Dan Heenan ’86 (criminal justice) is part of 12-member team deployed to large fires and bombings worldwide, including the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The senior special agent, a 26-year veteran of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, is also a veteran resident advisor from Lincoln Hall. Inside the walls of the turn-of-the-century building, Heenan learned his earliest lessons in working cooperatively with other people from vastly different backgrounds.

“I always encourage everyone to live in the residence halls,” says Heenan, the vice president of the International Association of Arson Investigators. “College is about so much more than academic learning—it’s a maturation process. You’re forced to live with other people, respect their space, learn to negotiate, cooperate and come to an agreement, and you learn to become a part of society.”

Late University President Milton Glick often spoke of creating a “sticky” campus, with activities and programming that keep students engaged, foster learning experiences outside the classroom and ultimately improve retention rates.

With nine residence halls on campus filled to capacity with more than 2,600 students—and plans for at least three more buildings—administrators say the University is well on its...
way to realizing Glick’s vision.

“Living on campus allows students to make a deeper connection to the University,” says Rod Aeschlimann, director of Residential Life, Housing and Food Services. “We think that’s key.”

National research indicates that students who live on campus in a residence hall meet more people and make more friends, are more satisfied with their college experience, more likely to earn a higher GPA, more likely to obtain a bachelor’s degree in four years, and are more involved in academic and extracurricular activities.

“It makes a difference when students are exposed to other students with good study habits on a regular basis,” Aeschlimann says. “They walk down the hall and see a bunch of students studying and think, ‘Hey, I should be studying, too.’”

Retention rates for on-campus residents are higher, too: almost 92 percent of sophomores living on the University’s campus enrolled the following year, according to recent data. Overall, students who live on campus are 24 percent more likely to graduate in four years. “Our number one objective is to help our students succeed and graduate,” says University President Marc Johnson. “Living on the University campus provides our students with a safe and convenient environment that allows them to fully focus on their academic pursuits and cultivate relationships and experiences to last a lifetime.”

Carl Gatson ’89 (finance), ’05 (general studies) lettered in boxing for two years at Nevada, but was seeking a new way to stay engaged at the University. “I had lost the ‘eye of the tiger’ and was no longer interested in boxing for the University after my second year,” says Gatson, a budget coordinator for UNLV. “I needed something else, other than academics, to keep me interested in and connected to staying in school. “So I went to see a guidance counselor, talked about switching majors to psychology and was convinced to remain a business major and try my hand at becoming a resident advisor,” he adds. “It turns out, that was the best advice I ever received.”

From there, his connection to the campus grew. Gatson was a resident advisor for two years and the ASUN student body president

Each August, several thousand students move into the nine residence halls at the University of Nevada, Reno hauling all manner of supplies, electronic gadgets, artwork, posters and the occasional microwave or mini-fridge.

According to recent data, 91.6 percent of sophomores living on campus at the University of Nevada, Reno enrolled the following year.
from 1987-88.

“I parlayed my experiences in the residence halls into student leadership roles,” Gatson says. “I learned that I had a good way with people and I decided to roll with it. I realized I had a way of bringing harmony to a situation and that it was having an impact on other people’s lives. The experience truly helped make me the person I am today.”

Marsha Read ’68 (home economics), ’69M.S. (home economics), dean of the University’s graduate school, lived on the ground floor of Juniper Hall with three other students who remain friends today.

“I felt like campus was a new home,” Read says. “I got to know others I otherwise wouldn’t have met because we didn’t take classes together.”

During that time, Read met current colleague Pat Miltenberger ’68 (psychology), ’85Ed.D. (educational administration), emeritus professor of higher education administration. Miltenberger was a mathematics major when she began working as a resident advisor in Juniper and Manzanita halls, but her experiences on campus led her to change her major to psychology. She progressed to a master’s degree in counseling and ultimately earned a doctorate in educational leadership.

“Residential life staff works with students to establish cooperative relationships among roommates. Students are be required to complete and sign a roommate agreement form and asked to discuss the “rules and regulations” of the room and anything pertinent to surviving the year together and getting along. Staff is available to help facilitate these discussions and help roommates complete the form.

“"I developed lifelong friendships with students from all over the state and the world."”

—Nevada State Assemblyman Jason Frierson ’96 (health science)

“As a resident advisor, I saw the wonderful and challenging differences in people,” Miltenberger says. “Students came from different regions and cultures and brought varying values to the campus. Every day I learned a great deal about people, their dreams, their difficulties and challenges. It was rewarding to share in student experiences. I learned to embrace and appreciate differences.

