Nevada Alumni Council

The Nevada Alumni Council, led this year by Mike Dillon '94 (see feature on Mike on page 51), is a 27 member advisory board for the Nevada Alumni Association. With four major areas of focus: Membership and Marketing; Student Involvement; Community Outreach; and Chapter Development, the Council works to enhance and evaluate the quality of current Association activities, as well as develop new initiatives to engage alumni with their alma mater.

During the Annual Homecoming Meeting on Friday, Oct. 17, the Nevada Alumni Council unanimously approved a new slate of officers as well as seven new board members (see photos below).

Nominations for the 2009/2010 Alumni Council are open until Aug. 1. If you are interested in receiving more information about becoming a board member, please email the Office of Alumni Relations at nvalumni@unr.edu.

Mike Dillon '94
President

Cindy Buchanan '95
Past President

Lauren Sankovich '98
President-elect/Treasurer

Samantha Hudson '94
Vice President for Chapter Development

Kelly Bland '91
Vice President for Community Outreach

Julie Rowe '94
Vice President for Marketing and Membership

Jim Conkey '83
Vice President for Student Outreach

Roberta Bibe 83

Chad Blanchard '93

Randy Brown CPA ’89

Todd Cabral '91

Roger Diedrichsen ’71

Larry Digesti ’72

Seena Donahoe ’02

Stephanie Cemo Hanna ’96

James Eason ’95

Jill Johnson Fielden ’91

Cesar Ibarra ’00

Laura Jenkins ’99

Pamela Jewett ’04

Rita Laden ’06

Ro Lazzarone ’03

Patrick Martinez ’95

Marlene Olsen ’74

El Reilly (ASUN President)

Michael Pennington ’95

Jeff Pickett ’89

Jason Sterrett ’02

Cary Groth (Director, Intercollegiate Athletics)

John K. Carothers
Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations

Bruce Mack
Associate Vice President, Development & Alumni Relations

Amy J. Carothers ’01
Director, Alumni Relations

Christy Jerz ’97
Assistant Director, Alumni Relations

Juliane Di Majo
Alumni Program Manager

Lindsey Harmon ’06
Alumni Program Coordinator

Hope Hepner
Administrative Assistant II

Nevada Alumni Council Executive Committee

‘60s

The Honorable Gregg W. Zive ’67 (journalism) has become the President of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges for a one-year term. The association has several purposes including providing continuing legal education to judges and lawyers, securing a greater degree of quality and uniformity in the administration of the bankruptcy system and improving the practice of law in the bankruptcy courts of the United States.

‘70s

Linda Begbie ’70 (elementary education) and Cyndy (Wedertz) Hutchinson ’73 (elementary education), cofounders of RDL Enterprises, have created one of the largest meeting and conference planning organizations based in northern California. The motto of the business, “We Make it Happen for You” is meant to describe the breadth of the services offered by their staff of 10 to their clients. These clients include local, statewide, national and international organizations.

Gary Lee ’71Ph.D. (chemistry) and Patty (McMullen) Lee ’69M.S. (home economics) hosted a chemistry department reunion for the classes of 1966-1971 at their home in Georgetown, Texas in May 2008. The group surveyed the Texas hill country, enjoyed a ride on the Colorado River, and relished the Austin, Texas nightlife.
Pablo Arenaz ’72 (biological sciences), ’76M.S. (biology) has been named provost and vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M International University. Prior to that he was at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Dan Barnett ’72 (management) is chair for Vistage International, the world’s largest CEO membership organization. As Vistage chair, Dan runs a board of advisors for CEOs, business owners and company presidents in the Reno-Tahoe area. Dan lives in Incline Village with his wife and youngest son.

Jeff Ceccarelli ’76 (civil engineering), NV Energy corporate vice president, service delivery and operations and president of Sierra Pacific Power was honored with the College of Engineering’s James G. Scrugham Medal on Oct. 17.

Brian Koniak ’76 (accounting) has started a payroll CPA firm since leaving the Cincinnati Reds baseball organization as payroll manager. His firm serves organizations in the smaller communities of southwest Ohio with a focus on payroll.

Lee Ann (Colegrove) Gallagher ’78 (speech/theatre) attended a Holocaust seminar held in Poland and Israel during the summer of 2008. She and 34 other teachers from around the country visited a kibbutz, Jerusalem, Yad Vashem, death camps and other sites dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust. Lee Ann has taught English, special education, ESL, speech/drama and publications during her 27 years of teaching.

’80s

Susan (Thompson) Paulsen ’81 (home economics) has been teaching home economics classes for the last 14 years at Irvington High School in Fremont, Calif. This year Susan received the Staff Member of the Year Award and was awarded the Honorary Service Award by the PTSA. She recently completed a class for home economics teachers at PCI (Professional Culinary Institute) in Campbell, Calif. She is married with two sons, ages 23 and 17, and has lived in the Bay Area since 1987.

Scott T. Barnes ’82A.A. (engineering design tech), ’91B.S. (civil engineering), ’06MBA has joined the Reno office of Colliers International as an associate specializing in the area of land development. Scott is passionate about land development and has been involved with several major master planned communities and projects in the Reno/Sparks area. Scott is happily married to Yann Ling-Barnes. His daughter, Clarissa, is a freshman at the University.

