Reno in 1966 with his new bride, Joan, Robert Sims was born and raised in Wichita, Kan., earned his degree from Wichita State University, and served for two years in the United States Army.

Upon his arrival in Reno, Sims founded the Reno branch of Elmer Fox & Company CPAs. He worked closely with clients and developed long-term relationships for the next 49 years.

Sims served as a trustee for a number of foundations, including the Roxie & Azad Joseph Foundation and the E.L. Cord Foundation. After his retirement, he served on the board of the Sparks Rotary Club, the Navy League, the Prospectors’ Club and the Nevada Opera Guild.

“Bob was a consummate professional. He offered advice informed by his decades-long career and guided the Roxie & Azad Joseph Foundation effectively,” said Mike Melarkey ’72 (political science), trustee of the Roxie & Azad Joseph Foundation. “The community has lost a thoughtful and kind man. His service to our foundation is irreplaceable, and the impact he made on the community is immeasurable.”

In appreciation of Sims, the Roxie & Azad Joseph Foundation and the E.L. Cord Foundation recently established the Robert L. Sims Scholar Leader Endowment. The four-year scholarship is designed to provide exceptional College of Business students with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through participation in student and professional organizations, as well as internship opportunities. Scholar Leaders will make lifelong connections with peers, faculty and alumni to better prepare them to assume leadership roles in the workforce and the community.

“Bob was respected because of his expertise and intelligent guidance,” said E.L. Cord Foundation Trustee Joe Bradley ’78 (economics). “Equally important, however, was Bob’s ability to foster relationships. A friend of many and a role model for more, it is fitting that his memory is honored by nurturing the next generation of leaders.”

To learn more about supporting the Robert L. Sims Scholar Leader Endowment or the College of Business, contact Mitch Klaich ’02, director of development, m klaich@unr.edu or (775) 682-5957.
University keeps Tree Campus USA designation

The University of Nevada, Reno won the first-place title overall at the 2016 Mid-Pacific Regional Concrete Canoe Competition April 9 for the 11th year in a row. The team's 125-pound, 19-foot-long canoe, Zephyr, named after the cove at Lake Tahoe, was deftly handled by well-trained students, paddling the craft in the 200- and 750-meter endurance courses. It was the 11th year in a row that the civil engineering students earned a national appearance, where they placed third overall in the National Concrete Canoe Competition June 9-11 at the University of Texas at Tyler.

**Grad programs noted among the nation’s best**

In the Advanced Manufacturing Laboratory, Ph.D. student Bo Mao uses lasers to harden the surfaces of metal products to improve their durability and strength. Engineering is one of three University of Nevada, Reno graduate schools listed by U.S. News & World Report in March in the category of “best graduate schools.” Joining engineering in this prestigious ranking are medicine and education.

A particular highlight is the ranking of the University's graduate-level social work programs, which climbed 25 spots. Of the 2016 ranking at No. 123, Goutham Menon, director of the University's School of Social Work, said, “This is a testament to the visibility and the quality of work our students and faculty have put together. We will continue in this path of productivity and innovation.”

In determining its rankings, *U.S. News* analyzed statistics of nearly 1,900 graduate programs. Graduate school and program ranking methodologies vary by discipline, although all include expert opinions on program quality and various statistical indicators.

The University of Nevada, Reno is in the top tier of “best national universities” in *U.S. News’* annual “best colleges” rankings published in the fall. The College of Engineering is ranked among the “best undergraduate engineering programs” and the College of Business is ranked among the “best undergraduate business programs.” Schools in the “best national universities” category offer a full range of undergraduate majors, masters and doctoral degrees and are committed to a productive research program.

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**by JANE TORS ’82**

The University of Nevada, Reno is again well-represented in the annual listing of the nation’s best graduate schools and programs published by *U.S. News and World Report* in March 2016. Overall, the University achieved three graduate school rankings and 21 graduate-level program rankings.

In the category of “best graduate schools,” the University is ranked among the best schools for education, engineering and medicine.