“It was a life-changing experience for me,” she adds. “Living in a residence hall can be challenging, but the long-term benefit is invaluable.”

Nevada State Assemblyman Jason Frierson ’96 (health science) lived in Nye Hall from 1988-89, and then the College Inn from 1989-90 when it served as a residence hall. He also supervised high school students staying in Nye Hall for camps during the summers of 1993 and 1994. Frierson describes living in the residence halls as a key part of his readiness to transition from college life and into adulthood.

“I developed lifelong friendships with students from all over the state and the world,” says Frierson, who is also chief deputy district attorney in the Child Welfare Division of the Clark County District Attorney’s Office. “We grew together and overcame boundaries to learn lessons that we all carry..."
Tales from the Halls

Late-night study groups, impromptu water balloon fights, making friends for life: This is the stuff residential hall life is made of. We asked University of Nevada, Reno alumni to share their favorite memories of living on campus.

“I worked at the University as a hall director in the early 1990s. During the 1990-91 academic year, Emeri Isaac ’99 (electrical engineering) came by asking to carve his name and graduating year in the tabletop at Lincoln Hall. This had previously been a tradition for many decades. He was very sick during the last several weeks of the school year and had never carved his name as had most seniors. After graduating, he had drawn his design (for the table) on Pacific Gas & Electric graph paper by lantern light as he spread electricity to rural California. He brought with him the same piece of paper he had kept for over 50 years.”

—Kevin Price, former resident director/warden coordinator

“My greatest residence hall moment was when my parents came to campus for the first time to visit me and they walked into my room mouths agape with the realization that 30 years before they had been standing in the same room, 204 C. It triggered a waterfall of memories and was a great way for me to learn about my parents’ college life.”

—Audrey (Martin) Goodnight ’97 (elementary education)

“Living in Juniper ... hearing the ducks way too early in the morning on Manzanita Lake.”

—Sheldon Griffin ’90 (general studies)

“During my freshman orientation, I had to stay at the dorms, and one of the students that I met told me about the positive and negative things when it came to living in the dorms. One of the things he said was that Manzanita was built on a graveyard. Another is that in one of the halls, you can hear a student that died while in the elevator and it’s believed that students can hear screaming at night. I was still a freshman at that time; so I did not really believe the ghost stories. Though, when I stayed in Argenta for two days, there was nothing that I encountered. I enjoyed my stay in the residence hall for those two days.”

—Rachel Novak Leach ’97 (elementary education)

“I lived in Argenta in 2006-07 and remember Colin Kaepernick ’10 (management) going down our first floor hallway on his skateboard all the time!”

—Reena Arora ’10 (human development and family studies)

“Putting plants in the urinals in the bathroom in White Pine. The guys visiting never liked it! But it made our female bathroom look better and it was easier to water them!”

—Karen Woodhead ’93 (speech communications)

“Secret barbecues on the Nye Hall roof at night; that and watching Monday Night Football in the common areas was always fun.”

—Chuck Carmone ’90 (marketing)

“I lived in Nye Hall on a floor with the football players from 1980-81; we played football in the halls. I also remember all the fire alarms! But I also lived in Lincoln and we used to sit out on the ‘deck’ and party. It was kind of like a fraternity... being all men, and we had parties with some of the sororities in the basement. My son lived in Nye last year; I haven’t gotten the stories out of him yet.”

—Seven Mack ’83 (accounting)

“I lived in Manzanita from 2001-02, and Canada from 2002-03. Both years were a blast!”

—Chuck Carmone ’90 (marketing)

“In Manzanita, I was a part of the residential hall association and worked to get the third floor a trash room. I made the closest friends; that made my college experience more than I could’ve expected.”

—Audrey (Martin) Goodnight ’97 (elementary education)

“I lived in Nye Hall in 1993-94. I loved the big snowball fights in the parking lot. I loved having a family away from home. Some of the best years of my life.”

—Mandy Costa ’06 (speech pathology)

“Not necessarily my favorite memory, but one I’ll never forget: September 11, 2001. I hadn’t even been in Nye Hall one month my first year of college when a little after 7 a.m. my roommate flung open the door and shouted, ‘We’re going to war! They bombed the World Trade Center!’ I jumped out of bed and looked out the window. There was no war outside... I ran down the hallway and in the TV room was a good dozen people, boys and girls, all staring at the TV. I sat down and watched the reruns of the planes crash into the towers then as they collapsed live. I asked everyone, ‘Did that just happen? Or was that a replay?’ A few people started to cry.”

