Student success: a way of life for our campus

Last fall, I saw an example. Success was apparent in the poised, confident faces of Camille (“Cami”) Bourquin, Brittany McGarr and Zeph Lane as they presented their undergraduate research at a Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents meeting in September here on campus.

During their senior capstone course in computer science and engineering, Cami, Brittany and Zeph developed software used in a highly sophisticated national campaign sponsored by NASA to test an air traffic control system for drones. Their work not only helped further the effort to cultivate the emerging unmanned autonomous systems and advanced manufacturing industries for the state of Nevada, it also vividly illustrated how our students are translating their successes on campus in the realms of business and industry, of tech and innovation.

It’s not only in science, technology, engineering and mathematics that we see our students succeed. We also see it in the interlocking elements of performance, played out by the members of our marching band before an audience of thousands on a fall afternoon at Mackay Stadium.

Andrew Mendizabal of Las Vegas is an example of how devotion to his musical craft is leading to an important career. He is a drum major and plays in the wind ensemble. He also is a student employee in the music department and teaches lessons in local schools. He’s a music education major with a 3.9 GPA. When he graduates, Andrew hopes to become a music teacher.

When one considers, that according to a recent report by Applied Analysis of Las Vegas, approximately 75 percent of our 4,200 yearly graduates are choosing to remain in Nevada, it is clear that our student success focus is building a new generation of leaders for our state in many of our most needed areas. We are seeing upwards of 90 percent of our bachelor’s degree recipients gain employment within 12 months of graduation in certain fields (such as nursing and speech pathology and audiology), and we are also noting rising professional licensure pass rates (such as 90 percent for education graduates over all areas).

Success permeates the student experience at our University. It gives us all reason to feel proud of our students’ accomplishments.

Marc A. Johnson
President

On the cover: On Aug. 28, hundreds of students hiked Peavine Peak for the annual painting of the Nevada “N,” a tradition since 1915. Painting the “N” is one of dozens of Welcome Week events that kick off the fall semester. TIM DUNN
Running of the Wolves: Freshmen rush the field during the annual Running of the Wolves before the Nevada vs. Cal Poly football game at Mackay Stadium Sept. 2. For more on the traditions, events and services that welcome new students to the University, see our feature story on pages 2 – 11.  ● THERESA DANNA DOUGLAS

UNIVERSITY NEWS

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FAMILY TREE CHALLENGE

Harris Family Tree

FOSTERING NEVADA’S FUTURE

Peter Vardy ’55 leaves lasting legacy in the Mackay School