### Inside

- **ALUMNA OF THE YEAR:** Barbara Smith Campbell ’78 .......................... 32
- 2014 Nevada Alumni Association Award Recipients ......................... 33
- Nevada Alumni Council .......................................................... 38
- Class Chat ................................................................. 39
- Kickin’ it with K-von | Holiday Savings Time .............................. 43
- Chapter Updates ............................................................. 44
- Nevada Alumni Association Members ...................................... 48
- Gatherings: Emeriti Faculty Reception / Pack Picnics on the Quad .................. 52
- Gatherings: Hike and Hydrate / Football Tailgate Party ................... 54
- Family Tree Challenge: Downer/Sanders Family ......................... 55
- Remembering Friends ....................................................... 56

*Photo by Jeff Dow*
Put your head down and work hard.” Those words have guided Barbara Smith Campbell ’78 (economics) from her time as a 29-year-old pregnant wife and mother completing her college degree, through her many years as a career professional moving through the ranks of the construction and development sector of the state’s gaming industry, and through countless miles in the sky commuting between Reno, Las Vegas, Detroit and Tunica, Miss., for work.

Not surprisingly, Barbara’s hard work has paid off in spades. She was named the 2014 Alumnus of the Year by the Nevada Alumni Association in recognition of her many years of dedication to the University of Nevada, Reno, the community and the state. This year, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation made a million dollar gift to the University to establish a professorship at the College of Business in honor of her years of service on the foundation’s board (see story on page 57).

Barbara’s gumption came at an early age. A horseback riding accident at 14 left her with extensive injuries and in a full-body cast for 11 months. She didn’t walk on her own until age 16.

“That time in my life certainly taught me that things may not always come easily. Patience is not my strongest virtue, but perseverance may very well be,” she says.

Today, Barbara is principal of Consensus LLC, a consulting firm providing strategic tax planning for businesses located or planning to locate in the state of Nevada. She has a total of 28 years of state and local government tax expertise.

Prior to starting Consensus LLC, Barbara served as board chair of the Nevada Tax Commission. She was first appointed by Gov. Richard Bryan ’59 (prelegal) and subsequently by Gov. Bob Miller and Gov. Kenny Guinn. During her tenure on the commission, she was also director of finance for Mandalay Development, a subsidiary of Mandalay Resort Group. After the company’s merger with MGM Mirage, she became vice president of finance for MGM Grand Resorts Development.

She is a gubernatorial appointee and chair of the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange, which implemented the Affordable Care Act in Nevada. She also serves as a community board member for St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center, and is on the board of directors of the publicly traded American Pacific Corporation, prior to the company going private.

Additional board positions include audit committee chair for Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco; advisory board member of AMERCO, the parent company of U-Haul International; immediate past board chair of the Nevada Taxpayers Association; and three terms as board member for the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Board of Trustees.

She has also served on the boards of the KNPB Channel 5, Bishop Manogue Catholic School, Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Northern Nevada, the Nevada Women’s Fund, Council for the National Judicial College and Regional Water Planning Advisory Board.

—Roseann Keegan
2014 Nevada Alumni Association Award Recipients

Professional Achievement

Ronald J. “R.J.” Bath ’68 (management), ’71 MBA

R.J. Bath earned his bachelor’s and MBA from the University of Nevada, Reno. As a student, he enlisted in the Nevada Air National Guard. Upon graduation, R.J. attended the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, and then returned to Reno to practice law for the next 15 years.

In 1989, R.J. was recalled to active duty for Operation Desert Shield/Storm. His numerous assignments included the Pentagon, the Commission on Roles and Missions of the Armed Forces, director of United States Air Force (USAF) Strategic Planning, and the USAF world-wide director of the 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review.

R.J. retired in 2006 at the rank of major general and returned to Reno to active civic life. He currently is the vice chairman/treasurer of the Nevada Military Support Alliance, and serves on Nevada’s College of Science Dean’s Advisory Council, the President’s Legislative and Strategic Advisory Board, the City of Reno Anti-Graffiti Task Force, the Police Chief’s Citizen’s Advisory Board, the Governor’s Military Base Realignment and Closure Council, and he is a Nevada representative on the Southwest Defense Alliance.

R.J. and his wife, Barbara, have been married since 1973 and have one daughter, Veronika.

Raymond P. Davis ’71 (accounting), ’91 MBA

Ray Davis, president and CEO of Umpqua Holdings Corporation, has been instrumental in the unique strategy that has driven Umpqua Bank’s rapid growth. Since joining Umpqua Bank in 1994, Ray has grown the bank from six banking locations and $140 million in assets to more than 350 branches and $22 billion in assets.