Benjamin J. Rodriguez ’82M.D. was honored by the Clark County Medical Society as the 2008 Physician of the Year. Benjamin is also the 2008 president of the Rocky Mountain Association of Plastic Surgeons. Since 1989, he has operated and taught several times each year in foreign locations as an internationally credentialed plastic surgeon for Interplast, Operation Smile, Medical Aid for the Children of Latin America and other organizations.

Claudia Sands ’82 (zoology) was recently selected for promotion to colonel in the United States Air Force. She is currently on a six-month deployment in Iraq as a member of the Deployed Combat Casualty Research Team. Her husband, Kevin McCarthy, and two sons live at the family’s home in Virginia.

Georgia (Dudding) Scoggins Burke ’85Ph.D. (clinical psychology) is now living in Dodge City, Kan. and is licensed in both Kansas and Nevada to practice clinical psychology. She and her husband plan to return to Nevada in the next few years. She continues to practice clinical psychology with a focus on women’s issues and doesn’t envision total retirement any time soon. She experiences a great deal of satisfaction from this focus in her clinical practice and also enjoys visits with her daughters and their families (especially grandchildren) in Nevada immensely.

’90s

Barbara Bengston ’90 (counseling and educational psychology) has worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor since 1999 in the Seattle area and is employed with Rainier Case Management. Barb is currently the president of the Washington Chapter of the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals.

Mark Stovak ’90 (biology), ’95M.D. (medicine) was selected and participated as a physician for Team USA at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing, China. His team assignments were velodrome cycling, road cycling, volleyball, fencing and shooting.
Blake Peterson ’90 (chemistry) took a position at the University of Kansas as Regents Distinguished Professor of medicinal chemistry. Blake obtained his doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles and spent three years in postdoctoral training at Harvard University. Blake taught at Penn State before accepting his recent position with his research focused on the functions of biologically active small molecules. Blake and his wife, Rebecca, have three children: Karena, 7; Callia, 4; and Ryan, who was born in July, 2008.

Chris Ault, Jr. ’91 (speech communications) has joined Chase International as its newest real estate agent. Chris brings more than 15 years of combined experience in title and escrow management, commercial sales, financial development and leasing to Chase International’s Reno office.

Hilary (Munro) McLeod ’93 (international affairs) is currently working as a print manager in the marketing department at Patagonia in Ventura, Calif.

Cindy Buchanan ’95 (finance) was awarded the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award by the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 1.

David Pearson ’95 (speech communications) has been named senior vice president of sales for PlaneTechs, the leading provider of aviation workforce solutions. In this executive-level role, David will oversee and lead the company’s growth through the development of new aviation staffing business as well as through relationship management with existing clients.

Brian Fralick ’97 (accounting) has been promoted to senior tax manager in the Reno office of Grant Thornton, LLP. Brian was previously a tax manager with Grant Thornton, LLP and is currently the tax construction industry expert for the Reno office. In addition to the construction industry, he serves clients in real estate, gaming, hospitality, retail, technology and manufacturing.

Diane Parkinson ’97 (accounting) was elected president of the Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants’ Reno Chapter for 2008-2009. She is currently the senior manager of audit for the Reno office of Grant Thornton, LLP.

Alli Nagel ’98 (international affairs/Spanish) has been hired as a staff accountant at The Certified Public Accounting Firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. In her new position, Alli will assist with the completion of tax, audit and accounting work.

Sheri Russell ’00 (accounting) has been elected to the statewide board of the Nevada Society of Certified Public Accountants. Sheri currently works at The Certified Public Accounting firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co.

Christopher J. Moore ’02 (international affairs/Spanish) recently earned a master’s of international studies in peace and conflict resolution from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, where he was a rotary world peace fellow. Chris has traveled to South Africa, Ghana, Cote D’Ivoire and Liberia as part of his studies.

Ricky Delacruz ’03 (biology) recently graduated cum laude from Life Chiropractic College West with a doctorate degree in chiropractic. Ricky is board certified and plans to go into private practice in Reno. He is currently an associate doctor for Herrera Chiropractic in Reno.

Samantha Fredrickson ’03 (journalism) recently earned her juris doctorate cum laude from New York Law School in May 2008.

ROTC grads show Pack spirit at Mizzou

ROTC grads Major Jessica (Rowell) Gregis ’95 (criminal justice) Signal Corp; Major Chad Uhl ’95 (political science) Aviation, Blackhawk pilot; and Major Brian Herzik, ’96 (geography) Field Artillery, rooted for the Pack at the Mizzou-Nevada game Sept. 13 in Columbia, Mo. The trio are currently classmates attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Jessica is married to Major Mark Gregis and has a stepson, Zachary. Chad met his wife, Asa, while deployed to Sarajevo, Bosnia, in 1999 when she was with the Swedish army. They have a 6-year-old daughter, Mia. Brian is married to Shannon (Hensley) ’95 (elementary education/special education). They have a 1-year-old son, Nikolaus, who was born in Germany. The Missouri Tigers, then 6th ranked, beat the Nevada Wolf Pack 69-17.

