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Photo by Jean Dixon
From the President

Dear Nevada Alumni,

Springtime on campus for the Nevada Alumni Association celebrated alumni of all ages. Newly graduated students were welcomed into our family of more than 70,000 at activities such as Graduation Celebration, Senior Scholar and Commencement. Past graduates were honored at the Class of 1959’s 50-year Golden Reunion.

Currently the Nevada Alumni Association is in the midst of our most popular summer events: Pack Picnics (co-sponsored by Summer Sessions). Each Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. through Aug. 7, alumni and friends can come out to the University’s historic Quad and enjoy free music, cookies, popcorn, face painting, bounce houses and much more.

Although we are enjoying the beautiful summer on campus, the association is busy working on fall activities for you to enjoy. In September, we will be holding the second annual Alumni Bowling Night at Wild Island Family Adventure Park’s Coconut Bowl. Last year’s event was such a success we couldn’t wait to do it again.

Football season will also kick off in September. The first home game is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 25 against Missouri. You can be sure the association will once again be out in full force as a sponsor in Wolf Pack Alley with our pregame party under the big blue pavilion. Bring family and friends to these fun events starting two hours prior to kickoff. Of course dues-paying Nevada Alumni Association members always receive a discount.

Homecoming 2009 begins Oct. 16. Last year, our organization co-sponsored the bonfire with the Associated Students of the University of Nevada. Many alumni and their families joined the students for this traditional Homecoming activity that included food, live music and a performance by Controlled Burn, who also lit the actual fire. We look forward to seeing all of you out there again this year.

Other traditional events such as the Homecoming Gala and Awards Dinner, the Scholarship Reception, Old Guys Night at the Little Wal’, various chapter events and the football pregame party are also on the schedule of events.

As always, the Nevada Alumni Association would like to thank our current dues-paying members for their support! If you have not yet joined or have let your membership lapse, please take a moment to sign up or renew today by visiting www.unr.edu/alumni or calling 888.NV ALUMS.

Thank you for supporting the Nevada Alumni Association!

Sincerely,

Michael F. Dillon, Jr. ’94
President, Nevada Alumni Council

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Nevada Alumni Council
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Class Chat submissions are due Aug. 1, 2009.

‘60s

Gretchen (Geyer) Legarza ’67 (biology) is currently a laboratory consultant and is a contract employee with Washoe County District Health Department. Gretchen helps clinic nurses with good lab practice and maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations.

Jean (Guisti) Carbon ’68 (home economics) retired recently from a 16-and-a-half-year career as a development director with the University of Nevada, Reno. The Division of Development and Alumni Relations held a retirement party for her April 21 attended by many of her friends, colleagues and family members. Jean began in the College of Education and later worked for the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. Jean is married to David Carbon ’72 (accounting). They have one child, Traci Mendoza, ’93 (resource management), ’97 Ed. (elementary education), and one grandchild, Kiel Mendoza.

J. Dan Stallings ’71 (plant science) retired from Betaseed, Inc. after 40 years in the sugar beet industry. Previously he worked for Amalgamated Sugar Co. from 1969-1981 as a research agronomist. In 1981 he joined Betaseed, Inc., working on disease testing and variety improvement. He is married to Susan (Bryan) Stallings, they have six children and 17 grandchildren.

‘70s

Jon B. Wellinghoff ’71 (mathematics) was appointed by President Barack Obama as acting chairman of the Federal Energy Regul-
Wayne A. Frediani ’72 (management) was named to the National Automobile Dealers Association Public Affairs Committee in McLean, Va. Wayne is the executive director and lobbyist of the Nevada Franchised Auto Dealers Association and is responsible for regulatory and legislative affairs.

Robert Johnson ’73 (agriculture), ’77 M.S. (agricultural economics) has announced his retirement from the Bureau of Reclamation as commissioner. Robert played a major role in securing California’s Quantification Settlement Agreement, which addressed California’s over-reliance on Colorado River water. He also helped develop and implement the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, a coordinated, comprehensive, long-term multi-agency effort to conserve and work toward the recovery of endangered species, and protect and maintain wildlife habitat on the lower Colorado River.

