Message from the President

Dear Nevada Alumni,

I love the University of Nevada, Reno. There, I’ve said it. For those of you who know me, this should come as no surprise. Thinking of the reasons I feel such a bond with the University, it usually boils down to one thing: the students. I have had the unique experience of not only graduating from Nevada, but also working at my alma mater where most of my responsibilities included direct service to students. Through this work, I had the opportunity to interact with thousands of talented students who made coming to campus each day such a pleasure. These former students are now alumni and it is my privilege to continue to serve them as president of the Alumni Council.

For those I know personally and those I haven’t yet met, I hope you are proud of the campus you see today, because each of you contributed to its development. An outstanding institution doesn’t just happen overnight. It is built upon the successes of all who have gone before—that is you, the alumni. You can continue to assist in the progress of the University through financial support and through participation in campus activities. One way to ensure that you stay involved is to join the Nevada Alumni Association. If you are already a member, thank you. If not, I urge you to join by visiting http://alumni.unr.edu/membership.

Fall is such an exciting time on campus and I hope you have the opportunity to join us for the many activities we have planned, including tailgate parties in Legacy Hall prior to each home football game. The event you don’t want to miss is Homecoming (Oct. 21-26). Why, you ask? First of all, we host the Rebels of UNLV. Secondly, it’s a three-day weekend. What better way to spend it than supporting your Wolf Pack? In addition to the game, don’t miss the inaugural Wolf Pack March from the Arch on Friday evening, where current students, alumni and community members will meet at the Reno Arch and march as one to the Homecoming carnival on the Quad. I hope to see you there.

I can’t believe my term as president is coming to an end. What an honor it has been to serve in this capacity. I’d like to thank all Alumni Council members and the Nevada Alumni Association team who have worked diligently this year to make a difference for our great University.

Sincerely,

Rita (Mann) Laden ’96 Ed.D.
President, Nevada Alumni Council
Frank Y. Jackson ’70 (political science) has retired after more than 23 years as a judicial officer, most recently as a justice with the California Court of Appeal in Los Angeles. Frank has also retired after teaching part time for 40 years at several colleges and universities.

Ronald D. Digesti ’71 (zoology), ’73 M.S. (zoology) has recently retired from his law firm in order to pursue his mediation practice full time. Ron and his wife, Yolanda, live in San Jose, Calif., and enjoy an active lifestyle including hiking, fishing, bicycling, travel and sporting events. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Chris Ober ’78 (managerial sciences) left the Hampton Inn in October 2012 and was hired by Staybridge Suites as the director of sales. He won his first motocross race last summer at the age of 56 and has been flown to San Diego to play drums with a band for private parties which has been far more satisfying than anything he’s ever done in business. Chris is engaged to former Nevada Tri Delta Melissa (Sharp) Sewell ’82 (elementary education) and he has three children, two grandchildren, one dirt bike, four pairs of skis and one set of drums.

Susan D. Desmond-Hellman ’78, ’82 M.D. (premedical), the University of California, San Francisco Chancellor, is joining Facebook’s board of directors. Susan

Shondel M. Ferrera ’97 (human development and family studies) recently married Joseph C. Seth in Maui.

Clint J. Alverson ’03 (civil engineering) and Amanda M. (Bul-lard) Alverson ’10 (elementary education) were married Aug. 4, 2012 in Escondido, Calif.

Bradley J. Sage ’08 (criminal justice) and Cathleen M. Cor-sun ’06 (elementary education), ’11 M.E. (educational specialties) were married July 13, 2013 at Kings Beach, Lake Tahoe.

Justin C. Jo ’09 (nutrition) and Rachel R. Lane ’11 (environmental science) were married June 1, 2013 in Reno. They celebrated at Galena Creek Regional Park with friends and family and are excited to continue their lives together in Reno.
also sits on the board of directors for Procter & Gamble and serves as a trustee for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a non-profit biomedical research organization.

Rick Mitchell ’82Ph.D. resides in western New York and is a professor in the State University of New York system. Before Every Other Fall, his second book of poetry, is published by Aldrich Press, Hemet, California. His poems “prompt a feeling of immediacy, intimacy and sensory richness” that moves readers “from the vulnerability of innocence to the strength of graceful experience.”

