

# Great faculty: Leading the way to a stronger Nevada

**A**t the University of Nevada, Reno, our educators never stand still. Our faculty constantly reflects on how students learn, conduct research and participate in professional development to ensure the continuous advancement of our students' learning experience at Nevada.

The Board of Regents, the University, and local and national organizations present prestigious honors each year to honor and acknowledge Nevada's top faculty. Please join me in congratulating this year's slate of award winners, who share a commitment to excellence that has become the hallmark of a University of Nevada, Reno education.

—Kevin Carman, executive vice president and provost

## Peter Epstein '04M.M.

*Regents' Creative Activity Award*

Since coming to Nevada in 2003, Peter Epstein '04M.M. (music) has taken on many roles both within and outside the institution. In addition to teaching saxophone, world music, jazz and improvisational music for the Uni-

versity's Department of Music, Epstein serves as director of the University's program in jazz and improvisational music, as well as assistant director of the Reno Jazz Festival. Outside of his role as an educator, Epstein is also a world-renowned musician, having released more than 50 collaborative recordings and toured in more than 25 countries.

He has performed with the Absolute Ensemble and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra in Australia; recorded and toured in Sweden as a member of the Epstein Alliance (a band he co-leads with his father, saxophonist Ed Epstein); and performed at the Kathmandu Jazz festival in Nepal. Later this summer, Epstein plans to tour and record in Scandinavia with Swedish musicians Peter Nilson and Johnny Aman, and will later record in New York City.

## Elena Pravosudova

*Regents' Academic Advisor Award, Undergraduate*

Originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, Elena Pravosudova is an associate professor of biology in the University's College of Science. Pravosudova joined the University in 2007. She has a master's in zoology from St. Petersburg

University in Russia and a Ph.D. in evolution, ecology and organismal biology from The Ohio State University. Over the past few years, she has shifted her focus from research to undergraduate teaching and advising.

Principles of Biological Investigations, taught by Pravosudova, was one of only 36 courses internationally to receive a 2012 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Exemplary Courses from Blackboard Inc. The international company works with clients to develop and implement technology that improves education.

## Robert Ostergard

*Regents' Academic Advisor Award, Graduate*

Robert Ostergard received his bachelor's in political science and economics in 1992 from the University of Massachusetts and his master's and doctorate degrees in political science from the State University of New York, Binghamton. He served as the associate director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies and assistant professor of political science at the State University of New York, Binghamton from 2000-06. He is an associate professor of political science and director of graduate stud-



Peter Epstein '04M.M.



Elena Pravosudova



Robert Ostergard

Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas or self-submitted



**Iain Buxton**

## Iain Buxton

### *Foundation Professor*

Iain Buxton, chair of the Department of Pharmacology, has taught a wide range of pharmacology courses during his 28 years at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. He has contributed to the most recent transformation of the pre-clinical curriculum at the School of Medicine, a transformation that has profound effects on how pharmacology is taught. Buxton has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles and contributed to three textbooks in pharmacology and therapeutics. He has received the 2011 Regents' Researcher Award, the 2011 Vada Trimble Outstanding Mentor Award and the University's 2008 Outstanding Researcher Award.

## Dhanesh Chandra

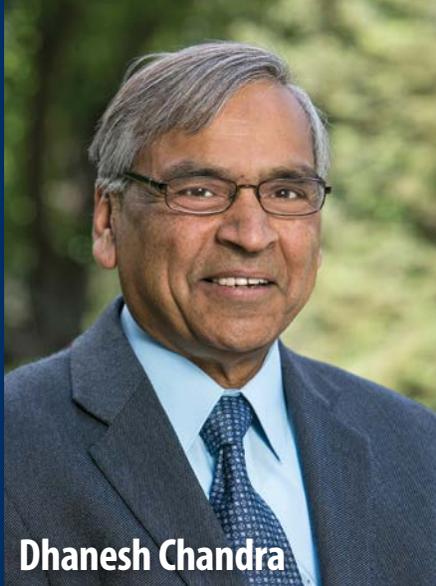
### *Foundation Professor*

Dhanesh Chandra, a metallurgical and materials professor at the College of Engineering, is an international researcher known for his work on X-ray diffraction and hydrogen storage. Since joining the University's faculty in 1987, he has built a well-respected laboratory for the University utilizing thermodynamic and crystallographic modeling to guide his research. Chandra's research is in the advanced areas of energy storage and conservation; such as low-pressure solid state hydrogen storage, organic crystals for thermal energy storage and others. He was awarded the Mackay School of Mines Outstanding Teacher Award in 1991 and the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award in 2000.

## Eric Rasmussen

### *Foundation Professor*

Eric Rasmussen, a world-renowned Shakespeare and early modern drama scholar, specializing in the areas of scholarly editing,



**Dhanesh Chandra**

bibliography and textual criticism. Rasmussen co-edited "The Royal Shakespeare Company Complete Works of Shakespeare," now the standard text for Shakespeare studies and dramatic productions. He has been awarded the Alan Bible, F. Donald Tibbitts and Nevada Regents' teaching awards.