William Baker ’74 (mechanical engineering) is pleased to announce his son, young Bill (pictured above), who has been president of TKE fraternity this year, graduated in May with a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Susan Desmond-Hellmann ’78 (premedical), ’82 M.D. a physician, pioneering cancer researcher and biotechnology industry executive, who most recently served as president of product development for Genentech, was named chancellor of the University of California, San Francisco campus by the University of California Board of Regents on May 7. The appointment takes effect Aug. 3. Susan did her internal medicine and oncology training at UCSF, following her Nevada education.

Edward Eissmann ’79 (premedical), ’81 M.S. (biology), ’85 M.D. stepped down as chief of surgery at Providence Everett Medical Center in Everett, Wash. in 2006. Edward is now in private practice with Cascade Valley Hospital in Arlington, Wash.

’80s

Dean Weitzel ’81 (civil engineering) has joined MACTEC Engineering & Consulting, Inc. in Reno as a senior engineer. He previously worked for the Nevada Department of Transportation for 30 years in various divisions, including materials, bridge, roadway design and construction.

Chris McCurry ’94 Ph.D. (psychology) has published Parenting your Anxious Child with Mindfulness and Acceptance through New Harbinger Publications. He is in private practice in Seattle, where he lives with his wife, Sue, and their son, Ian.

Mark W. Yenter ’81 (civil engineering) was recently promoted to the rank of general in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is the 28th commander and division engineer for the Pacific Ocean Division and is responsible for a mission that includes engineering design, construction and real estate management for the Army and Air Force in Hawaii and Alaska and for all Department of Defense agencies in Japan, the Republic of Korea and Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Geoffrey F. Chiara, O.D. ’82 (health science) has recently been elected president of the Nevada State Board of Optometry. Geoffrey was appointed to the board in 2006 by then Governor Kenny Guinn for a three-year term. Geoffrey is currently chief, optometry service at the VA Southern Nevada Healthcare System in Las Vegas.

Warren C. Kocmond Jr. ’82 (mechanical engineering) has accepted the position of chief executive officer at Electroglas, Inc., a leading supplier of wafer probers and probing test handling solutions for the semiconductor industry. Warren has served as the chief operating officer of the company since May 2008.

Kirk Schueler ’82 (renewable natural resources) has been appointed by Oregon State Governor Kulongoski to the State Board of Higher Education. Kirk is a real estate developer in Oregon.

Kim Stoll ’82 (journalism) recently joined Northern Nevada Medical Center as director of business development and marketing and is responsible for marketing the hospital and its wide variety of specialty services.

Cynthia (Reeves) Tuttle ’83 (biology) was appointed by the National Business Group on Health as vice president of its Center for Prevention and Health Services. The National Business Group on Health is a nonprofit association representing more than 300 large U.S. employers. Cynthia will lead a team of professionals and provide leadership in identifying, developing and
deploying solutions for employer member health and healthcare benefit issues and work closely with NBGH executives to obtain funding, and develop and deliver programs to NBGH members.

Monte Morrison ’86 (chemical engineering) has recently joined Magma Energy Corp. as vice president of operations after 11 years with Constellation Energy. Monte has managed multiple geothermal power plants in Nevada, California and Hawaii for more than 20 years. Monte will manage Magma’s power plants, both domestic and international, as well as assist with acquisition efforts. Monte resides in Fallon with his wife of 25 years, Amy (Genkinger) Morrison, and their two sons, Brett and Josh.

Mark Lipparelli ’87 (finance), ’93M.S. (economics) was named by Governor Jim Gibbons to the Nevada Gaming Control Board. Mark has held several positions in Nevada’s resort industry, including executive vice president for Bally Technologies, president of Shuffle Master and vice president-finance for Casino Data Systems.

Jessica Burkhamer ’88 (social work) speaks nationally on psychiatric issues and specializes in neurobehavioral psychiatry for children and adolescents. She recently moved to Minnesota and is looking forward to the release of a book soon.

Jacqueline (Voorhees) Rickard ’88 (art) has retired from teaching and now works full-time as an artist and basket maker.

Bob Davies ’89 (management), has been named the new president of Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. He was formerly the vice president for university relations at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he was in charge of fundraising, legislative affairs, marketing, a $50 million endowment and a $280 million student housing project.