In the U.S. News “best graduate programs” categories this year, the following program rankings are included for the University of Nevada, Reno:

- **In business:** part-time MBA
- **In engineering:** biomedical engineering/bioengineering, chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, computer science, electrical/communications engineering, environmental/environmental health engineering, materials engineering and mechanical engineering
- **In social sciences and humanities:** English, political science and psychology
- **In sciences:** biology, chemistry, earth sciences and physics
- **In health:** clinical psychology, speech pathology and social work
- **In art:** fine art

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**by LINDSAY HONAKER ’16**

The University Arboretum Board’s diligence in improving the environment and quality of life on campus contributes to a healthier, more sustainable world for us all. To obtain the distinction of Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, the University met the five core standards for sustainable campus forestry required by the foundation, including establishment of a tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and the sponsorship of student service-learning projects. Since the establishment of the Arboretum Board in 1970, the University has set out to become a living museum full of trees from all over the world.

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[More on graduate programs > www.unr.edu/grad](http://www.unr.edu/grad)

I graduated from the University at 8 a.m., Saturday, May 14, 2016. The bright green grass of the Quad was covered with hundreds of white chairs where my friends and hordes of family members gathered. After ceremonial speeches were given, I walked across the stage to receive a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and shake hands with President Johnson.

This big moment is the one my peers and I have been working toward, and I am so excited that it is finally here! But that moment on the Quad will not be the best moment of my experiences here at Nevada. Not even close.

To me, the best moments of my college career are the ones leading up to commencement: walking through campus and running into friends, working on a monster project while stress-eating an entire large pizza with a friend and taking spontaneous trips to Tahoe. The hours I spent writing, researching, complaining about an assignment before just tackling it, drinking coffee like it was water to just “get me through this week,” with brief interludes of Netflix-binging and scrolling through Facebook – these are the kinds of moments I will miss the most. It’s these moments that helped get me to the commencement stage.

The University, the Reynolds School of Journalism and my internship at the University’s Office of Marketing and Communications have all provided me opportunities for a wide array of experiences. I’ve conducted interviews for the University’s Office of Marketing and Communications have all provided

In addition to the academics, I’ve also participated in the University’s Wolf Pack Marching Band playing the alto saxophone all four years, which afforded me opportunities to travel across the southwest and go on an unforgettable trip to New Orleans. I’ve met people from California to New York, Pakistan to Nigeria. I’ve also participated in symphonic concerts, shown my own art in an exhibition, networked with local professionals, developed a website and of course I’ve been to almost every free food event on campus that I could possibly attend. This University has opened my eyes to so many different areas of life and a variety of people. I don’t think I could’ve dreamed of a more exciting four years.

In addition to noticing my own growth, I’ve seen the University itself grow immensely. New buildings and renovations across campus have been a bit inconvenient sometimes, but so worth it once they are completed. I’ve seen our athletics program move into a bigger conference, and I’ve really enjoyed watching the higher competition. The businesses cropping up around campus within the past year have been a welcome improvement to the surrounding area, and I hope to see the overwhelming student support for these local businesses continue to grow. If I come back to visit in five years, I would love to see how our campus has expanded and how much the programs have adapted to fit the students’ needs.

With my time at the University of Nevada, Reno coming to an end, I’m officially ready to join the real world. I’ve gained so many skills and have become so passionate about what I hope to start my career in, which is graphic design and strategic communications. While I’m extremely excited to start this next chapter of my life, I’m also sad to close this one. My time at the University has been extremely fulfilling, and I wouldn’t change a single moment of it, not even the ones that were hard on me. I’m also sort of scared to leave; I feel like there is so much more I still have to learn. My head and heart are full from my college experiences and I want to hang on to every single one as I move on to pursuing my passions.

Although I’m moving on, I will never go anywhere without taking the University with me. Whether it’s a memory, a lesson or even a Wolf Pack t-shirt, the University will be with me in some form or another.

This University means so much to me and I hope it continues to provide the types of experiences I’ve had to each and every future generation of students.

**FREE Summer Concerts**

Voted one of Reno Gazette-Journal’s “Best Family Outings” — FREE Watermelon Wednesday concerts on the Quad are fun for all ages. Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner, and join us from 6-8 p.m. on these Wednesdays:

- **July 6**  The Novelists
- **July 13**  Tim Snider and Sound Society
- **July 20**  Westwind
- **July 27**  Guitar Woody & the Boilers featuring Melanie Perl
- **Aug. 3**  JellyBread
- **Aug. 10**  Whitney Myer

**FREE Movie Tuesdays**

Join us on the lawn outside of the Joe Crowley Student Union for movies, free popcorn and drinks! Bring a low-back chair and a blanket. 
**Dates:** July 12, 19, 26; and Aug. 2, 9. For the detailed movie list and more information on summer events, visit [www.unr.edu/365](http://www.unr.edu/365).