Ray chronicled Umpqua’s path to expansion in his book, Leading for Growth: How Umpqua Bank Got Cool and Created a Culture of Greatness, which has been praised by business publications and leaders alike for its clear-cut take on innovation and leadership. His second book, Leading through Uncertainty: How Umpqua Bank Emerged from the Great Recession Better and Stronger than Ever, was published in November 2013.

Doris A. Sinofsky ’49 (journalism)

Doris Sinofsky earned her degree from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1949 and had a long and rewarding career as an educator. Since retirement, Doris has been able to pursue her original passion, journalism, through her work with a TV station and monthly newspaper at her independent living community in New Jersey. She fondly recalls an important lesson from her journalism classes at Nevada, “always be honest and tell a good story.” Doris stays active and busy, and her positive outlook on life and love for her family affords her good health and pride in the work she continues to perform.

University Service

Theodore J. “T.J.” Day (posthumously awarded)

A successful Nevada businessman, T.J. Day was greatly admired as a man of his word and who generously gave of himself to improve the lives of others. T.J. moved to Reno in 1978 and immediately became involved in the community. A charter board member of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, T.J. received the University of Nevada President’s Medal in 2000 and the Dean’s Award for the University of Nevada School of Medicine in 2004. He served on the W.M. Keck Foundation in Los Angeles as well as many local boards, including Boy Scouts of America, Nevada Area Council; Nevada Taxpayer Association; Nevada Museum of Art; Reno Philharmonic Association; Reno Air Racing Association; Sierra Nevada College; Sage Ridge School and NV Energy. T.J. was a community philanthropist and ranch operator, as well as a locomotive, aviation and automobile enthusiast.

A. Dan Rovig

Dan Rovig’s career in the minerals industry spans more than 50 years. He currently serves as chairman of the board of directors for Tahoe Resources Inc., and he is recently retired from Goldcorp Inc. Previously, Dan served as director, chairman, president and CEO for Glamis Gold Ltd. Prior to that, he served as an executive officer of British Petroleum Ltd., including its U.S. subsidiaries Amselco Minerals Inc. and BP Minerals America.

Though they are both Montana natives, Dan and his wife have resided in Reno since 1988. Dan is now serving his second term as a trustee of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. He is a registered member of the Geological Society of Nevada (GSN) and serves as a director of the GSN Foundation. In 2008, Dan was recognized as a Legion of Honor member by the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, and in 2001 he was elected to the American Mining Hall of Fame.
Outstanding Young Alumni

Amanda S. Casey ’99 (biology), ’06 M.D.
Amanda (Ferguson) Casey is a sixth generation Nevadan who graduated from Nevada with a bachelor’s in biology in 1999 and an M.D. in 2006. Since completing her medical training, she has served rural Nevada and is currently a hospitalist in Fallon, Winnemucca and Ely. Amanda married her high school sweetheart, Dusty, in 2001, and they have two daughters, Sequoya and Lakota. Amanda and her family enjoy snow skiing, wakeboarding, hiking and other outdoor activities.

Ryan C. Dotson ’02, ’05 M.S. (mathematics)
Ryan Dotson graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in applied mathematics. As a student, Ryan co-founded Fireball Information Technologies, which has recently been involved in a variety of interesting projects, including mapping underground ruins in Mexico, creating large-area, high altitude mapping systems for federal agencies, measuring glacial change with airborne photogrammetry in the arctic and Antarctic for NASA, and most recently, producing small-scale elevation maps of the surface of Mars with data acquired by cameras onboard the Mars Science Laboratory’s Curiosity Rover.

Ryan and his wife, Elaine ’02 (biology), ’10 M.S. (hydrology), also a Nevada graduate, have a 5-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter.

Kaustav Sinha ’05 M.S. (metallurgical engineering), ’08 Ph.D. (materials science)
Kaustav Sinha received his master’s in metallurgy and a Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2005 and 2008, respectively. Kaustav currently serves as project manager with Chevron’s lubricant additive business in the automotive engine oil group. He is currently leading Chevron’s next generation gasoline motor oil product development for North America and parts of Asia-Pacific.

Kaustav’s leadership in the area of fuel-efficient engine oil development has contributed to the advancement of industry-leading research and products in automotive lubricants. His research has garnered collaborations with government agencies, as well as premier academic and industrial research institutions both in the U.S. and abroad. Kaustav was awarded the U.S. Congressional Achievement Award for his leadership, entrepreneurship and scientific endeavors in his field.

Kaustav is married to another Nevada alumnus, Rashi Tiwari ’06 M.S., ’09 Ph.D. (mechanical engineering), and is the proud father of a 1-year-old daughter, Eira. He is an avid traveler who loves to try out different cuisines, and is passionate about cars and driving.