LOOK ONLINE
Read full-length interviews with
Jessica, Chad and Brian
visit: www.unr.edu/ nevadasilverandblue
Samantha is now an attorney serving a year-long fellowship at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, a first amendment advocacy organization located in the Washington, D.C. area.

Romeo “Ro” Lazzarone ’03 (marketing) has been named as a member of the 2008 Quality Council of New York Life Insurance Company. Members of the Quality Council are among the most successful of New York Life’s elite sales force of more than 10,300 licensed agents.

Matthew Wolden ’03 (health ecology), ’05M.P.H. (public health) was recently promoted to the quality and patient safety improvement manager at New York Presbyterian Hospital of Columbia and Cornell Universities.

Keri Oberly ’04 (journalism) is co-director and cinematographer for the documentary Wazi, which explores the daily joys and trials of people in Tanzania living with HIV. For more information about Wazi visit www.wazifilm.com.

Cindy Vance ’04 (accounting) has been promoted to manager at The Certified Public Accounting Firm of Kafoury, Armstrong & Co. In her new position, Cindy will oversee all aspects of client engagements, including tax preparation as well as financial and compliance audits.

Nikole Oroszi ’05 (speech pathology) earned her master’s degree in clinical speech pathology from the College of Health and Human Services at Northern Arizona University. She is employed as a speech-language pathologist at The Continuum in Reno.

Bill West ’05 (speech communications), ’07M.A. (speech communications) recently launched GhostWest Writing and Editing Services. GhostWest specializes in ghostwriting books, articles, and web copy; editing manuscripts; and condensing and consolidating large pieces of information.

Brittany Walshaw ’08 (animal science) has been hired as the district representative for the Fort Dodge Division of Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Based in Las Vegas, she will be responsible for customer support and the sales of pharmaceuticals to veterinarians located in northern and southern Nevada, northern Arizona and northeastern California.
Michael Linde ’93 (English/psychology) and his wife, Dr. Samantha Woodruff, would like to announce the birth of their first child, Jessica Jane, on April 17, 2008. Michael and his family reside in Denver.

Matt Morse ’94 (geography) and Amy Claire Morse announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Rosalie, born on May 13, 2008 in Reston, Va. Olivia attended her first alumni event, the Nationals baseball game and family picnic, through the Nevada Alumni Washington D.C. Chapter.

Ronda (Brown) Bybee ’95 (political science) and Mac Bybee ’99 (political science) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Beau McCullar, on July 22, 2008.

Amber Joiner ’00 (political science/speech communications) and Kyle Davis ’01 (political science) are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Eleanor, on Aug. 15, 2008.

Crystal (Harrison) Brokaw ’01 (chemical engineering) and Tom Brokaw ’01 (chemical engineering) are proud to announce the birth of their son, Brady Edmund, on Feb. 15, 2008.

Kimberly (Newman) Philips ’01 (finance), ’03MBA and Gary Philips ’03M.S. (biotechnology) are proud to announce the birth of their son, William Clarence, on Sept. 6, 2008.

Jaime (Johnson) Sheahan ’01 (elementary education), ’03M.A. (educational leadership) and Sean Sheahan are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Max Michael, on April 11, 2008.

Megan (Lorenz) Galli ’02 (human development and family studies), ’07M.S. (human development and family studies) and Justin Galli ’02 (environmental policy analysis) would like to announce the birth of their daughter Tamsen Nevada on Sept. 25, 2008, she joins big sister, Taylor, (4) and big brother, Troy, (2).

Damon Ogden ’02 (mechanical engineering) and Becca Ogden are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Colin Thomas, on May 14, 2008.

Shannon (O’Hair) Hartley ’03 (psychology) and Chad Hartley ’99 (journalism) are pleased to announce the birth of their second child, Maya Kathryn, on March 2, 2008. She joins big sister, Hannah Rose, 5.

Heidi (Rentsch) McHugh ’03 (biology) and Ryan McHugh ’03 (biology) are pleased to announce the birth of their first child, Addison Lynn, on Sept. 22, 2008. The couple currently lives in Missoula, Mont.

Lauralyn McCarthy ’92 (journalism) and Ken Hanifan ’92 (civil engineering) were married on Oct. 13, 2007 in Los Angeles. Ken’s cousin, Father Mark Hanifan ’98 (civil engineering), presided over the ceremony. Tanya (Walquist) Hale ’90 (criminal justice) introduced the couple, who did not know each other while attending the University. Lauralyn is owner of New Mexico Gaming, LLC and Gaming Solutions, LLC. Ken is owner of Slater Hanifan, Inc., a civil engineering company in Las Vegas.