Stephen Gould ’89 (international affairs), ’93MBA has been named one of the top veteran entrepreneurs for 2008 by the National Veteran Owned Businesses Association. Global is headquartered in Beachwood, Ohio, and provides project management, technical and professional services on a global basis. Stephen is also the proprietor of Maison De la Vie, Ltd., a small artisan distillery dedicated to producing handcrafted distilled beverages using traditional artisanal production methods from the 1800s.

Justin Tam ’97 (psychology) and Maria Hsing were married on Aug. 8, 2008 in Las Vegas. The couple lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and are both currently teachers.

It was a celebration 50 years in the making. Thank you Class of 1959, alumni and guests for a memorable Golden Reunion.
Stella (Horton) Hayes ’89 (biological). ’93M.D. has been a U.S. Navy doctor since graduating from the School of Medicine 16 years ago. Stella is happily married with three children ages 9, 11, 13.

’90s

Brenda Lee ’90 (civil engineering), an engineer for the Regional Transportation Commission, won a project of the year award from the Nevada Chapter of the American Public Works Association. Brenda was recognized for her work on the U.S. 395 improvements at Cleargate Lane that included the McCarran Bridge.

John Griffin ’95 (political science) has been elected to the Kummer Kaempfer Bonner Renshaw & Ferrario Law Firm board of directors. John has been an associate with the firm since June 2006. A native Nevadan, he practices in the areas of governmental relations and lobbying, administrative and regulatory matters, strategic planning, gaming and land use planning.

Pamela Jo Kershaw ’95 (elementary education) just completed her doctoral degree in organizational leadership from the University of La Verne. Her dissertation examined a specific bilingual education program used in 151 districts in California. She earned her master’s from Azusa Pacific in 1999 in educational administration. Pamela currently teaches in a master’s program in reading and literacy for Walden University and a 6th grade English language development class for Palm Springs Unified School District. Pamela serves on the Human Rights Commission for her area and enjoys desert living with her “better half.”

Rick Swecker ’98 (Spanish/health science) has been promoted to partner in the practice at Family First Chiropractic in Sparks. Rick will oversee patient management including physical, orthopedic, and neurological exams as well as manage staff and clinic procedures. He will continue to provide chiropractic health care to patients during daily visits, as well as education regarding health and wellness issues such as lifestyle choices, exercise and nutrition.

Tasha (Palmer) Lopez ’99 (chemical engineering) has been selected to participate in IBM’s Corporate Service Corps (a corporate version of the Peace Corps), so she’ll be in Africa through March. Most of her time will be spent working with an umbrella organization that advocates for a better business climate in the industrial sector in Ghana. You can visit her blog at tashaefualopez.blogspot.com if you’d like to read more about her adventures.

Eric Fox ’96 (psychology), ‘00M.A. (psychology) married the love of his life, Stephanie Greenwald, on Aug. 30, 2008. They recently moved to San Francisco so that he could begin a new position as dean of instruction at Saybrook Graduate School and Research Center. Both Eric and Stephanie really like burritos.

Pam (Parkyn) Salassi ’96 (health education) was invited to design a gift package for the 81st Annual Academy Awards gift bags featuring her product See Thru Soap. Each year dozens of companies vie for a chance to be included in the celebrity gift bags for this event.

Tony Cardinali’97 (accounting/computer information systems) has joined Business Team/BTI Group Mergers & Acquisitions in Reno as a broker. Tony previously worked as a senior accountant for a certified public accounting firm in San Francisco and operated his own CPA firm.

Julie Schell ’97 (health science), ’00M.S. (counseling and educational psychology) graduated with a doctorate in higher and post-secondary education from Teachers College, Columbia University in May 2009. Following graduation, Julie is pursuing a postdoctoral fellowship researching pedagogical innovation in science and math education as a member of the Department of Physics at Harvard University. Julie resides in New York City with her wife and their African Basenji, Rusty.

Michael Dewitt ’98 (English) was awarded the Local Hero Award by the Washington State Bar Association. The Local Hero Award is presented to lawyers who have made noteworthy contributions to their communities. Michael is currently an associate attorney at Morgan & Bartholomew, practicing primarily in family law, with some guardianship, probate and estate planning.