Concerts are provided by Summer Session in partnership with the Nevada Alumni Association, and the movies are presented in partnership with the Joe Crowley Student Union.

The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Produced by Extended Studies Marketing Dept., 6/16.
University places first overall at Intercollegiate Mining Competition

The Mackay Muckers, a team of mining engineering students from the College of Science, earned first place in the overall co-educational division of the 38th annual Intercollegiate Mining Competition, April 1-3 in Butte, Mont.

The team of four male and two female students – Nick Winter, Alesio Rios, James Ellis, Chase Kittilsen, Emma Baker, Stephanie Shelley and team advisor Danny Taylor – earned bragging rights after successfully competing in numerous old-time mining events.

Shelley, a University senior and the secretary of the Mackay Muckers, has enjoyed her time competing in past mining competitions. "This experience has been one of the best of my life," Shelley said. "This was my fifth mining games, and every year has been fantastic in its own way. The first-place win was a good way to end my college career."

The Mackay Muckers club was originally a part of the John Mackay Club, the student chapter of the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration. This past year, the Mackay Muckers became an independent club. The mining team was established in the 1980s, in commemoration of the 1973 Sunshine Mine Disaster.

The College of Business represented at the 2016 Nevada Small Business Awards

by ALEXANDRA ROVACCHI, Class of 2017

The Nevada District office of the U.S. Small Business Administration recognized University of Nevada, Reno College of Business faculty member David Croasdell and Randi Hecht ‘10 (management) during its May 4 awards luncheon in Las Vegas.

Croasdell, the Charles and Ruth Hopping Professor of Entrepreneurship in the University’s College of Business, received the Entrepreneurial Spirit Award.

As director of the University’s Sontag Entrepreneurship Competition, Croasdell and his team engage with students to encourage and develop innovative ideas. He is the co-director for the Donald W. Reynolds Nevada Governor’s Cup collegiate business plan competition and Tri-State Award that pit students together in a battle over promising business ideas. Croasdell has mentored numerous students and teams since first becoming involved in entrepreneurship. He has also pursued three of his own startup ventures and is the academic director for the Mandela Washington Fellows Initiative for Young African Leaders.

Randi Hecht, owner of the Reno-based company Intellitext, was honored with the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Intellitext offers speech-to-text services, which stream wirelessly to a PC, Mac, tablet or smartphone in real-time. The company also provides video captioning, live webinar captioning, and accessibility consulting services.

Based on work with the University’s Disability Resource Center, Hecht knew her business idea was severely needed in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community.

Since opening Intellitext in January 2011, Hecht has expanded services across the nation to provide onsite and remote TypeWell transcription services in classrooms, businesses, hospitals and anywhere speech-to-text services are needed.

"Work taking place at the University’s College of Business, both by students and faculty, is greatly contributing to the entrepreneurial landscape in our community," Greg Mosier, College of Business dean, said. "I’m incredibly proud of both Dave and Randi for their many accomplishments and these awards are well deserved."

New University/NASA lab enables research for unmanned aircraft

by MIKE WOLTERBEEK ‘02

Four unmanned autonomous systems, or UAS, flew simultaneously on pre-determined flight paths at the Reno-Stead Airport, using software developed at the University of Nevada, Reno. In collaboration with the NASA Ames Research Center, this milestone event included 24 unmanned aircraft at six sites across the country on April 19.

The event was the first at the Nevada Unmanned, Autonomous and NextGen Collaborative Environment (NUANCE) Lab, the University’s new collaborative lab with NASA, to research various concepts for potential air traffic management platforms for low-altitude airspace. The University completed their three mission flights successfully with all four small, unmanned aircraft and then completed a total of 32 flights, all successful, as NASA added virtual aircraft to the test for added complexity.