Alumni Association Service

Randy J. Brown ’89 (accounting)
A Reno native, Randy Brown, CPA, holds a degree in accounting from the University of Nevada, Reno. He is a member of the executive committee of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and a past president of the University of Nevada Alumni Council.

Randy has 17 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. He now serves as director of external and regulatory affairs for AT&T, where he is responsible for regulatory, legislative, governmental and community affairs in Nevada.

Randy is deeply committed to the community in which he lives and works, and holds leadership positions with numerous nonprofit agencies, including the Renown Community Advisory Committee, the Governor’s Broadband Task Force, the Nevada Taxpayers Association and the Renown Business Board.

Randy and his wife, Natalie, live in Reno with their son, Austin.

Scott D. Fielden ’88 (biology), ’93 M.D.
Scott Fielden is a native Nevadan and earned his bachelor’s and M.D. from the University of Nevada. Upon graduation, Scott trained in anesthesiology at Cornell University Medical Center in New York, and later completed a fellowship in pediatric cardiac anesthesia at UCLA. Scott has been practicing for 15 years and lives in Las Vegas with his wife, Jill, and their three children. He currently sits on the board for the University of Nevada School of Medicine Alumni Chapter, and is president of the Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter.

Jeffrey N. Pickett ’89 (finance)
Jeffrey Pickett graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a finance degree in 1989. In 2011, Jeff became president of the Alumni Council and led the March from the Arch initiative as a new tradition to integrate the student body.
alumni and the community.

Jeff’s community service extends beyond the University with his nonprofit service on the boards of many community organizations. He founded the Reno Tahoe Chapter of AIGA, the professional association for design, and in 2012 was bestowed the prestigious AIGA Fellow Award for his work in the field. Currently, Jeff is vice president with the DuPuis Group, a national consumer product branding agency. He also serves as director of the DRI Research Park at the Desert Research Institute.

Jeff founded Battle Born Beer in 2007, and his support of the University continues through its sponsorship of alumni events.

Silver & Blue Appreciation Award

Nell J. Redfield Foundation

A generous donor to the University of Nevada, Reno, the Nell J. Redfield Foundation has impacted all corners of the Nevada campus and beyond. Its founder, Nell Jones Redfield, was an Idaho native who moved to Reno with her husband, LaVere, in the 1930s. Mr. Redfield was successful in the stock market, and together, the couple purchased and accumulated land holdings in Washoe County. Following Mr. Redfield’s passing, Mrs. Redfield created the Nell J. Redfield Foundation in 1974. Throughout her lifetime, she made many connections with people on the Nevada campus, particularly the medical school, and she garnered a special interest in education.

For more than four decades, the Nell J. Redfield Foundation has provided more than $32 million in support of numerous programs on campus, including education, engineering, health sciences, renewable energy, science, theater and women’s athletics. Its funding provided for the Nell J. Redfield Foundation Scholarship for University of Nevada, Reno National Merit Scholars. The Foundation’s generous contribution made possible the Nell J. Redfield Campus, which services students and the community through the entire Nevada System of Higher Education.

The Redfield trustees include Mrs. Redfield’s niece, Jeane Jones, and Jerry Smith. They both received honorary degrees from Nevada, and are committed to ensuring that Mrs. Redfield’s philanthropic vision is fulfilled.

Chapter of the Year

Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter

The Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter proves to be a strong group with dedicated leadership. They regularly gather together at Scooters Pub to watch games and cheer on the Pack. In addition, the group held numerous social events this past year, including the Party at the Yurt at Las Vegas Ski Resort and Hike and Hydrate at Mt. Charleston. They also partner with the Nevada Alumni Association for local events.

Nevada proud in the heart of Rebel country, the Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter holds diverse events throughout the year to reconnect with old friends and cultivate new membership.

College and Unit Distinguished Alumni

Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources

William C. Helming ’64, ’67 M.S. (agricultural and resource economics)

Bill Helming earned his bachelor’s and master’s in agricultural and resource economics from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1964 and 1967, respectively. He later became the first economist for the National Cattleman’s Beef Association and founded CattleFax in Denver, where he served as its first general manager. Since 1972, Bill has been the successful owner and operator of Bill Helming Consulting Services. He is a nationally known and highly respected economist, agribusiness consultant, author and speaker.

Bill has a strong passion and love for the work he does. He created and produced a successful syndicated radio program that reached more than five million people per day throughout the U.S.

Bill gave the University’s Commencement address in 1988, and the Nevada Board of Regents presented him with the Centennial Alumnus Award the same year. Bill and his wife, Kathleen, now live in Olathe, Kan.