Regent Gallagher awarded prestigious national medal

Dorothy Gallagher’s ’47 (premedical) career as a member of the Nevada System of Higher Education’s Board of Regents has been characterized by dedication and involvement in furthering the higher education ideals of the state. In February, she was awarded the prestigious Gold Medal award from the Mining and Metallurgical Society of America. James Taranik, director of the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, and longtime friend of Gallagher’s, said Gallagher’s contribution to his school cannot be overestimated.

“Dorothy saved Mackay from extinction and enabled Nevada’s mining school to become stronger,” he said. “She arranged for the Desert Research Institute to develop the Great Basin Environmental Research Laboratory, she was instrumental in fostering the development of Great Basin College in Elko, and she was a stabilizing force on the Board of Regents for 26 years.”
Crystal Zuelke '99 (journalism) is now producing a monthly television program for the Las Vegas Valley Water District. The program, “Water Ways,” informs the southern Nevada community about water conservation and resources.

'00s

Viktoriya Golovkina '00M.S. (physics), recently returned to Reno to install a new X-ray tomography and cancer therapy unit at Renown Cancer Institute for her employer, TomoTherapy of Madison, Wisc., and to train the Renown staff to operate it.

Gayle Magee ’01 (elementary education) was presented with a $25,000 Milken Educator Award on April 18 in front of an overflowing ballroom of dignitaries and top educators. Gayle was presented the award during a spectacular gala hailed as the “Oscars of Teaching” by Teacher Magazine. The Milken Educator Awards represent the largest teacher recognition program in the U.S., having bestowed more than 2,300 exceptional educators with $60 million in unrestricted cash awards. Gayle is one of 70 outstanding K-12 teachers nationwide presented with this award.

Logan McLean ’01 (biology) is currently a radiology resident and has been accepted for a Neuroradiology Fellowship at the University of Utah Hospital.

Wing Sze Wong '04MBA has been hired as a senior accountant by the certified public accounting firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. in Reno.

Jamie Brant '08 (journalism) has been hired as an account coordinator for MassMedia, a regional public relations, advertising and marketing communications firm. As account coordinator, she will be responsible for creating press materials and will assist with media relations and advertising campaign development, media buying, event planning and social media plans for local and national accounts.

Christopher E. Harvey '08 (anthropology) has been accepted at the University of Nevada, Reno, to pursue his master’s in anthropology, with specialization in cultural anthropology.

Cory Hunt '08 (political science/geography) was featured in the February issue of SPIN magazine with his world champion barber-shop quartet, OC Times. The six-page article, “Imperfect Harmony,” details the quartet’s rise to fame, the controversy behind their revolutionary style, and their broad appeal to young and old alike.
Fraternity life at Nevada was not all booze and babes. It had to do with philanthropy, history, leadership... and well, let’s be honest, perhaps some of the previously mentioned. I can say with confidence that, while in college, I rarely went near alcohol and never drugs... as for the babes, well they weren’t so lucky. Recently, I found myself sharing fond college memories with a friend who did not take part in the Greek system at his university. When I asked him why he never joined, I heard the all too familiar three basic objections:

**Objection No. 1: “I don’t need to buy my friends, man.”**
Coincidentally, the guy that said this to me had just subscribed to eHarmony and Match.com. Talk about buying friends! The Greeks I knew didn’t have trouble making friends; rather, they had them their whole life. We most definitely had some diverse personalities in our group. Some members were already very outgoing and used the fraternity as a vehicle to make even more connections. Others were more naturally shy and learned to come out of their shells. It was a melting pot of backgrounds and we all learned a lot from each other. In today’s world, social networking websites are taking off. Just think of the Greek system as one of the last real life versions of Facebook.

**Objection No. 2: “The fraternity houses are messy and disgusting, dude.”**
I can’t really argue that one. Living in the house is not mandatory. However, the advantages include residing very close to campus and living in a unique environment with your peers and striving for a healthy balance of school and fun. Also, rent at the fraternity house is cheap. Now, sorority houses are typically clean, but I have seen a few that could double as a pigpen. Admittedly, our house could have quite easily been quarantined by the Department of Health had they come a knockin’. On the plus side, I think a lot of us developed a more robust immune and digestive system living in the Petri dish that is a fraternity house.