"It’s exciting to be at the forefront of technological development," said Richard Kelley, chief engineer for Nevada Advanced Autonomous Systems Innovation Center (NAASIC), the University’s autonomous robotic systems and intelligent machine research and industry collaboration. "We enjoyed working with the NASA team to explore UAS air traffic management concepts through this research platform. The software performed wonderfully, providing much-needed data and pointing toward open questions for the research community to address as we work to safely integrate unmanned aircraft into the National Airspace System."
University of Nevada, Reno Assistant Professor of Anthropology Sarah Cowie was named one of 105 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers recipients by President of the United States Barack Obama Feb. 18.

The Presidential Early Career Award is the highest honor awarded by the United States government to scientists and engineers at the early stages of their careers. It is given to show exceptional potential for leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge during the 21st century.

“These early-career scientists are leading the way in our efforts to confront and understand challenges from climate change to our health and wellness,” President Obama said in the official White House press release.

Cowie, who is with the University’s College of Liberal Arts, received the career award due in part to her recent collaborative archaeology project to preserve the Stewart Indian School in Carson City, conducted in partnership with the Nevada Indian Commission and the Washoe Tribal Historic Preservation Office, with further participation from numerous tribal members who contributed tremendously to the research.

In addition to the Presidential Early Career Award, Cowie also received a research grant from the Department of Defense Army Research Office, giving her the opportunity to continue the second phase of her research.
Each year in January, the University’s maintenance crew and Full Circle Soils & Compost collect branches, trimmings, clippings and other biomass to take to Carson City. There, at the Full Circle composting site, the material is composted and brought back to campus for annual turf reseeding, helping create strong, lush, all-natural turf in time for Spring Commencement on the historic Quad.

A lens for diversity and equity throughout education

The Northern Nevada Diversity Summit took place April 6-7 in the University of Nevada, Reno’s Joe Crowley Student Union and offered nearly 500 attendees more than 70 presentations designed to encourage dialogue and promote thoughtful action.

by NICOLE SHEARER ’03

The Northern Nevada Diversity Summit, which took place April 6-7 in the University of Nevada, Reno’s Joe Crowley Student Union, offered nearly 500 attendees more than 70 presentations designed to encourage dialogue and promote thoughtful action. Attendees included higher education personnel, students, K-12 teachers and staff, as well as community leaders and organizations from across Nevada.

The Summit, “Exploring Diversity and Equity Through Access, Retention & Engagement,” was designed to celebrate the progress and strides made around diversity and equity within the state’s higher education system and to address and discuss current and future needs along with additional areas of improvement.

A resounding theme throughout the conference was the need to identify students’ and faculty’s unique needs and perspectives, which allows for everyone to be successful. To do this, the conference’s keynote speaker, Alexander Gonzalez, suggested faculty learn to better work with students who are nontraditional, be sensitive to cultural and other differences, guard against their own biases, and learn to recognize when diversity should affect curriculum.

“A campus can be diverse ethnically without including a number of people in the life of campus – it’s just a lot of people in the same space,” Gonzalez said. “A sense of belonging to an institution is a key factor, and it is especially important to low-income students.”

by NICOLE SHEARER ’03

The University of Nevada, Reno celebrated five cultural graduate celebrations this commencement season. Organized through The Center for Student Cultural Diversity at the University of Nevada, Reno hosted this spring to honor the cultures students have brought with them and shared during their time at the University.

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These celebrations, now in their sixth year at the University, complement rather than replace the traditional commencement ceremonies.

“The primary role of The Center for Student Cultural Diversity is to assist students in reaching their goal of graduation,” Blane Harding, director of The Center for Student Cultural Diversity, said. “The center staff is privileged to host these celebrations that bring students, family, friends and faculty together to honor their achievements and thank them for the rich contributions they have given to the campus and our community.”

2016 cultural graduate celebrations
Universities News

Scholars Signing Days celebrate eight years

North Valleys High School student Sean Flanary signed his commitment as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist to the University of Nevada, Reno.

by NATALIE SAVIDGE '04

For eight years, the University has partnered with Nevada high schools to produce Nevada Scholars Signing Days ceremonies that are reminiscent of high school athletes’ “signing days” and acknowledge the decision of the best-and-brightest scholars to attend the University of Nevada, Reno.

The University’s student body recently included 300 Presidential Scholars and 50 National Merit Scholars. Scholarships awarded through National Merit programs are regarded as some of the highest academic honors attainable by U.S. high school students. Each year, about 1.5 million students enter the National Merit competition by taking the PSAT. About 15,000 students become finalists (1 percent), and about half become National Merit Scholars. The University received sponsorship status by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation seven years ago.

