For more than 100 years, the University of Nevada Department of Athletics has worked hard to forge a legacy of success. From the first victory in school history when the Nevada women’s basketball team beat Stanford in the winter of 1899 to the 2010 football season when the Wolf Pack turned in a school-record 13 victories, finished in the top 15 nationally and won a share of the Western Athletic Conference title—the last 100-plus years of Wolf Pack Athletics have been marked by victories, academic accomplishment, championships and postseason appearances.

“All of our sports have collectively achieved some of the finest seasons in school history in recent years, but just as importantly, we have achieved a great deal of academic success, too,” Nevada Director of Athletics Cary Groth says. “Those successes are a credit to the hard work of the Wolf Pack coaches, student-athletes and staff. Many of our sports have achieved milestones for the first time in school history, while others have continued traditions of success established in the past. We are very proud of all of our accomplishments and look forward to many more in the future.”

The Wolf Pack has captured 20 WAC championships in its 11 years as a member of the league, including seven men’s basketball crowns from 2004-08, three women’s swimming and diving...
titles from 2007-09, three softball championships (2006, 2008-09), a pair of football titles (2005 and 2010), two indoor track and field titles (2003-04) and individual titles by cross country in 2004, women's soccer in 2006 and men's golf in 2007. In 2006-07, the Wolf Pack won the WAC’s Commissioner's Cup as the best overall athletics department in the conference, while the program has finished second two other times, including in 2008-09 when the Wolf Pack missed winning the title by less than one point.

Nevada has also enjoyed postseason success, including six consecutive bowl appearances by the Wolf Pack football team and eight postseason invitations in the last nine years by the men's basketball squad with NCAA Tournament appearances from 2004-07, including a NCAA Sweet Sixteen run in 2004. Nevada's women's basketball team has made three Women's National Invitation Tournament appearances, while the Wolf Pack volleyball team has been to the NCAA Championships five times, baseball has made four NCAA Regional appearances, and softball has been invited to three of the last five NCAA Regionals. Nevada’s men’s golf has advanced to the NCAA Championship three times and the soccer team earned its first NCAA appearance in 2006.

The Wolf Pack's Graduation Success Rate for student-athletes is at its all-time high of 75%.
percent and has improved in each of the last six years, while all 17 of Nevada’s teams turned in a multi-year Academic Progress Rate at or above the 925 standard in 2009-10 and received no penalties for the sixth consecutive year. A total of 105 Wolf Pack student-athletes were named to the 2009-10 WAC All-Academic teams, while more than 150 student-athletes were recognized as Wolf Pack and Silver and Blue Scholars this year for maintaining cumulative GPAs of 3.0 or above.

The University also has been recognized for its accomplishments off the playing field. Nevada was listed as one of the top athletics departments in the nation in providing opportunities for women in sports in each of the last four years of the national Gender Equity Scorecard study, including two years as the country’s best in 2006 and 2007. Nevada has also been recognized by the Laboratory for Diversity in Sport at Texas A&M University for its accomplishments in the areas of diversity and was one of only 10 universities in the country to win the group’s Diversity in Athletics Award in 2005-06.

**Donor support crucial to success**

As successful as Wolf Pack student-athletes, coaches and programs have been, none of it would have been possible without the generous support of numerous donors over the years. That support has allowed the University of Nevada to grow from a fledgling, small college to a viable, competitive NCAA Division I institution that has seen many of its teams rank among the nation’s best.

“Donor support continues to be the catalyst for our continued growth and success,” Groth said.

“All of our sports have collectively achieved some of the finest seasons in school history in recent years, but just as importantly, we have achieved a great deal of academic success, too.”

Cary Groth
Director of Athletics
success on and off the field,” says head football coach Chris Ault. Ault has spent the last 39 years at Nevada, including 23 as the University’s director of athletics.

The Wolf Pack has benefitted from a long history of financial support from private donors in the community. From its start as the Board of Athletics in the 1940s to its current form as the Athletic Association of the University of Nevada, donor support has allowed the athletics department to continue to expand and improve.

Nevada Athletics has raised more than $100 million in private gifts in the last 10 years, which has funded capital projects and operational expenses, in addition to offsetting the costs of student-athlete scholarships.

That private support has given Nevada the funds necessary to build state-of-the-art facilities that have been crucial to the success of student-athletes and teams. Some of those recently completed projects include Legacy Hall, the E.L. Cord Foundation Academic and Athletic Performance Complex, the Marguerite Wattis Petersen Athletic Academic Center, the Roger B. Primm Sports Medicine & Strength Center and the Christina M. Hixson Softball Park and Track & Field Practice Facility. In addition to new buildings, Nevada has also been able to renovate the Nancy & Robert Cashell Football Center and locker rooms for the men’s and women’s basketball, volleyball and football programs, among its many upgrades.