**Objection No. 3: “I would never go through that stupid ‘pledging,’ bro.”**
This one doesn’t make sense to me. Certainly we find ourselves “pledging” out in the real world constantly throughout our lives. I don’t care if you’re an attorney, a manager, or a fast-food employee. If you want to advance at anything, most of us start near the bottom and work our way to the top. Might as well get used to it while in school. It always shocked me to hear people say, “How could you pledge for a whole semester?” Sure, I washed cars in the winter, went on multiple grocery runs, even delivered flowers to girl-friends on Valentine’s Day (talk about lazy actives!). I didn’t always enjoy it, but for one semester’s work, I then had the same assistance myself each year for the remainder of my college days. For some of the lazier members in my fraternity that was seven to eight years of personal assistance! I think putting your ego aside for a little while is a humbling and good exercise for anybody.

I still have quite a few friends from college that I owe to the Greek system. I’ve traveled with them, crashed on their couches while on the road, and had a lot of laughs the whole way. Maybe my friend was right. Perhaps being Greek really is like buying some lifelong friends after all. Judging by today’s economy, I think it was a pretty good investment.

K-von ’03 (marketing) is a lifelong Sigma Alpha Epsilon brother and comedian. He’s currently touring with Darren Carter and Jamie Kennedy. Look for him coming to a town near you. Check out his schedule at www.K-vonComedy.com

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Join the Nevada Alumni Association. Take advantage of special services, programs, benefits and more.

As a Nevada Alumni Association dues-paying member, you’ll receive discounts to more than 250,000 vendors around town and nationwide, including the ASUN Bookstore. Plus, you’ll love our reduced pregame party admission, invitations to members-only events and networking opportunities. But perhaps the most important reason to join the Nevada Alumni Association is to stay connected to your past, while making a difference in Nevada’s future.

To join, just call 775.784.6620, 888.NV ALUMS or visit www.unr.edu/alumni
Randy Gener ’92 wins prestigious Nathan Award

The heads of the English departments of Cornell, Princeton, and Yale Universities have chosen Randy Gener ’92 (general studies), senior editor of American Theatre Magazine, to receive the annual George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism. The honor is reserved for “the American who has written the best piece of drama criticism during the theatrical year (July 1 to June 30), whether it is an article, an essay, treatise or book.”

The Awards Committee citation for Gener reads, “He has used that venue [American Theatre] and others to draw our attention to largely ignored voices and visions on the international theatrical scene, to the work of Filipino-American playwright Jessica Hagedorn, to a small but lively Tennessee Williams Festival in Provincetown, and to the future of theatrical criticism itself in essays that wed critical intelligence with a beat reporter’s love of the telling and unruly fact.”

The citation continues, “In one piece, Gener argues that, at its best, criticism is ‘a cultural asset, one of the bases on which democracy and community are built.’ He fulfills that lofty goal by implicitly reminding us of how much that is excellent in theater here and abroad is ignored by a critical fraternity which, during this age of globalization, seems more parochial than ever.”

Gener, whose career in criticism dates as far back as his days as a movie critic for the Sagebrush, cites journalism professor Jake Highton as his greatest influence: “Jake pushed me to think bigger—to test my mettle in a bigger pond.”

Highton met Gener, who was not a journalism major, after reading Gener’s movie columns. “He wondered why I did not sign up to major in print journalism.”

Encouraged to enroll in print journalism classes, Gener took every course Highton offered “despite his reputation as a tough, pugnacious and fiery taskmaster,” he says. The mentor/student relationship proved formative. “His media-law and ethics classes fired my passion for First Amendment absolutism, progressive politics and the Supreme Court.”

Highton’s classes about the history of newspapers in New York spurred Gener to hop on a Greyhound bus for his first cross-country trip. That trip to New York led to Gener pulling up stakes and moving to the Big Apple for good.