National Merit Scholars receive up to a $16,000 annual scholarship, automatic entry into the Honors Program, as well as a place in the Residential Scholars Community of the Nevada Living Learning Community building. Presidential Scholars receive $5,000 per year for four years of undergraduate study.

University President Marc Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Carman, deans, department chairs and many more University representatives were on hand at these events to congratulate and welcome the scholars who will enter the University as part of the Wolf Pack family this fall.

Gadgets, contraptions and software

The annual Engineering Innovation Day allows Nevada senior engineering students to showcase their capstone projects for businesses, investors and K-12 students. The event was held May 6 at Lawlor Events Center.

by MATTHEW RAVAGLIOlI

Senior engineering students showcased their capstone projects for businesses, investors and K-12 students in the annual Engineering Innovation Day at Lawlor Events Center May 6.

Drone anti-collision software, automatic solar panel cleaners, portable facial recognition software, a wind-shield warmer, a new rapid filter and disinfectant system for water, and an air scoop for a P-51 Mustang to eke out a few more miles per hour in the air races are just a few of the innovative designs presented.

More than 60 products were designed and built this spring semester by more than 200 engineering students about to enter the job market. The students finish their years of study at the University with a class project where they design solutions for real life challenges, create a product, and many times, prepare it to be brought to market.

“This event is the perfect opportunity for local businesses to meet with students and see the quality of the workforce we are producing here at the University,” said Manos Maragakis, dean of the College of Engineering.

“Innovation Day is our chance to showcase the talent of these students as well as their ability to solve future research and development problems.”

Emily Weissgerber ’16, University’s Spring 2016 Herz Gold Medalist

The University of Nevada, Reno named biology student Emily Weissgerber ’16 (biology) the recipient of the Spring 2016 Herz Gold Medal for earning the highest grade-point average.

Weissgerber knew she wanted to pursue an undergraduate career in science when she spent childhood summers in Cobb, Calif., hiking and learning about native California wildlife. She loved listening to birds and watching lizards and skinks on the creek banks.

“My time spent around nature left me with a strong desire to understand my surroundings and the mechanisms through which the world functions,” Weissgerber said. “My childhood experiences left a unique impression on my goals and desires; I am passionate about following new adventures and sharing my knowledge of the world with others.”

Weissgerber will continue her education at Pacific University School of Pharmacy in Portland, Ore., to explore a career in healthcare.

The Herz Gold Medal is the University’s oldest and most prestigious award, established in 1910 when the University was only 36 years old by brothers Richard, Carl and Otto Herz.

Funding for the award is provided by the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and the Thelma B. and Carl and Otto Herz.

The award is given to a student in the College of Science and serves to recognize academic excellence in science. The recipient is chosen by the College of Science’s Academic Awards Committee and is presented with a $500 scholarship in honor of the Herz family.

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As the Nevada men’s basketball team drove toward the first ever postseason championship in school history this spring, Head Coach Eric Musselman noticed a different aura in Lawlor Events Center—the crowd attending each of the five Collegiate Basketball Invitational tournament home games was larger than the one before. Each game saw a new intensity—not just from the players and coaches, but in the atmosphere and support of the Wolf Pack faithful.

“Something is building,” Musselman said to himself time and again during the run. Each night, Lawlor held more—more fans, more energy, more excitement, more potential.

After the tournament reached its crescendo with the Wolf Pack’s 85-82 overtime victory in the final game against Morehead State, Musselman again noted the difference.

“The enthusiasm of the crowd—the student section rocking—we weren’t sure what would happen with the attendance after a long season, but it just kept growing and growing.”

In the end, more than 9,000 fans were on hand at Lawlor when the Wolf Pack claimed the CBI title, which also marked the first post-season basketball tournament championship in Mountain West Conference history.

In a career that’s spanned 27 seasons, Musselman has been the head coach for 1,789 games. That championship game, however, is the one that rises to the top.

“This game is going to be one of the most memorable because of how hard these guys fought. They just didn’t quit,” Musselman said.

Musselman was named the league’s coach of the year by Bleacher Report, a national publication. Three players earned postseason all-conference honors—seniors Marqueze Coleman and Tyron Criswell ’16 (general studies) and freshman Cameron Oliver.