Kari (Thomas) Michael ’99 (elementary education/special education), ’04M.Ed. (special education) married Matthew Michael on June 23, 2007 on the shores of Lake Tahoe. The couple lives in Kings Beach with their first child, Seth Thomas, born April 5, 2008. While at the University, Kari was active in the music department; performing with the Pride of the Sierra Marching Band, the wind ensemble, the jazz band and various jazz combos. She was also president of Sigma Alpha Iota, professional music fraternity for women. Kari is a special education teacher in Incline Village and Matt is a ski instructor at Alpine Meadows Ski Resort.
K-von parlays business degree into comedy career

K-von (his real name), a native Nevadan and 2003 marketing and management alumnus, currently lives in Beverly Hills. He starred in the horror flick spoof The Gingerdead Man 2, and has appeared many times on television, including Showtime's Comics w/out Borders with Russell Peters, the Style Network and Good Morning America to name a few. He is a regular at Hollywood's Laugh Factory and tours colleges and clubs across the country.

With a Persian father and an American mother, K-von has a good-natured brand of multicultural humor—and he's not afraid to mock anyone, of any ethnicity, but he takes special aim at his Middle Eastern brethren. Constantly coming up with new material, he often draws from his childhood in Las Vegas, as well as his experiences as a college student at the University.

What got you interested in comedy?

My father worked at Harrah's Casino and always had plenty of jokes to tell. Some of them may not have been appropriate for a 7-year-old, but I always thought it was great that he could make people laugh with a quick story and a surprise punch line. I wanted to be able to do that.

In Nevada, there is not much opportunity for beginners to do standup, so I vowed to tackle it after I graduated. While in college, I would write jokes in the back of my notebook. Looking back, I realize the more boring the class, the more jokes there were. In fact, I tell my family to this day that I was low on material and that's why I had to take accounting twice.

What's it like being a comedian?

It's a total roller coaster ride. Maintaining a daytime job, preparing for shows at night, impressing club owners and building a fan base keep you very busy. For the first few years a comic is just trying to figure out who they are on stage, come up with material, and basically survive for the amount of time you are on stage. If you can get past the ups and downs in the beginning, it becomes a lot more rewarding. We have a lot of fun on the road and after shows, but the comics I see really excelling treat comedy more like a business than a 24/7 party.

How did your experiences at the University help shape your future career path?

From a business standpoint, I use my marketing degree every single day and it has given me quite an advantage. From an experience perspective, the University allowed for a well-balanced campus life. I find, when I share my school stories while on stage, I'm able to relate to audiences all over the United States. Topics like being out of the house for the first time, joining a fraternity, living in the dorms, dating, and gaining weight from eating in the cafeteria are a gold mine for comedy material.

Were there certain professors who helped you the most?

Former Dean of the College of Business Mike Reed, the Nevada Small Business Development Center’s Rod Jorgensen and Professor of Managerial Sciences Howard Olsen were a few of my biggest influences while in school. They pushed me, made me work hard, and allowed me to confidently prepare to start my own business one day.

What are your favorite memories from your days at the University?

Partying at the Beer Barrel, taking skiing as a class (I still can’t believe it), pledging the fraternity, heading to Lake Tahoe on a whim and late-night study sessions in our pajamas, to name a few. One memory in particular comes to mind. Like most college kids I was totally broke while in school. After all, my class missed the Millennium Scholarship by one year. So during finals week, I went to Krispy Kreme and bought five dozen donuts. I set them on my study table in the library with a sign that said "$1 Donuts." I made $48 a night for a week while studying. I should have received my business degree right then and there! That money helped pay for the next semester’s books... or a few trips to the Beer Barrel, I can’t remember which. Of course, there was a downside: I usually polished off plenty of donuts myself each night.

From a conversation with Senior Editor Melanie Robbins '06M.A. For more information on shows, please sign up and view K-von’s calendar on www.K-vonComedy.com or www.myspace.com/KvonComedy.

LOOK ONLINE
For the full interview, visit: www.unr.edu/nevadasilverandblue
Alumni Band
Kiara Wolf ’92, ’97, unrbandalum@hotmail.com

The 12th annual Alumni Band gathering was a great success! Members did not let fine, flood or children with chicken pox prevent them from participating. Although we weren’t the most balanced band ever, we had a good time. The only thing missing was you! To be involved with the Alumni Band, or just to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact Kiara Wolf.

The Pride of the Sierra is continuing to work hard, raising money to save the University Marching Band from being eliminated next year. They have done everything from washing cars to cleaning the stadium after football games to playing half-time at the roller derby. They also raffled off chances to cars to cleaning the stadium after football games to playing.

Welcome Reception in September. It was an opportunity for students, alumni and members of the business community to meet the new business faculty. The event was a success thanks to Dean Greg Mosier and everybody in attendance.

The College of Business Alumni Association has big things planned for 2009. In addition to our annual golf tournament, we have designed several monthly events to boost membership and fundraising. COBAA remains focused on providing scholarships and funding for various business students and organizations, and we have high goals for the upcoming year.

For more information on upcoming events or how to become a member please check us out at www.business.unr.edu/gnrd/alumni.

Alumni College
Doug Byington, dbbyington@aol.com

Celebrate 20 years of Alumni College with us July 14-16, 2009. We will be exploring various locations throughout northern Nevada and California. Details are being finalized, so watch for more information.