Winning the top honor in dramatic criticism “feels strange and hallucinatory,” he says. On the one hand he is “ecstatic” to be in the company of the top writers in his field and to be featured in such prestigious publications as The New York Times, The New Yorker and Newsweek. On the other hand, the award “has come my way at a scary and toxic time: when print journalism itself is on life-support—and when the forecast for the kind of criticism I practice, in this age of bloggers, is extreme inclemency.”

But, he is “invigorated” by the fact that there are educated readers who believe, as he does, that dramatic criticism is a valuable art that benefits society.

“My critical essays represent a passionate effort to move the theatre back to the center of the broader U.S. conversations about politics, society, culture, identity and globalization,” he notes. “I think of what I write as signals to a market-driven democracy that has allowed art, criticism and intellectual dissent to languish and deteriorate.”

Jim O’Quinn, editor in chief of American Theatre Magazine, remarks, “Randy Gener has been a tremendous asset to American Theatre ever since he was selected as a Jerome Foundation Affiliated Writer back in 1995–96, and especially since he joined the staff full-time in 2002. His command of any number of theatrical subjects—from international exchange to the vagaries of arts journalism and criticism—is unequalled among his contemporaries.”

Winning the Nathan Award is the most recent accolade in Gener’s distinguished career. In addition to being the senior editor of American Theatre, he is a writer, critic, editor, playwright and visual artist. He is the author of Love Seats for Virginia Woolf and What Remains of a Rembrandt Torn into Four Pieces, among other plays, as well as scholarly essays, articles and reviews in The Village Voice, The New York Times, New York Magazine, The Star Ledger, Time Out New York, and other publications.

The Nathan Award is considered the highest accolade in the U.S. for dramatic criticism. When George Jean Nathan provided for it in his will, he explained that it was his “object and desire to encourage and assist in developing the art of drama criticism and the stimulation of intelligent playgoing.”

The annual award now amounts to $10,000, making it the richest as well as one of the most distinguished in the American theater.

—Melanie Robbins ‘06M.A.

and staff reports
Alum Eppie Johnson ’51 continues successful restaurateur career in Loomis

If you’ve driven between Reno and the Bay Area on Interstate 80 you may not have noticed a town called Loomis. This rural community approximately 110 miles west of Reno is home to a new restaurant, the Horseshoe Bar Grill. The establishment boasts a menu that represents “seasonal selections from America’s great wealth of culinary diversity.” The Horseshoe Bar Grill also features farm-fresh, sustainable and organic foods and wines whenever possible, as well as meats from animals that have never been exposed to hormones or antibiotics.

Owner Eppie Johnson ’51 (business administration) knows a little something about the restaurant business: It runs in his bloodline. When Johnson was 17, he moved from his childhood home in New York to attend Nevada and be near his father, who was already living in Reno and the owner of The Little Giant restaurant in downtown Reno. Customers could get coffee for a nickel and a hamburger for a dime.

After graduating from Nevada, Johnson followed his father once again to Sacramento to work in his restaurant. When he reported to work for the first time he was handed a bow tie and jacket for what he thought was his assistant manager position. Little did he know he would next be handed a large tray and be told his new position was bus boy.

After eventually being fired by his dad just when Johnson and his wife were about to have a new baby, he realized he needed to find a job quickly. He stuck with what he knew: food. Johnson started “Eppie the Caterer” as his first solo business venture. Later he had the idea to sell stock in a new restaurant he called Eppie’s. This was a successful venture and on June 15, 1954 Johnson opened the first of 27 Eppie’s restaurants in California. In 1965 the chain won Best Coffee Shop Design in the country.

Today you can find Johnson participating with the University’s Sacramento Alumni Chapter, which he founded. The group also has a scholarship in his name that the chapter makes a priority for fundraising activities.

—Amy Carothers ’01M.A.

Editor’s note: Visit Eppie’s Horseshoe Bar Grill at 3645 Taylor Road, Loomis, Calif. 95650; call: (916) 652-4100; or check out www.horseshoebargrill.us
Fallon Alumni Chapter
Tina Dakin ’71, ’84, jtdakin@sbcglobal.net

As always the Fallon Alumni Chapter is traveling for fun while raising money for scholarships. In April, alumni and friends enjoyed the last Nevada home softball game of the season with a rooter bus trip.

