Wolf Pack Athletics to “Give Back Like Jack”

Nevada student-athletes, coaches and staff spend more than 2,500 hours volunteering in the community every year, and the Wolf Pack’s community service now has a name: “Give Back Like Jack.”

In partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, Nevada Athletics will participate in the “Give Back Like Jack” campaign this spring and dedicate its community service efforts to the memory of the late Jack Reviglio, a longtime philanthropist in Reno and Sparks, and the 1982 Honorary Alumnus of the Year, an honor bestowed by the Nevada Alumni Association for his exemplary service to the University of Nevada, Reno. Reviglio also received the 2011 University Service Award from the Alumni Association.

Led by organizations that have been shaped by their relationships with the Reviglio family over the years, the “Give Back Like Jack” campaign seeks to inspire groups and individuals in northern Nevada to do good in the community in the spirit of Reviglio, who dedicated his life to philanthropy and community service. It will feature campaign-style buttons and signs, as well as social media promotion and a website, www.GiveBackLikeJack.org, to inspire people and allow them to share their stories of doing good.

The celebration will culminate in March with Jack Reviglio Day, a “Give Back Like Jack”-inspired day of service by volunteers and a celebration event at the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows.

“Jack was so unique in his selflessness and giving,” said Mike Wurm, chief professional officer at the Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows. “This campaign is about getting groups and individuals to do community service in the spirit of Jack, who set the standard for how to live your life and make your community better. We’re hoping that this will become more than a pay-it-forward campaign and will plant the seed of a sense of community and giving in individuals for years to come.”

Nevada Athletics will also establish annual “Give Back Like Jack” awards, which will honor the student-athlete and staff member who most exemplify the dedication to community service that was the hallmark of Reviglio’s life. The inaugural “Give Back Like Jack” awards will be given out this spring.

Nevada Director of Athletics Cary Groth said: “As college student-athletes, coaches and staff, we are truly privileged to participate in intercollegiate athletics, and we all believe that it is important to give back to the community that supports us so much. Jack Reviglio, Western Nevada Supply and the Reviglio family have been so generous to Nevada Athletics and other community organizations. It is the greatest tribute we can pay to Jack and his legacy by dedicating our community service efforts to him and helping to inspire others in the community to do the same.”

Reviglio was a co-founder of Western Nevada Supply, the largest single-location plumbing supply distributor on the West Coast, providing plumbing, heating, air conditioning, waterworks and irrigation materials.
Nevada partners with Nike N7 for Native American Heritage Celebration

The University of Nevada continued its partnership with Nike N7 and celebrated Native American Heritage Month this year.

The Wolf Pack joined with Nike N7 for the second year in a row to help raise awareness about the Nike N7 program, which has provided more than $1 million in grants to Native American and Aboriginal grassroots sport and fitness programs for youth. The Wolf Pack also joined with Nike N7 to show support to Native American communities in northern Nevada.

Nike N7 is Nike’s commitment to bring sports and physical activity programs to youth in Native American and Aboriginal communities in North America through the N7 Fund, collection and program.

The Wolf Pack volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball and football student-athletes, band and cheerleaders wore T-shirts and accessories such as shoelaces, pom poms, buttons and wristbands in turquoise—the color of friendship—during N7 events, while the coaches wore Nike N7 shoes and the Wolf Pack women’s basketball team sported turquoise N7 Air Max Destiny basketball shoes. The games also featured Native American national anthem singers and color guards, as well as traditional dances performed by representatives from local-area reservations.

The University of Nevada officially announced this year’s partnership with Nike N7 on Nov. 7 with a press conference at the Nike Factory Store located at the Legends at Sparks Marina. That store is one of the retail outlets that carries the Nike N7 Collection and features former Wolf Pack star Tahnee Robinson ‘11 in its displays. Robinson, who is enrolled with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in Montana and is Eastern Shoshone, Pawnee and Sioux as well, is now serving as an athlete ambassador for Nike N7 and is playing professional basketball in Israel.

“It’s an honor for Nike N7 to partner with the University of Nevada for its celebration of Native American Heritage Month,” said Sam McCracken, general manager of Nike N7. “N7 exists to help improve the health and wellness of Native communities by bringing access to sport and physical activity to all of its people, with a focus on youth. Our now second annual partnership with Nevada for Native American Heritage Month is a tradition we are proud to continue, and we are excited to see the University expand its effort beyond the women’s basketball team to this year include football, volleyball and men’s basketball.”

For more information about Nike N7, visit www.niken7.com.
Wolf Pack student-athletes tackle goal of ‘One Hunger-Free Community, One Pack’

Wolf Pack student-athletes have decided to partner with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada this year and will be tackling the goal of creating “One Hunger-Free Community, One Pack.”

Nevada’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, a leadership group made up of representatives from each of the Wolf Pack’s sports, has chosen child hunger issues as its main charitable focus for the 2011-12 school year.

Student-athletes will be participating in volunteer activities with the Food Bank of Northern Nevada throughout the year and started with a “Pack the Pack” Pay-it-Forward Party to put together snack packs for the Backpack Kids program in September. Other planned activities include volunteer nights at the food bank and other events, challenges and food drives at home games.

One in five children in Nevada lives in a home where there is not enough food for three meals per day. The Food Bank of Northern Nevada is a regional food distribution and support system serving more than 125 partner agencies in northern Nevada and the eastern Sierra. Among clients who visit emergency food program sites, children are the most vulnerable to hunger: 46 percent of emergency food recipients are children under the age of 18. Last year the Food Bank of Northern Nevada provided more than four million meals to low-income seniors, children and families.