## Marsha Read '68, '69M.S.

### *Distinguished Faculty Award*

Appointed dean of the Graduate School in 2008, Marsha Read identifies strategic issues affecting graduate education at the University and has oversight of graduate student progress and the rules and regulations governing graduate education at Nevada. From 2008 through this year, Read, who began her faculty career at Nevada in 1973, was also the interim vice president for research, overseeing the administrative processes related to the University's sponsored research. From 2005-08, she served as associate vice president for research and associate dean



**Marsha Read '68, '69M.A.**



**Eric Rasmussen**

of the Graduate School. Read joined the Graduate School's administration as associate dean in 2000. From 1996-2000, Read was chair of the University's Department of Nutrition.

## Chris Cheney

### *Distinguished Service Award*

Christine Cheney, dean emerita of the College of Education, joined Nevada in 1984 as assistant professor in special education after completing her doctoral work at Indiana University. She was promoted to associate professor in 1990 and to professor in 1997. In 2003, she became founding department chair of the new Department of Educational Specialties, and in 2010 was named dean of the College of Education. She has received the Regents' Undergraduate Advisor Award (2001), the University Distinguished Teacher Award (2002), the Outstanding College of Education Outreach Award (2003) and the President's Award for Outstanding University Service (2004).



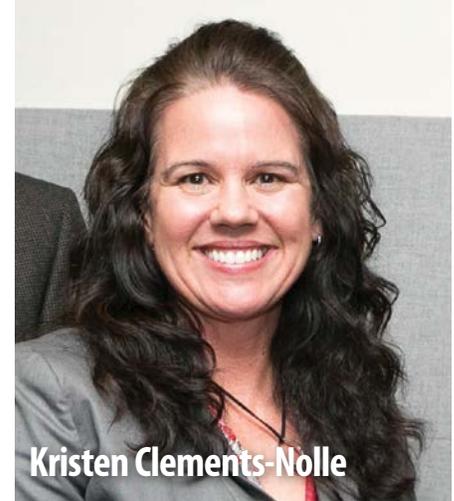
**Chris Cheney**



**Matthew Forister**



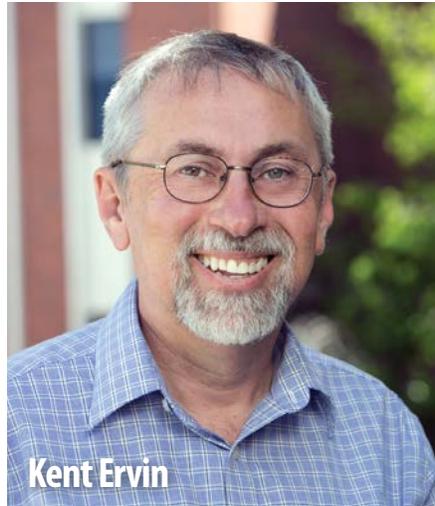
**John Cushman**



**Kristen Clements-Nolle**



**Erika Ryst, M.D.**



**Kent Ervin**



**Susan Donaldson '81,  
'90M.S., '94Ph.D.**

ies for the Political Science Department. His research is in the areas of the political economy of intellectual property rights, political violence, and human and international security issues, particularly of sub-Saharan Africa. In 2012, he received the University Graduate Academic Advisor Award.

His current research includes projects on global health and human rights, political assassinations and the impact of women's rights on the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. He previously served as series co-editor of the Ashgate-book series *Global Health* and has served as a consultant for the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa, the Council on Foreign Relations, UNAIDS.

## **Matthew Forister**

*Regents' Rising Researcher Award*

Matthew Forister, associate professor in the Department of Biology, came to Nevada in 2006 as research faculty in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science and joined the biology faculty two years later. Forister runs a lab dedicated to the ecology of insects and plants, and works on issues that include the origins of biodiversity and shifts in

diet in native animals adapting to exotic plants.

Since joining the department, Forister has published 27 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has garnered more than \$1.3 million in federal and local funding. Funded projects have supported local graduate students and undergraduates as they have conducted research in the Great Basin and across the tropics.

Forister has served on dozens of graduate student committees, and in 2012 received the Steven Jenkins Graduate Mentorship award, as well as the College of Science Mousel-Feltner Award for Excellence in Research. Forister is currently an associate editor for the international journal *Evolution*.

## **John Cushman**

*University Outstanding Researcher of the Year*

John Cushman, a Foundation Professor and director of the Biochemistry Graduate Program in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, joined the University in 2000. Since then, he has raised more than \$17 million in extramural grant funding and has published more than 130 journal articles and book chapters. Cushman was named the 2003 Outstanding Researcher of the Year for the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and

Natural Resources.

He is the biomass/biofuels group leader within the University's Renewable Energy Center, was chair of the Faculty Senate's Research and Grants Committee in 2012, a member of the Institutional Biosafety Committee and numerous other committees. He is also an associate editor for several scientific journals.