After many years of secret restaurants, this year’s Mystery Bus Trip was a big surprise. The location was unveiled as we arrived at the brand new Reno Aces Stadium for baseball and ballpark food. Special thanks to Dee McGinness’ son, Brett ’00 (journalism), who helped arrange such an exciting day, and to the entire planning committee!

The Western BBQ is our major scholarship fundraiser for the year. Please join the group at the beautiful Norm Frey Ranch on the Carson River in Fallon—Sunday, Aug. 9 at 4 p.m. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this social event.

All Fallon Alumni Chapter activities help raise funds for scholarships.

For information regarding upcoming events, visit www.unr.edu/alumni and click “Connect” to find the Fallon Chapter.

Native American Alumni Chapter
Sherry Rupert ’05, srupert@nic.nv.gov

Bagna Cauda is sure to become an annual event for the Native American Alumni Chapter! On Feb. 21, 16 alumni and friends enjoyed the Italian favorite at Coney Island Bar. This was a new dish for many attendees and was said to be one of our best events.

On May 6, the chapter hosted its annual American Indian Graduation Reception at the Joe Crowley Student Union. This year the chapter congratulated 34 graduates.

Sherry Rupert, chapter president and executive director of the Nevada Indian Commission, was recently honored with the Reno-Tahoe Territory Tourism Award for her accomplishments on the Stewart Indian School Trails. Visitors and tourists are now able to use their cell phones to tour the school and listen to memories of Stewart alumni, teachers and others.

The chapter meets monthly at various locations. If you are interested in joining, please contact Kari Emm at (775) 784-4936 or kemm@unr.edu, or Sherry Rupert at (775) 687-8333 or srupert@nic.nv.gov.

Nevada Football Alumni Chapter
Jim Farley ’99, jfarley47@verizon.net

The Nevada Football Alumni Board is proud to announce the approval of funds to support Nevada’s summer school program. To help pay for current players summer school, the Football Alumni Chapter is selling personalized plaques that will be mounted on individual lockers. All funds raised help support our players and coaches. Please contact Jim Farley at jfarley47@verizon.net if you are interested in this great opportunity.

Northeastern Nevada Alumni Chapter
Danny Gonzales ’90, ’95, ’04, dannyg@gwmail.gbcnv.edu

With the recent approval of the chapter’s constitution and bylaws, the board of directors is in the process of getting organized and will be spearheading a membership drive during the summer and early fall to inform the local community about the chapter. The effort will include hosting events during televised football games, public service announcements and direct email communications with alumni in the area.

Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association
Linda Clift ’74, orvis_alumni@hotmail.com

OSNAA celebrated spring with a wine and cheese reception April 16 at the home of Bob and Linda Clift. It was a fun social event and an excellent opportunity to brainstorm about future events and ways to generate more participation among our alumni. We are looking forward to working more closely with the Orvis Student Nurse Association (our future members!) and were pleased to have the president and vice president of OSNA attend the meeting. They had some great suggestions for ways that OSNAA and OSNA can partner to provide more benefits for their members. One of these suggestions was a mentoring program, which we will implement in the near future. We are planning a social event later in the year, perhaps piggy-backing on a major University event such as Homecoming or Commencement. Watch for information about this in the next few months. OSNAA is excited and pleased to be awarding its first nursing scholarship in the fall of 2009. We will be focusing our efforts this year on maintaining our scholarship fund so that we can continue to award scholarships yearly. If you are an Orvis alumnus, please consider membership in OSNAA. Your dues help support the scholarship fund, and you will have fun reconnecting and networking with other alumni!

UNSoM Alumni Chapter
Dr. Peter Verhey ’97, ’02M.D., ptverhey@yahoo.com

The UNSOM Alumni Chapter has been busy reaching alumni across the country.

We are planning a reception prior to the Foundation Banquet at John Ascuaga’s Nugget on Thursday, Sept. 24, where we...
The Nevada Alumni Association is now accepting Alumni Council member nominations.

DEADLINE: AUGUST 1, 2009 – The Nevada Alumni Council meets three times a year and is the governing body of the Nevada Alumni Association. Contact 888.NV ALUMS, 775.784.6620 or nvalumni@unr.edu for more information.