“The student-athletes were astounded to find out the statistics about children going hungry in the state of Nevada. This was eye-opening, and we all believed that this cause was one we wanted to become involved with,” said Alexa Anderson, a Wolf Pack track and field student-athlete and president of Nevada’s SAAC. “We are trying to develop a strong partnership between the food bank and Wolf Pack Athletics so that we can increase awareness and hopefully get more people involved with this cause. Everyone has been hit hard by the economy, but children have no say in the matter. If we can make a difference in the lives of these children, every effort will have been worthwhile.”


Athletics’ Graduation Success Rate reaches all-time high

The University of Nevada’s Graduation Success Rate for student-athletes has reached its all-time high for the seventh year in a row.

Wolf Pack student-athletes have posted an overall Graduation Success Rate of 78 percent, the highest mark in school history and up from its previous best mark of 75 percent in 2010. Nevada’s success rate has improved in each of the last seven years and has climbed nearly 24 percent in the time the NCAA has released the data. The Wolf Pack’s graduation rate has increased from 63 percent in 2005 to its all-time high of 78 percent this year.

The federal graduation rate for Nevada’s student-athletes, which doesn’t count transfer students, is 66 percent this year. That number has skyrocketed from 47 percent in 2007.

“We are excited that our Graduation Success Rate continues to climb and is now at the highest rate it has ever been,” Nevada Director of Athletics Cary Groth said.

“Reaching that milestone and seeing our rate improve each of the last seven years is a credit to the commitment and hard work of all of our student-athletes. We also send out our appreciation to all of the academic staff, coaches and the University community for their help in providing our student-athletes the academic support and resources they need to complete their collegiate careers.”

The Graduation Success Rate was developed by the NCAA as part of its academic reform initiative to more accurately assess the academic success of student-athletes. Unlike the federal graduation rate, the NCAA’s success rate holds institutions accountable for transfer student-athletes, includes mid-year enrollees, and is calculated for every sport. This year’s mark is based on student-athletes who began full-time enrollment at any school in the fall of 2004 and received athletic aid in their first year of college.

“Just as we cheer on our Wolf Pack teams on the field or on the court, we are also pleased to celebrate their academic success,” said Marc Johnson, University president. “The continued improvement in the Graduation Success Rate demonstrates our commitment to help set our student-athletes on a path for success in life.”
Nevada honors classroom achievement
at Academic Excellence Brunch

Nevada Athletics and Academics took time to honor the academic achievements of its student-athletes this winter at its Academic Excellence and Scholarship Banquet. The fifth annual event was held at the Joe Crowley Student Union and was sponsored by Drs. Rita ’72 (business education), ’76M.A. (education) and Harry Huneycutt. Nevada presented the Dr. Exline Academic Effort Award to Nicole Williams, a women’s basketball and track and field student-athlete majoring in human development and family studies, and Lampford Mark, a football student-athlete majoring in general studies. Named for the late Chris Exline, Nevada’s longtime Faculty Athletics Representative, the Award is given to a male and female student-athlete who has significantly improved his/her academic standing through consistent dedication to achieving classroom requirements while continuing to maintain superior athletic performance.

Also honored was the Wolf Pack rifle team, which received the Sport Team Award as the squad with the highest cumulative GPA (3.57) as well as 119 Wolf Pack Scholars who maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0-3.49 and 76 Silver and Blue Scholars who hold a cumulative GPA of 3.5-4.0. Nevada also honored the 100 student-athletes who earned Western Athletic Conference All-Academic honors during the 2010-11 academic year as well as student-athletes who were named scholar-athletes by coaching associations.

The afternoon ended with recognition for the donors and 69 student-athletes who are the recipients of Nevada’s endowed scholarships as well as the presentation of the special silver and blue cords to all of the Wolf Pack’s winter graduates.

Fifty Wolf Pack student-athletes graduate this winter

Fifty Wolf Pack student-athletes representing 13 teams graduated during the University of Nevada’s 2011 Winter Commencement, which was held Dec. 10 at Lawlor Events Center.

The Wolf Pack football team was represented by 20 student-athletes, while Nevada’s women’s track and field team has seven graduates. Five women’s soccer student-athletes graduated, while the volleyball team featured four and the ski team three. The Wolf Pack baseball, men’s golf and women’s swimming and diving squads were each represented by two graduates, and Nevada’s women’s golf, rifle, men’s tennis, softball and women’s basketball teams had one graduate each.

“Congratulations to all of our student-athletes who graduated this winter,” said Nevada Director of Athletics Cary Groth. “We wish them all the best as they leave the University of Nevada and head out into the world with their college degrees.”

Every year since 2006, graduating Nevada student-athletes are given a special silver and blue cord to wear at the commencement ceremonies in recognition of their efforts as student-athletes. Wolf Pack student-athletes are the only University students allowed to wear silver and blue cords.

Including this winter’s 50 graduates, Nevada has seen 416 of its student-athletes graduate in the past seven years.

Third annual Blue Tie Ball set for Saturday, March 31

Tickets are on sale now for the third annual Blue Tie Ball, a University of Nevada Scholarship Gala benefiting Wolf Pack student-athletes. This year’s event is set for Saturday, March 31 at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino.

The evening raises money for student-athlete scholarships at the University of Nevada and promises a night of elegance, amazing food, wine and fun. Student-athletes attend—dressed to impress in formal attire—as they greet guests and escort them into the magnificently decorated Tuscany Ballroom.

For tickets or more information, call 775-682-6965.