—Jennifer Martin

“Lincoln Hall, 1997: The girls from Manzanita ran through the hallways one night. We got revenge later by singing Christmas carols in their dorm.”

—William King ’00 (mathematics)

“I lived in White Pine hall the years of 1967-69. We had to go all the way to the lobby to get a phone call. We had curfews and it was all girls. I think at one time it was for men, as we had urinals in our bathrooms and we used to keep our lab rats in the basin of them!”

—Goldie (O’Brien) Trembly ’71 (elementary education)

“The first time I lived in the states, and also the first time I ever left my country, I lived in Nye Hall from 1994-95. I still remember the smell of elevator. I enjoyed watching MTV with my friends. Everything was new to me.”

—Tomomi Maeda ’98 (art)

“White Pine Hall, 1970-71: Being in a suite with six other guys and not only getting to know them, but the sociogram of all their friends; an amazing way to meet all sorts of people. I truly believe all first-year students should experience this, if possible... hanging out in the lounge listening to the very first-ever Monday Night Football broadcast, and then of course all the rest: being extremely close to the Old Gym for concerts, boxing matches, pick-up games...amazing times. I can (and still do) pick out my room every time I pass by on North Virginia.”

—Jan Miller ’73 (elementary education, special education), 90M.Ed. (counseling and educational psychology)
with us still. The residence halls provided a family away from home for me and many of my friends who were away from home for the first time.”

Stephanie Fujii ’90 (speech communications), ’94M.A. (counseling and educational psychology), dean of instruction for Scottsdale Community College in Arizona, was both a resident and resident advisor in Nye Hall. She credits the experience for opening the door to a career in student affairs and higher education.

“It’s a career that I love and have been in for nearly 24 years,” she says. “My experience made me competitive for my first job as a residence hall director. Being a resident advisor, I learned about leadership, working with students and my peers, dealing with conflict, policies and rules, expectations and boundaries, and student development. I was challenged at times, but the experience helped me grow on a variety of levels.”

Fujii describes the college experience as “so much more than the classroom.”

“I advocate living on campus because I believe in students taking full advantage of a truly holistic collegiate experience—learning from their peers, navigating differences, working toward consensus, managing autonomy and responsibility in an environment designed and created to facilitate positive growth,” she says. “Living on campus is living in a community created and designed to help students succeed. Plus, it is way fun!”

Fujii married a former resident advisor from Arizona State University, while one of her best friends, Laura Williams Dulgar ’88M.Ed. (counseling and educational psychology) was the residence director at Manzanita Hall.

“Residential Life is full of some of the most interesting and nice people—the kinds of folks who know how to plan a party and then break it up,” she says.
Residence hall life through the years

With great thanks to University Special Collections and Archives, these memories of student life on campus have been preserved for future generations to enjoy.


LOOK ONLINE
For more photos visit: www.unr.edu/silverandblue
Living and learning

The University first offered living-learning communities about eight years ago, with communities ranging in size from 18 to 64 students in several of the residence halls. Living-learning communities target first-year freshman, but the connections last throughout their college years. The communities provide educational and social opportunities to students who have chosen to live on campus: Students are assigned to the same floor in a residence hall, take one or more core courses with other students in the community and actively participate in their floor communities.

In 2012, the University became one of the few campuses in the nation to offer a dedicated living-learning residence hall, designed to group students together based on their academic interests.

The Nevada Living Learning Community, a five-story building at the corner of College Drive and North Virginia Street, houses 320 students organized by interest area: art, business, education, engineering, first-year students, honors, journalism, pre-nursing
“Students are part of a community that they can study with, and they help each other succeed academically,” says Teri Galvin, assistant director for the University’s Residential Life, Housing and Food Services. “This program connects the students to the campus while uniting them with active faculty members.”

On average, living-learning community students have a 10 percent higher GPA compared to off-campus students, says Serge Herzog, University director for institutional analysis. These students also have an almost 10 percent higher retention rate.