COBAA
Dan Flowers ’97

The College of Business Alumni Association had another great year in 2008. Most recently, we hosted the New Faculty Alumni Chapter Prepares to take the field during the Homecoming 2008 halftime show. BOTTOM: Tubas! Tubas! Tubas! take part in Alumni Band festivities during Homecoming.

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

The Nevada Football Alumni Chapter held a tailgate BBQ on Sept. 27 and enjoyed watching the Wolf Pack smash UNLV 49-27. Many football alumni attended the event including former NFL players Trevor Inley, Don Morgan, Mike Rockwood, Jeff Rowe, Deshane Myles and Ezra Butler. We hope to grow this event in the upcoming years and look forward to additional participation. We encourage former football alumni to register on nevadowolfpackfootball.com if they haven’t already. If football alumni are interested in joining the chapter, they can email Jim Farley.

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

The Native American Alumni Chapter had an eventful October. On Oct. 4, the chapter hosted its 2nd Annual Mystery Bus Trip. The bus was filled with approximately 30 attendees who traveled to Blairsden, Calif. Attendees enjoyed a superb meal at the Grizzly Grill and socialized with colleagues, friends and family. The event raised an entire year of scholarships for the chapter. The chapter also hosted a homecoming tailgate on Oct. 18. The tailgate brought approximately 25 alumni, family and friends together for a delicious barbecue, the meeting of new and old friends, and attendance to the football game.

The chapter meets monthly at various locations. If you are interested in joining or want to receive upcoming event information, please contact Kari Emm at (775) 784-4936 or kemm@unr.edu, or Sherry Rupert.

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

The Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association held a fall event on Sept. 29 at Lavender Ridge in Reno. During the event, Dr. John McDonald, vice president, Division of Health Sciences, and Patzy Rachala, director of the Orvis School of Nursing, updated the group regarding the newly created Division of Health Sciences and the exciting new Health Science Education Building that will house the School of Nursing.
1. You were involved in student government and the Greek system. How have your experiences at Nevada helped shape you personally and professionally?

During a couple of close Wolf Pack games, some might say I’m a little too attached to my alma mater. Seriously though, going to Nevada is a huge asset for me in business. The interaction I had, and still have, with other students, the Nevada community, and even alumni at the time have provided a strong base to build upon. The University is the focal point of this community and I am proud to say I am associated with such a fantastic institution. It’s wonderful to work in a city where wearing Pack clothing on casual Friday is not only acceptable but encouraged.

2. What is one of your most memorable moments on campus?

I truly enjoyed all of the activities put on for students by ASUN. Major weeks and intramurals, while competitive, were always lively because there was so much participation from the student body. I think one of the best things about going to Nevada is that it doesn’t have to end. Our strong Alumni Association means you can forever be part of Nevada life and even go to The Wall before a home game and not feel like the oldest person at the bar. Don’t wear red and you’ll be just fine.

3. You are the owner of Dillon Insurance Services and the executive director of the Builders Association of Northern Nevada. Is this the direction you envisioned your career heading?

Although I’d still like to think I could help Mark Fox on the sidelines as an assistant coach, I have truly been blessed to have the opportunities I have had. Having a chance to run my own business and being able to lead the largest trade association in the state creates a new challenge every day. The people who work in the construction industry are the most generous, hardworking people I have ever met. I have the greatest job trying to fulfill every American’s dream of owning a home. But for the record, I’d also like to be the first to tell Coach Fox, I’m happy to fill in if he wants to take a day off.

4. In 2008 the Builders Association of Northern Nevada (with BAWN) introduced Sierra Green Guidelines. What do these guidelines mean for the future of your industry in Northern Nevada?

The industry voluntarily developed a green building program in reaction to market desires. The building industry wants to be good stewards of our environment and provide a quality product in an efficient manner. Locally, we are ahead of the nation on sustainable residential green building design by a long way. The cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County, TMWA, Washoe County Water and NV Energy have all endorsed the program.

5. What do you hope to accomplish as the 2009 Nevada Alumni Council President?

My goal is to have every alumnus be a member. Everyone who graduated from this institution should be proud of the positive changes that are happening on campus. A strong alumni base is essential to a strong University of Nevada, Reno. We will continue to provide quality events and work closely with our various alumni clubs and chapters.
Chapter Updates

Sacramento Alumni Chapter
Steve Park '99, spark@carey.com
Steve Park, a sales associate with Cornish & Carey Commercial Real Estate, is the new president of the Sacramento Alumni Chapter. He replaces Bill Chaffin '66, a Sacramento attorney and former student body president of the University.

Congratulations to Bill, who was presented the Alumni Association Service Award at the 2008 Homecoming Gala, and Laura Jenkins '99, who was selected to be a member on the Nevada Alumni Council!

In October, the chapter informed Eppie G. Johnson '51—a chapter founder and originator of our scholarship fund—that his New Horseshoe Bar & Grill in Loomis, Calif. will be the chapter’s official meeting place.

Our Annual Mystery Dinner Bus Trip is not a secret this year. On Jan. 24, alumni will bus to Chico for a visit that includes a brewery. In June, the chapter will attend the Reno Rodeo. In September, we will fly to South Bend for the Nevada vs. Notre Dame football game.