## **Kristen Clements-Nolle**

*F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teacher Award*

Kristen Clements-Nolle is an associate professor of epidemiology in the School of Community Health Sciences and conducts workforce development training with the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT). Clements-Nolle teaches courses in epidemiology, research methods and HIV/AIDS. She also coordinates the master of public health culminating experience course and many students have published papers developed in this course in peer reviewed journals. She uses a variety a teaching techniques to engage students and enjoys mentoring students in her research lab.

Since joining the University in 2003, she has received several teaching awards, including the Division of Health Sciences Excellence



**Michelle Bruce**

in Teaching Award and the Master's of Public Health Teacher of the Year Award.

## Erika Ryst, M.D.

*Distinguished Outreach Faculty Award*

Erika Ryst is a board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist and associate professor at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, where she serves as the program director for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship and as the interdisciplinary training director for the Nevada Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities program. She completed her undergraduate education at Stanford University, followed by medical school at the University of Southern California, and post-graduate general psychiatry residency and child psychiatry fellowship training at Harvard Medical School. Ryst has been on the school's faculty since 2004.

In addition to her training roles, Ryst serves as a consultant to the Washoe County School District and the Washoe County Department of Social Services. She also provides direct psychiatric diagnosis and treatment of children and adolescents in multiple settings throughout Reno.

## Kent Ervin

*Faculty Senate Award for Outstanding Service*

Foundation Professor Kent Ervin joined the faculty of the Department of Chemistry in 1990. He holds bachelor's degrees from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley. He primarily teaches physical chemistry courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels

Ervin's research group uses mass spectrometry techniques to study the reaction dynamics and energetics of ion-molecule reactions in the gas phase, with applications to combustion chemistry and catalysis.

As the University's faculty representative on the Nevada System of Higher Education Retirement Plan Advisory Committee since 2006 and



**Peter Goin**

former chair of its investment management subcommittee, Ervin has promoted improvements in investment options and reduced costs for the faculty defined contribution retirement plans. While serving on the Faculty Senate salary and benefits committee, twice as chair, he was a dedicated advocate for equitable health insurance coverage and domestic partner benefits for University employees.

## Susan Donaldson '81, '90M.S., '94Ph.D.

*Faculty Senate Award for Outstanding Service*

Susan Donaldson '81 (biology), '90M.S. (hydrology/hydrogeology), '94Ph.D. (hydrology/hydrogeology) joined Cooperative Extension in 1994 as a water quality specialist. As a student, she recognized the importance of having a voice in University governance. Since that time, she has participated in numerous committees and special assignments in support of the University, culminating in service on the Faculty Senate beginning in 2011.

Donaldson also served as president of the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals in 2008 and as secretary of the Joint Council of Extension Professionals in 2009 to support Cooperative Extension at the national level.

Working with a group of professionals from western states, Donaldson developed the Living on the Land curriculum to help small-acreage landowners better protect their natural resources. The curriculum is in use across the United States and in several foreign countries.

She recently received the 2013 Wendell McCurry Excellence in Water Quality Award from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

## Michelle Bruce

*Distinguished Classified Employee Award*

Michelle Bruce has been with the Division of Student Services for nearly 17 years, serving

as the alternative testing coordinator at the Disability Resource Center. Bruce supervises the alternative testing program, which involves overseeing the proctoring of exams for more than 225 students, totaling more than 1,700 exams per semester. She works closely with academic faculty ensuring protocols are followed and the integrity of exams is maintained.

Bruce also manages the Disability Resource Center budgets for both state and non-state accounts, participates in training and supervising student staff members, and is responsible for all purchasing and payroll accounts.

She has received recognition for her five, 10, and 15 years of service to the University, and was recognized as Classified Employee of the Month in 2005.

## Peter Goin

*Outstanding Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentor Award*

Peter Goin, 1996 Foundation Professor and chair of the Department of Art, is the author of *Tracing the Line: A Photographic Survey of the Mexican-American Border*; *Nuclear Landscapes*; *Stopping Time: A Rephotographic Survey of Lake Tahoe and Humanature*. In 2005, Goin and Paul F. Starrs served as co-authors of *Black Rock*, a dedicated investigation of the legendary desert region in northern Nevada.

Goin's photographs have been exhibited in more than 50 museums nationally and internationally, and he is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships. His video work has earned him an Emmy nomination as well as the Best Experimental Video Award at the 2001 New York International Film & Video Festival. At the turn of the new century, Goin was awarded the Governor's Millennium Award for Excellence in the Arts.

In fall of 2009, the Black Rock Institute Press published the fine art limited edition, slip-cased book titled *Nevada Rock Art*, Goin's focused study on Nevada's petroglyphs and pictographs. Reflecting his long-standing work studying Lake Tahoe, Goin was the author of *South Lake Tahoe: Then & Now* and co-author with Paul F. Starrs for *A Field Guide to California Agriculture*, which won the J. B. Jackson Prize for publishing excellence in 2010. 

—Roseann Keegan