“Students accepted into the University’s living learning communities cultivate the skills and abilities needed to succeed at the University through a variety of unique experiences,” says Shannon Ellis, vice president for student services. “The close interaction with faculty and experiential connections to the University curriculum help all partici-

The billiards room at Lincoln Hall has long offered residents a way to relax and unwind between classes and exams. The nine residence halls on campus offer television rooms and meeting lounges to provide students with dedicated spaces to enjoy campus life and recharge for their next academic challenge.
National research indicates that students who live on campus in a residence hall meet more people and make more friends, are more satisfied with their college experience, more likely to earn a higher GPA, more likely to obtain a bachelor’s degree in four years, and are more involved in academic and extracurricular activities.

**Into the future**

With a record number of students now living on the Nevada campus, the demand for space is rapidly growing. Plans are underway for three new residences—approximately 1,200 student beds—by 2019.

Graduate and family housing is also evolving to accommodate rising enrollment and changing demographics. The ground lease has been approved for a public-private partnership that will result in 120 new living units on the Nevada campus in 2014 to meet the needs of graduate students and students with families attending the University.

The new three-story Graduate Family Student Apartment complex will replace the current facility, University Village, located east of the Lombardi Recreation Building. The old building was built in 1960 with 40 one-bedroom units for graduate students—not enough to meet the needs of the current student population.

Graduate student enrollment has increased consistently over the past 50 years, and there are more “nontraditional” students—students in their late 20s, 30s and...
40s—who already have families, Ellis says. The new facility will better accommodate the needs of current students, as well as help make the campus more attractive to those considering a graduate education at the University, which now offers more than 90 graduate programs.

The 120 units will provide 212 beds; some units will be one bedroom, one bath, and others will have two bedrooms, two baths. Each unit will have modern appliances, cooling and heating systems and washers and dryers—features that were absent in the old building. In addition, there will be a gated, secure courtyard for children’s activities.

“Our graduate students and students with families have really been wanting more modern and appropriate housing to support their educational goals, enhance their lives and continue to provide them with a strong connection to the University,” Ellis says. “At the end of the day, that’s what living on campus is all about.”

Residence Hall Association traditions

Canada Hall Safe Trick-or-Treat
Canada Hall invites students from local elementary schools to come and trick-or-treat in the hall in a safe environment. Canada Hall residents decorate their hallways, dress in costume and hand out candy to the children.

Carnival
Carnival celebrates the cultures and customs of the University’s international students. Themed booths help residents “travel the world.”

Duck Day
Each year, Nye Hall raises money for the Water Project, which provides sustainable water projects to communities in sub-Saharan Africa. The event includes a barbecue and water-related events.

Extravaganza
The Extravaganza, held at the Downunder Cafe, features a three-course meal served by University staff.

Last Lecture Series
The Last Lecture Series is offered monthly by academic mentors who ask professors to deliver a lecture based on this question: “If you were dying and had one lecture left to give, what would you talk about?” The concept is based on The Last Lecture, a book co-authored by the late Randy Pausch, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

Lincoln Haunted Basement
Lincoln Haunted Basement is an annual event by White Pine and Lincoln halls. For two nights, the entire basement of Lincoln Hall is turned into a haunted house and opened to the local community. Entry fees and food donations benefit the Evelyn Mount Community Outreach Program, which provides food to needy families in the Reno/Sparks area.

Multiple Sclerosis Clothing Drive
At the end of the fall and spring semester, the Housing, Residential Life, and Food Service Department partner with Friends of Multiple Sclerosis. Clothing bins are placed in each hall and residents donate clothing, sheets and blankets.

Norman’s Birthday
Norman the Gnome is the Sierra Hall mascot. Every year Norman has a birthday celebration coupled with a philanthropy event. In 2013, Norman’s birthday wish was to raise funds for the Twilight Wish Foundation, an organization that grants wishes to elderly people who are below the poverty line.

Professors and Pajamas
Professors and Pajamas is an annual event where professors are invited to come into the hall (pajamas are welcomed and encouraged) to talk about things they wish they knew as freshmen, things that frustrate them about the students, and best ways to build a relationship with them.

RHA Block Party
The Residence Hall Association’s Block Party kicks the year off by inviting residents to mingle, listen to music and learn about the RHA.

Silver Chef
The Silver Chef competition is hosted every semester, challenging residents to prepare meals when provided with limited resources.

Wolf Pack Your Basket
Each year, Argenta Hall resident volunteers provide underprivileged children and their families with a fun and friendly environment to hunt for Easter eggs.

Wolf Pack’s Got Talent
Wolf Pack’s Got Talent brings residents together by showcasing the students’ many talents. This year’s first-place winner claimed victory by beatboxing and solving a Rubik’s Cube at the same time.