The Sacramento Alumni Chapter holds lunch meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Steve Park for information.

Southern California Alumni Chapter
Jim Wright '56, jjimjimbob@verizon.net

The Southern California Alumni Chapter held its annual Christmas reunion on Dec. 6 at Beckham’s Grille in Pasadena, Calif. President Joyce Long, Vice President of Membership Jim Wright and Treasurer Chris Polimeni joined old and new alumni in celebrating the holidays with an ornament exchange. Recent alumni who have joined the chapter are Kim and Gary Philips from Lake Forest, Calif., Tina Shartsis, who is the new corresponding secretary from Huntington Beach, and Roseanne Levan from Newport Beach.

The chapter is active with casual dinner meetings in March to plan for the spring reunion, usually held at El Torito in Newport Beach, and in September to plan for the Christmas party, held the first Saturday in December. All alumni are welcome to attend the meetings or the reunions and bring their spouses or families. For information, please contact Jim Wright.

cuniversity@unr.edu or (775) 784-6009.

Contact Christina Sarman, assistant director of development, at information. If you are interested in learning more, reconnecting with colleagues, becoming a member, updating your contact information, and/or participating in chapter leadership, please visit www.medicine.nevada.edu/alumni/alumniassoc.asp or contact Christina Sarman, assistant director of development, at christina@unr.edu or (775) 784-6009.

UNSM Alumni Chapter Update
Dr. Peter Verhey '97, '02, ptverhey@yahoo.com

The newly reestablished UNSM Alumni Chapter is in full swing. We have been busy reconnecting with our 1,429 alumni, participating in the re-launch of the Synapse publication and planning for the upcoming UNSM Alumni Association annual event, which will take place in the fall. The chapter is also involved in assisting the medical school and its students in key initiatives and programs.

You are an important part of the School of Medicine’s legacy through your individual careers and achievements. We encourage you to give back to the School of Medicine and its students by being an active member of the UNSM Alumni Chapter. If you are interested in learning more, reconnecting with colleagues, becoming a member, updating your contact information, and/or participating in chapter leadership, please visit www.medicine.nevada.edu/alumni/alumninasoc.asp or contact Christina Sarman, assistant director of development, at christina@unr.edu or (775) 784-6009.

Young Alumni Chapter
Stephani Foust '01, yacpresident@gmail.com

In September, YAC hosted “Wingology” at Scruples Bar & Grill in conjunction with the Nevada vs. UNLV football game. Event attendees watched the Pack’s victory, while indulging in a variety of beers and eight exotic flavors of wings: Sweet Hot, Orange BBQ, Sierra Nevada Mustard Honey, Peanut Maple, Marmalade Coconut, Oriental, Apple Teriyaki, Mango Picante! Our members were busy in October with Homecoming festivities. On Nov. 14, we took our annual Mystery Bus Trip, where alumni and friends travelled to a secret location (the Overland Hotel in Fallon) to enjoy great food, good friends and a wonderful night. The holidays were celebrated in December with a group dinner at LaVecchia. In January, we got together again to ring in the New Year at our annual Bagna Cauda at the Coney Island Bar. YAC welcomes new members and involvement. For information contact YAC President Stephani Foust or visit www.unr.edu/alumni/yac.
The Nevada Alumni Association would like to thank the following businesses for encouraging their employees to wear blue during Homecoming 2008.

We appreciate your continued support of the University of Nevada!

(1) The annual University of Nevada, Reno Homecoming Bonfire. (2) Jenny Boland ’00 (finance) and Dan Flowers ’97 (accounting), representing the COBAA Chapter at the alumni pre-game party, Oct. 10. (3) Nursing students enjoy the Homecoming Blue Flu Barbecue. (4) During Homecoming Week the School of the Arts hosted the second annual Arts Night Out throughout the Church Fine Arts Building, including a concert with the Alison Brown Quartet with Joe Craven. (5) A student band entertains the masses at the Homecoming Bonfire. (6) Nevada Alumni Association Homecoming Gala attendees Martin and Tiffany Gastanaga, Matt ’93 (political science/English) and Melissa Francis, Tim Crowley ’92 (geography), Dave ’93 (finance/economics) and Jessica LaPlante ’94 (civil engineering). Leilani Schweitzer and Lanning Andrews. (7) Alumni Award winners at halftime during the Homecoming football game Oct. 18, a Wolf Pack victory over Utah State. (8) The Nevada Athletic Hall of Fame’s Class of 2008 (see page 22). (9) 2008 pre-game sponsor Sierra Pacific Federal Credit Union—Tania Roberts, Ivhie Miguel, Jim Hunting, Shirley Hunting, Teri Detrick, John Demuth and Heather Demuth. (10) Arts Night Out attendees enjoy the Glow Show. (11) Alumna of the Year, Annette Whittemore ’74 (elementary education/special education) with Milton Glick and Cindy Buchanan ’95 (finance). (12) Rondalyn Langhans, Sara Langhans, Class of 2020, John Langhans ’77 (business education), and Doug Armstrong hang out at the Oct. 10 pre-game party. (13) Cheerleader Rebecca Wallstrum, right, elementary education, at the Homecoming Tailgate. (14) Wolf Pack fan, Larry Pizorno.
Marshall Guisti and Marvel Ranson began a family tradition of graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno when they met as students in the 1930s. Since then, there have been nineteen other family members to graduate from Nevada, going on to enjoy successful careers in nursing, teaching, finance, accounting, law, journalism, nutrition, psychology, fundraising and veterinary medicine. Today, even the youngest family members are walking the path toward a future at Nevada by attending University kid camps and athletic events, wearing Wolf Pack gear, and playing in the quad.
How many University of Nevada, Reno alumni make up your family tree? Let us know, and you could all be featured in the next issue of *Nevada Silver & Blue*. For details, visit www.unr.edu/alumni or call 888.NV ALUMS.
Remembering Friends