Dale A.R. Erquiaga ’85 (political science) was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction Aug. 26 by Governor Brian Sandoval ’86 (foreign affairs).

Troy L. Dillard ’88 (criminal justice) was appointed director of the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles by Governor Brian Sandoval. Troy is a former administrator of the Department of Motor Vehicles’ Compliance Enforcement Division and has been serving as interim director since November 2012.

‘90s

Wade B. Gochnour ’92 (accounting) was named to the 2013 Mountain States Super Lawyers list. Selection for this list requires a statewide survey of lawyers, independent evaluation of candidates by an attorney-led research staff, a peer review of the candidates by practice area and a good-standing disciplinary check.

Michael A. Drinkwater ’93 (biology), ’01 (civil engineering) was named manager of the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility in January. Michael lives in Reno with his wife, Bonnie, and their two children, Kate and Tom.

Forey Duckett ’93 (criminal justice) enjoyed a family hike with his wife, Janie Vermeere-Duckett, and children, Camille, 11; Lila, 9; and Quincy, 2; at Hood Canal, Wash., while showing Nevada Wolf Pack pride.
William A. Creekbaum ‘95MBA has been appointed as a corporate retirement director by Morgan Stanley. William earned this designation after advanced training and examination, focusing exclusively on the corporate retirement plan marketplace. In addition, financial advisors must have $50 million in retirement assets, five years of industry experience and a clean compliance record. He is among 230 individuals at Morgan Stanley who have qualified for this prestigious designation.

Leonard R. Wohletz ‘98 (economics) recently celebrated 15 years with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. Leonard is a first vice president/financial advisor in the Reno office where he helps clients locally and in 17 states across the country plan for their financial goals and manage their assets. He and his wife, Lori, have two daughters and live in Reno.

‘00s
Jeffrey M. Bean ’01 (civil engineering), ’08MBA was recently promoted to senior engineering department vice president at Q & D Engineering. Jeff will be responsible for continuing to evaluate current and existing projects for areas of improvement and efficiencies, along with leading the strategic planning for business development in the engineering department.

Gordon S. Magnin ’01 (civil engineering) recently returned to Reno after living in Los Angeles for school and work. Gordon acquired his professional engineer and architectural licenses prior to his return to Reno and has joined Hawkins Associates Architects as a project architect, designer and building information modeling manager. Gordon also has an art practice, which includes illustrations for the New York Times and Bloomberg Business Week. His work was recently published in New American Paintings #102 West and Gestalten out of Berlin, Germany. His personal art and design work can be found at gordonmagnin.com and magnindesign.com.

Las Vegas Alumni Poolside Mixer
October 11, 2013 at 6:30 PM
Breathe Pool
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
$35 Per Person
Includes heavy appetizers and hosted beer and wine for the first hour.
For more information or to purchase tickets, visit alumni.unr.edu/events or call 888.NV ALUMS by October 1, 2013.
Michael E. Bewley ’02M.A. (educational leadership) is the Georgia Institute of Technology strength and conditioning coach. Mike recently launched his own website, nutracarina.com, and has designed an app that makes it easier to design a nutrition program to help enhance an athlete’s productivity or help anyone lead a healthier life. The app is interactive, and while it allows a coach to administer a system and keep track of multiple athletes, it is also designed for a solo user.

Brooke L. Santina-Keast ’04 (speech communications) celebrates the release of her first novel, Dishrags to Dirtbags (Lucky Bat Books), about a meek housewife who struggles through the police academy then lands an unlikely job working with inmates in jail. A deputy sheriff, Brooke writes with a colorful insider’s flair and is already working on a Dishrags sequel for release in the fall of 2014.

Katie M. (Monson) Tramonte ’04 (elementary education) has published her first book, Gospel-Centered Womanhood. This book shakes up culturally held notions of what it means to be a Christian woman and challenges women to seek real heart transformation instead of just external behavior modification.

Katie M. Cavender ’05 (journalism) has been promoted to assistant commissioner for strategic communications at Mountain West. Now entering her seventh year with Mountain West, Katie has sole managerial oversight of all aspects of the conference website and social media outlets. She plays an integral role in the Mountain West Digital Network and continues to serve as a secondary media contact for Mountain West football, as well as manage the league’s publications.