“We are largely self-supported, and therefore Nevada Athletics has a tremendous reliance on our friends, fans and donors in the community,” says Rory Hickok, senior associate athletics director. “That partnership has allowed us to build some of the finest facilities in the country and has put us in the position to move our program forward.”

One of the biggest expenses for Wolf Pack Athletics is student-athlete scholarships, accounting for more than $4.5 million per year. Those costs include in-state and out-of-state tuition, room and board and books for the 400-plus student-athletes who compete for the Wolf Pack each year.

Nevada relies heavily on its donors to offset those scholarship costs each year in the form of seat premiums for football and men’s basketball, as well as unrestricted giving and other donations to the Pack Educational Fund.

Nevada has seen thousands of student-athletes graduate in its 100-plus years, including...
324 in the past five years, and many of them have gone on to distinguished careers in business, civic and government organizations, the military, law, medicine and other professions, in addition to professional sports. Just two examples include former basketball student-athlete Bill Nicholson, who served as appointments secretary to President Gerald Ford before embarking on a successful business career, and former football player John dutton and former swimmer Terina Cook-dutton, who have gone on to found the dutton Family Foundation and Heavenly Hope Ministries to help people in Africa.

Many former members of the Wolf Pack look back to their days as student-athletes and the scholarships that funded their educations as being crucial to their future success.

“I can confidently say that the University of Nevada Athletics Department is the reason I have achieved my own success on and off the ski hill,” says Katie Lyons, a former All-American on the Wolf Pack skiing team.

Lyons was a finalist for the prestigious NCAA Woman of the Year award and is currently enrolled in medical school at the University of Nevada.

Limin Liu, a three-time NCAA champion while swimming for the Wolf Pack and a silver medalist at the 1996 Summer Olympics who hails from China, says, “My athletics scholarship offered me the opportunity to come to the United States and study here. This opportunity helped me experience a new culture, learn English, meet lifelong friends and develop myself. As a student-athlete, I learned discipline, teamwork and confidence. It set me on a great path for life and career.”

Liu stayed in northern Nevada after graduation, working at the Nevada Commission on Tourism and is now the associate dean of Beijing Academy of Nanchang University, focusing on...
international academic exchange for faculty and students. Liu also recently attended the State Dinner for President Hu Jintao of the People’s Republic of China at the White House.

For many donors, the opportunity to contribute to the educations and future successes of student-athletes is the reason they contribute to Wolf Pack Athletics.

“We realize how important education is for student-athletes, and it is and has been an honor for the Wilbur May Foundation to have sponsored scholarships for 200 student-athletes since 1996,” donor Dixie May says. “It has been wonderful to watch these young athletes earn an education and prepare for their life-long careers while playing their chosen sport. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Wolf Pack for years to come.”

Moving to the Mountain

All of that academic and athletic success, made possible by the hard work of numerous student-athletes, coaches and staff as well as the unwavering support of Wolf Pack donors, has led to one of the most exciting moments in school history.

On Aug. 19, 2010, after a whirlwind day of phone calls, meetings and media speculation, University President Milt Glick and Director of Athletics Cary Groth announced to a crowded Hall of Fame Room at Legacy Hall that the University of Nevada had accepted an invitation to join the Mountain West Conference.

“The offer to join the Mountain West Conference is an opportunity we cannot turn down. The Mountain West is a strong conference, and this will enhance our natural rivalry with UNLV and continue our rivalry with Boise State,” Glick said at the time. “We believe joining this conference is in the best, long-term interests of our fans and program and also view this invitation as acknowledgement of our work to build a strong, competitive program.”

While the move to the Mountain West will benefit the athletics department by providing increased revenue, better conference competition and more national exposure for the University of Nevada and the northern Nevada community, it will also require an increase in support from donors and the community to help Nevada maintain its championship level programs in a more competitive conference.

With a budget of approximately $21 million, Nevada Athletics is currently ranked fifth in the Western Athletic Conference in annual expenditures and will be ranked last in its new conference when the Wolf Pack officially joins the Mountain West starting in 2012. Current budgets in the Mountain West Conference average approximately $34 million.

To meet that challenge, the University of Nevada has embarked on its “Moving to the Mountain” campaign to raise approximately $12.5 million over the next five years, which will allow the Wolf Pack athletics program to continue to grow and sustain its long-term competitiveness. Funds raised will be used to offset budget cuts and annual increases in the costs of doing business, as well as provide Wolf Pack student-athletes and programs the athletic and academic resources needed to succeed in the Mountain West Conference.

Groth says: “It is an honor to join the Mountain West Conference and partner and compete with its outstanding member institutions. Our community and donors have afforded us the necessary resources to put us in the position to make this exciting move, and we know that they will be willing to step up again, as we are poised to take our program to the next level in the Mountain West Conference.”

For more information, or to donate to the Moving to the Mountain campaign, call (775) 784-6900 or visit www.movingtothemountain.com.