**Ruth (Hadley) Donovan**, former associate director of University Libraries, died on July 16, 2008. Born in Lincoln, Neb., she grew up in Wisconsin and earned a bachelor’s in library science at the University of Wisconsin where she was Phi Beta Phi. She returned to Lincoln for her first professional position as a reference librarian from 1950-1954.

She arrived at the University of Nevada in 1954. It was here that Ruth Hadley married and became Ruth Donovan in 1956. After eight years as a reference librarian, Ruth assumed the position of assistant director of Libraries. With the exception of four years in the 1960s when she took off to be a full-time wife and mother. She served as assistant and associate director, primarily responsible for public services, for the rest of her 30-year career in the University Libraries. She retired in 1988.

Ruth was instrumental in shepherding the growth of University Libraries from a closed stack collection in the basement of Clark Hall to more than 800,000 volumes in Getchell. Throughout her long career in library leadership, Ruth served with grace, strength, and dedication. Her contributions were immense.

**Ahmed Essa**, English professor emeritus, died on June 15, 2008. Dr. Essa was a professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, from 1967 to 1991, teaching multicultural literature and creative writing. He was known for his expertise in African and Middle Eastern literature.

Dr. Essa was born in Jodiya, India, the fifth of nine children. His family left India when he was an infant, and he spent his early years in Pietermaatburg and Durban, South Africa. His experiences growing up in apartheid South Africa gave him much of the inspiration for his creative writing.

Dr. Essa was also the founder of the Northern Nevada Muslim Society, bringing the group from its early days of a few members in the 1960s to an organization that includes several thousand today. In 2003, he received the World Citizen Award from the Northern Nevada International Center. Dr. Essa was also an accomplished photographer. His photographs were often exhibited in Reno and were a record of his passion about the people and places of many cultures.

Dr. Essa is survived by his wife, Eva, University professor and chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies; daughter, Fiona (Christopher); and son, Eugene (Kristie). While he was the last of his siblings, he is survived by numerous nieces and nephews and their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, most of them in South Africa.

**Erwin A. Jaffe**, former University of Nevada professor of political science, died Sept. 5, 2008. Born in 1928, he studied at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J., where he earned his doctorate. Professor Jaffe joined the history and political science department faculty at the University of Nevada in 1961, during a transitional time. He, with history Professor Wilbur Shepperson, was a driving force behind a successful effort to split the department into separate political science and history departments. He added to scholarship on political philosophy through writings and lectures in the United States and abroad. Of his time in Nevada, he was proudest of relationships he maintained with former students, in whom he ignited an interest in the political process, its organization and the philosophies that drive politics. Professor Jaffe is survived by his wife of 51 years, Marianne, his sister, Geraldine, and many students and friends whose lives he touched and influenced. Remembrance contributions may be sent to Doctors Without Borders, as Erwin believed in people without borders.

**Chester Frank Pinkerton**, professor emeritus of mathematics, died on March 19, 2008 at the age of 91. He was born in Oshkosh, Wis., and graduated from Oshkosh High School. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1939. During World War II, he was present at the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Battle of Midway, and was on board the battleship Missouri when the Japanese surrendered. After the war, Chester met Marilyn Edwards and married her in 1946. Chester retired from the Navy in 1959, earned a graduate degree in mathematics from Purdue University and taught at the University of Nevada, Reno from 1960 to 1979. Upon retiring from his second career, Chester spent more time playing golf, fishing, print making and pursuing his interests. He was active in the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, the Mathematical Society of America, the National Wildlife Association, the Audubon Society and Kiwanis International.

Chester is survived by Marilyn, his wife of 62 years, his daughter, Adele (Thomas), his son, Daniel (Jane); grandchildren, Adrian, Lauren, Robin, Kelley, Cecily, and Anne; great-grandsons, Rohan and Varun.

**Thomas J. Scully, M.D.**, the second dean of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, died on Sept. 16, 2008, at the age of 75. Dr. Scully, a native New Yorker, came to Nevada in 1969 as a founding faculty member for the newly formed “School of Medical Sciences.” With a flair for bringing people together and forming relationships, Dr. Scully was able to solicit support from northern, southern and rural physicians to throw their collective backing behind the idea of establishing a Nevada medical school.