Paul Bogard ’07Ph.D. has authored his new book The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light.

‘10s
Sarah A. Hinckley ’10 (English, speech communications) has joined K. Sutherland PR as

Alfredo A. Carrasco ’94 (marketing) and his wife, Robin, would like to announce the birth of their son and future University of Nevada, Reno student-athlete, Cruz Alfredo Michael Carrasco. He was born Feb. 20, 2013.

Ty Windfeldt ’95 (health science) and his wife, Lori, welcomed their daughter, Madison Capri Windfeldt, on April 4, 2013. Madison joins her sister Katie Windfeldt and brother Cole Landaburu.

Kara (Katzmann) Keyes ’00 (elementary education), ’02M.Ed. (elementary education) and Jeff L. Keyes ’00 (secondary education) proudly announce the birth of their children, Korynn Anna Keyes, born Sept. 27, 2010, and Klayt Davin Keyes, born Feb. 12, 2013.

Renee L. (Zweigle) Gates ’06 (secondary education) and John W. Gates ’07 (mining engineering) are ecstatic to announce the birth of their son, William Joseph Gates, born March 4, 2013. William cheers on the Nevada Wolf Pack and 49ers.

Sophia C. (Raphael) Cardinal ’10 (accounting) and Andrew P. Cardinal ’09 (criminal justice) proudly announce the birth of their baby girl, Evaline Belle, on April 20, 2013.
Frightened by the stories they’d heard about the Las Vegas middle schools, my parents sent me to a private school. The goal of these “institutions” is to keep the riff-raff out so the elite can focus on their education. In reality, the “elite” were just as bad as the riff-raff, but with better cars and drugs.

Now, my parents couldn’t really afford to send me to such a school, so the whole family had to sacrifice in order to make this happen. They gave up things like new clothes, vacations, and their dreams— all while sticking to a strict bologna diet. Our family was classified as lower middle-class, which is worse than poor. At least “poor” qualifies you for some government programs. “Lower middle-class” means you make just enough to be told you make more than enough, so you end up struggling 100 percent on your own.

**K-von 03 (marketing) is a Nevada alum and comedian. He recently finished taping the one-hour comedy special TANX GOD! Order the hard-copy or digital download on www.K-vonComedy.com.**
Brady L. Rimington '10 (English) was recently promoted to the role of marketing specialist at Silver Oak Cellars in Napa Valley, Calif. Since joining Silver Oak in March, 2011, Brady has overseen print and digital marketing campaigns for Silver Oak winery and its sister brand, Twomey Cellars. A Reno native and proud Nevada grad, Brady gained valuable experience working for Skagen Designs, The Elizabeth Younger Agency, Greg Mason Advertising Arts and the Silver Peak Restaurant and Brewery.

Sara M. Robbins ’10 (journalism) is working at The Bauserman Group as a public relations and social media manager, handling clients such as the Reno-Tahoe Open and the Michael Bolton Charities, Inc. Previously, Sara was a public relations and community affairs manager for the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino.

Chelsey G. Farnworth ’12 (journalism) has joined The Impetus Agency as an account coordinator. Chelsey’s responsibilities include press release development, media relations, and the strategic implementation of traditional and social media initiatives. She is a volunteer for the Advocates to End Domestic Violence organization.

Brittany G. Bell ’13 (community health sciences) has received Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women’s prestigious Jean Wirths Scott Leadership Award for Outstanding Change Leadership. The award recognizes a member who has served on her chapter’s executive council in an exemplary manner and, in the performance of her duties, has implemented changes and improvements in her chapter or local panhellenic community.

Submissions are due Oct. 29 and can be sent to: chatter@unr.edu. We edit all submissions for style, clarity and length.
Once ambassadors. Always ambassadors.

They may not be undergrads anymore, but these Nevada alums are still a big part of campus life. As students, they served as university ambassadors through campus tours and one-on-one interaction with prospective students and their families. And as members of the Student Ambassador Alumni Chapter, they’re staying connected to their alma mater in even more ways, including networking opportunities for Student Ambassador Alumni, mentoring current Student Ambassadors and providing student recruitment support for the Office for Prospective Students. When it comes to Nevada pride, nobody puts their best paw forward like they do.

A love for their old school.
A commitment to the “new school.”

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