Name __________________________ Class year ____________
Address __________________________________________________________
City __________________ State, __________ Zip Code __________
Occupation ____________________________
Telephone __________________________ Email ________________________

Nevada Alumni Association
Morrill Hall Alumni Center
University of Nevada, Reno 89557-0164
Reno, Nevada

Please use a separate sheet for additional nominations.
Senior Scholars: Different paths, notable accomplishments

One came from a tiny graduating class of only 30 students in Pioche, Nev., and wasn’t sure what college would hold for him.

Another visited the Nevada campus and her decision to attend came only at the last moment.

A third, whose mother was a nurse, wished to follow in those same footsteps before deciding to enroll at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Each semester, the University of Nevada, Reno and its Nevada Alumni Association honor an undergraduate student from each school or college. The individual chosen meets the program’s exceptional Senior Scholar standards. In addition, the Senior Scholar selects the faculty mentor who played the most significant role in their scholastic achievement.

The students honored in mid-May were able to achieve at a remarkably high level both in and out of the classroom.

When they received their respective degrees on May 16 during the University’s Commencement, it was yet another notable milestone for a memorable group of eight students who exemplified many of the campus’ virtues during their academic careers at Nevada.

—John Trent ’85/’87, ’00M.A.

“I would especially like to extend my gratitude to my mentor Dr. Gary Blomquist. He has been my academic mentor and a role model with his dedication to his work and his students.”

Ashish Francis – GPA: 4.0
Mentor: Gary Blomquist
College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

“I never thought a little farm boy from Pioche, Nevada would achieve something like this. I did not think that I would amount to much in college. It has not been easy, but it has been worth it.”

William Mathews – GPA: 3.97
Mentor: Betty Cossitt
College of Business

“UNR instantly felt like home, providing a perfect balance of excitement and familiarity. Beautiful campus, wonderful weather, exciting college life, and yet still only an hour plane ride from my family back in Las Vegas.”

Jamie Sparks – GPA: 4.0
Mentor: David Crowther
College of Education

“My professors have taught me to think harder and have showed me that the best answer is sometimes the simplest. The foundation that they have provided will help me accomplish my future goals.”

Nicholas Aboumrad – GPA: 3.99
Mentor: V. Dean Adams
College of Engineering

“Over the last year I have gone from a shaky red-faced girl with a stethoscope to a confident almost-nurse who can actually help people.”

Jamie M. Schnell Blitstein – GPA: 3.95
Mentor: Stephanie DeBoor
Division of Health Sciences

“Although I didn’t initially know exactly which field I ultimately wanted to enter, after taking various classes in music theory, history and musicology, I realized with certainty that musicology is my ideal area of study. I now plan to pursue a career in musicology, hopefully someday teaching at the university level, and to continue expanding my knowledge of music and its role in society for the rest of my life.”

Alix Frank – GPA: 3.96
Mentor: Christin Schillinger
College of Liberal Arts

“My focus has been on education as a means in itself, and I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my college years for the pure joy of gaining knowledge not only about the world as a whole but about myself as well.”

Stacey Alonzo – GPA: 3.9
Mentor: Bourne Morris
Reynolds School of Journalism

“My desire to understand how the universe works has always been the driving force behind my academic ambition.”

Mitchel Craun – GPA: 3.96
Mentor: Brad Snyder
College of Science
Ashish Francis wins 2009 Herz Gold Medal

Ashish Francis is the Herz Gold Medal recipient for 2009. Born in Bangalore, India, Ashish graduated from Coronado High School in Henderson, Nev. and enrolled at the University of Nevada, Reno in the fall of 2005. He majored in biochemistry and was a member of the Honor’s Program. He has completed his undergraduate academic career with a cumulative grade point average of 4.00. Ashish has been admitted to the University of Nevada School of Medicine. He will begin his medical school career in the fall of 2009.

The Herz Gold Medal, the University’s oldest and most prestigious award, is presented at each Commencement ceremony to the graduating senior with the highest grade point average. This gift was established in 1910 by brothers Richard and Carl Otto Herz when this institution was only 36 years old.

—Pat McDonnell

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Visit these sites and search for “Nevada Alumni” or “nevada Silver & Blue”.

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