He was a driving force behind discussions across the state as to how the school should function, its relationship with area hospitals, and identifying physicians willing to teach students. Dr. Scully was instrumental in the development of its curriculum, establishing the basic departments, formulating its teaching philosophy and setting up preceptorships with community physicians.

By his retirement in 1997 after a distinguished career of 28 years with the School of Medicine, he had served as professor of pediatrics, associate dean for academic affairs, student affairs, basic sciences and research and alumni affairs and, finally, as dean.

Described in Phyllis Cudek and Anton Paul Sohn’s book, Better Medicine: The History of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, as “the teaching dean,” Dr. Scully was twice selected as outstanding teacher of the University of Nevada School of Medicine and was known as a strong and empathic student mentor and advocate.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Celia; brothers Robert and James; sisters Mary, Rebecca and Evangelene; sons Christopher, Peter, Geary; and daughter, Leslie, as well as numerous in-laws, grandchildren and extended family members.

**JohnD Winters ’32** (agriculture) died March 30, 2008 at his home in Dayton, Nev. Born May 18, 1909 to Ira and Mary Winters, he attended Carson City schools and graduated with a degree from the University in 1932. He was active in Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the varsity boxing team where he earned a Block N.

A rancher by occupation, JohnD was noted statewide for his work on water resources conservation and served on the Nevada-California Interstate Compact Commission.
John D. was a strong believer in education and recreation and gave the Carson City School District land to build a new high school in 1954. He also gave land near Cold Springs to the City of Carson which in turn was developed into the Carson Eagle Valley Golf Course.

John D. was honored in 2000 when it renamed the Centennial Park, at the golf course, the John D. Winters Centennial Park. He was also grand marshal of the Nevada Day Parade in 1995. Along with his wife, Kathleen, he established the Winters Family Scholarship in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR). He also donated numerous books and documents to Special Collections at the University of Nevada Library.

John D. is survived by his wife, Kay, four daughters, one son, 14 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

John K. Carr ’37 (journalism) died Oct. 20, 2008. John was born in May, Idaho on December 6, 1914, to Minnie and John Carr. He was his mother’s ninth son.

John moved with his parents to southeast Missouri. In 1927 the family moved to Fallon, where John graduated from Churchill County High School in 1932. He graduated from the University of Nevada in 1937. While at the University he served as editor of the Sagebrush newspaper. Upon graduation, he entered the Army Air Corps flying school at Randolph Field and Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. He remained on active duty until his retirement in 1964 with the rank of colonel. From 1967 until his retirement in 1975, he served as Chief of Revenue for the Nevada Department of Taxation.

In September 1938, John married Elizabeth Juniper of Reno. During their marriage, they raised two children, Carol and Walter. Before and during World War II, John flew many missions in all areas of the world. He was stationed for two years in India. From there he flew the “Hump” into China in the CBI (China, Burma, and India) operations. His flights across the Atlantic Ocean into North Africa earned his first Air Medal, to which were added two Oak Leaf clusters. He also received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Presidential Unit Citation, the Star of China, and other decorations.

John’s first wife, Elizabeth, died in 1973. In 1974 John married Margery McKnight, a Washoe County school administrator. They spent 34 wonderful years together. During that time John was active in many community organizations.

John will be greatly missed by his family and his Air Force associates. He leaves his wife, Margery (McKnight) Carr; his daughter, Carol; his son, Walter; three grandchildren, Elena, Kristin and Matthew. He also will be missed by two nieces and two nephews.

John “Johnny” Knemeyer ’42 (electrical engineering) died on July 17, 2008 at Sentara Williamsburg Hospital. Johnny was born “on the Fourth of July,” 1920 in Yerington. His early years were spent in Nevada and California. In 1942, he graduated from the University of Nevada where he participated in various collegiate sports and would remain an avid tennis player. He went east to Pittsburgh to work for Westinghouse Electric Corporation. After two years, he moved to the Hampton Roads area where he took a position at NASA (now NASA) as an engineer. His career at NASA–Langley spanned 46 years, retiring in 1990 as the chief of facilities engineering. He was a longtime member of Grace United Methodist Church.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Mae. His memory is left to be cherished by his wife of 59 years, Louise; two daughters Linda and Karen (Daniel); two sons Neil and Ken; a grandson, Kevin (Jennifer); a granddaughter, Elizabeth (Brian); four great-grandchildren, Brody, Jake, Emma and Andrew; one brother, Franklin and a host of loving relatives and faithful friends. The family will be forever grateful to the staff of Dominion Village of Williamsburg and Sentara Williamsburg Hospital for their kind and loving care. Condolences can be posted online at dailypress.com/guestbooks.

Duke is preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Mae. His memory is left to be cherished by his wife of 59 years, Louise; two daughters Linda and Karen (Daniel); two sons Neil and Ken; a grandson, Kevin (Jennifer); a granddaughter, Elizabeth (Brian); four great-grandchildren, Brody, Jake, Emma and Andrew; one brother, Franklin and a host of loving relatives and faithful friends. The family will be forever grateful to the staff of Dominion Village of Williamsburg and Sentara Williamsburg Hospital for their kind and loving care. Condolences can be posted online at dailypress.com/guestbooks.

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