“We worked way too hard to quit and not win a championship,” said Oliver, who broke a number of school and conference records for a freshman.

For the seniors, the championship represented the culmination of years of hard work.

“It’s been a long journey, but it’s been a good one,” Coleman said. “I’m so glad I decided to come to the University of Nevada. Winning a championship going out will be a lifelong memory for me.”

For Wolf Pack fans and alumni, the championship season marked the re-establishment of a program that’s seen success. Nevada returns four starters from this championship team, including Oliver, who declared early for the NBA Draft to test the water but has chosen to return to school. Joining the team in the fall will be a heralded recruiting class.

For the younger players, the experience gained by playing and winning the CBI could prove to be invaluable down the road.

“All of those guys got better because of those games,” Musselman said. “And I know I’ll be a better coach because of those games.”

**CBI Championship lays foundation for Pack basketball**

by CHAD HARTLEY ’03

The Nevada men’s basketball team holds the Collegiate Basketball Invitational championship trophy as the Wolf Pack celebrates its first-ever postseason title.
Sophomore diver Sharae Zheng made history in March, winning a pair of NCAA Championships to become the first national champion in Nevada’s diving history. Zheng took home the 1-meter springboard championship on March 17 and the 3-meter springboard the following night. The Wolf Pack had a handful of student-athletes compete at the NCAA meet, including senior diver Krysta Palmer. The Carson City native capped her stellar career by placing 10th on the platform, earning honorable mention All-American honors for the second straight season.

**Wolf Pack wins in the classroom**

_by CHAD HARTLEY ’03_

All 15 University of Nevada, Reno sports clearly exceeded the benchmark set by the NCAA in the annual Academic Progress Report (APR), demonstrating strong progress and achievement by Wolf Pack student-athletes across the board.

The report, issued by the NCAA in April, measures eligibility and retention of student-athletes in the four years from 2011/12 to 2014/15.

In the single-year data, Nevada averaged a 978 for its 15 sports, with four sports scoring a perfect 1,000: men’s golf, women’s golf, volleyball and rifle.

In the multiyear rate, Nevada saw more than half of its sports – eight of 15 – maintain or raise their score: baseball, football, men’s tennis, women’s basketball, women’s cross country, women’s soccer, volleyball and rifle.

The Wolf Pack’s volleyball team earned a public recognition award for the second straight year for ranking in the top 10 percent in the nation for its sport. That is the ninth time in the last seven years that a Wolf Pack sport has earned public recognition. Nevada has met or exceeded the standards set by the NCAA and has been penalty-free in the history of the APR program.

The APR is a real-time “snapshot” of a team’s academic success and is used by the NCAA and universities to measure current academic success by looking at the academic progress of each current student-athlete. It includes eligibility, retention and graduation as factors in the rate calculation. Each student-athlete can add two points to the team’s overall score per semester, including one for academic eligibility and one for returning to school the next semester or graduating.

**Meet University of Nevada’s most outstanding senior athletes**

_by CHAD HARTLEY ’03 • photos by JOHN BYRNE_

**Krysta Palmer**

One of the top divers in Wolf Pack and Mountain West Conference history, Krysta Palmer won the 2015–16 Ruth I. Russell Award. She is a two-time Mountain West Diver of the Year who earned NCAA All-American honorable mentions as a junior and senior. She holds three all-time program records, and three Mountain West records, and won 18 regular-season diving events, four Mountain West event titles, two NCAA Zone Regional titles and tallied three top 10 NCAA finishes. She has been named to the USA Diving team and will be competing in the USA Diving Olympic Trials this summer in hopes of advancing to the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

**Tyron Criswell ’16**

Winner of the 2015–16 Doc Martie Award, led the re-emergence of the men’s basketball program, earning Most Valuable Player honors as the Wolf Pack became the first Nevada and Mountain West team to win a postseason championship by capturing the College Basketball Invitational title. He earned the team’s Rock Award and was named the Mountain West Sixth Man of the Year by the conference’s media.

“We are excited to celebrate the achievements of Krysta and Tyron, in competition and in the classroom and community. We’re proud of their accomplishments and their legacy with the Wolf Pack.”

- Athletics Director DOUG KNUTH