Business

Riley M. Beckett ’68 (accounting)

Riley Beckett was highly involved in student life during his time at the University of Nevada, Reno. He was a three-year Block N letterman on the boxing team, and involved with Blue Key, Coffin, and Keys and Delta Sigma Pi. Riley
2014 Nevada Alumni Association Award Recipients

was also involved in student government; he served as an ASUN senator for the College of Business and was later elected ASUN junior class president. Riley earned his law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1971 and returned to Nevada to pursue a successful practice, highlighted by a case he argued before the Australian Supreme Court.

Riley has always stayed close to the University and was honored to be appointed by former Nevada President Joe Crowley to Nevada’s President’s Legislative Liaison Committee. He also served on the board of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. He continues to strongly support Nevada as chairman of the Mallory Foundation.

Division of Health Sciences

Sandra Talley ’68 (nursing)

Sandra Talley discovered her passion for nursing as a student at the University of Nevada’s Orvis School of Nursing. The programming and staff inspired her to pursue a career in psychiatric nursing. She later earned her Ph.D. from the University of Utah, after which she taught and practiced at Yale University School of Nursing. While at Yale, Sandra received a Robert Wood Johnson Nurse Faculty Fellowship in primary care. Sandra was a chair of the Psychiatric Nursing Program and worked to develop professional organizations for psychiatric nurses. Sandra retired from Yale and now facilitates a psychiatric nurse practitioner track in the Orvis School of Nursing’s master’s program.

Education

Dorothy H. Huffey ’61 (counseling and guidance)

Dorothy Huffey is a fourth-generation Nevadan whose great-great grandfather was a signer of Nevada’s 1864 Constitution and served on the University of Nevada's first board of regents. Dorothy graduated from the University of Nevada’s College of Education with a degree in secondary education in 1961. She was a member of the University of Nevada’s Steering Committee for Higher Education for 12 years and in 1992 received the University of Nevada’s President’s Medal. She served as director of development and alumni for the University’s southern office until 2005 when she was granted emeritus status.

Dorothy’s lifelong dedication to community service was honored in 2009 with the Junior League’s Lifetime Community Achievement Award and in 2013 with the President’s Award for Outstanding Community Service. For the past 32 years, Dorothy has been the society columnist for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Engineering’s James G. Scruggham Medal

Stephanie A. Luongo ’05 (electrical engineering), ’09 M.S. (electrical engineering)

Stephanie Luongo graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a bachelor’s and master’s degree in electrical engineering. While at Nevada, she received the Department of Electrical Engineering Outstanding Service Award. She was also Nevada’s first winner of the Donald Reynolds’s Governor Cup Business Plan Competition.

Stephanie is currently a senior systems engineer at Sierra Nevada Corporation (SNC). She began her career as an intern with SNC in Sparks 11 years ago, and now works on the Dream Chaser program in the Space Systems division. Stephanie received SNC’s Extraordinary Commitment to Excellence in Leader-ship Award for her critical role in the avionics subsystem test and integration effort for the first full-scale flight test of the Dream Chaser vehicle.

Stephanie is a licensed professional engineer in the state of the Nevada and is also an instrument and glider-rated private pilot.

Liberal Arts

William A. Chaffin Jr. ’66 (political science)

As a University of Nevada, Reno ROTC graduate, Bill Chaffin served three years in the U.S. Army and was awarded the Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars. During his time at the University, he was a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and served as ASUN president. Bill later earned his law degree from the McGeorge School of Law in 1976 and is a founding member of the Sacramento Alumni Chapter and a past member of the Nevada Alumni Council.

Bill retired from his practice as a civil trial attorney in 2012. He and his wife, Lorena, are both lifetime members of the Nevada Alumni Association. They now live near Sacramento, Calif., and return to Reno often to use their Nevada Wolf Pack season tickets.

Libraries

Elizabeth S. Ray ’78 M.Ed. (education)

Elizabeth Ray earned her master’s from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1978 and taught elementary school in Washoe County School District (WCSD) for 25 years until her retirement in 2000. She remains an active volunteer with numerous local charities, including AAUW, the National Museum for Women in the Arts, the National Women’s History Museum, Historic Reno Preservation...
Douglas W. Smith ’97 Ph.D. (biology)  
Student  
Outstanding Graduate  
years and is now an emeritus of the board.  
The Mackay School Advisory Board for 10  
and water well evaluations. He has served on  
Watersource Engineers doing ground water  
engineering and construction, and then for  
worked at Sierra Pacific Power Company in  
him all over Nevada and the West. He later  
his degree, William’s career in mining took  
World War II.  
Italy, Sardinia, Corsica and France during  
aerial photo reconnaissance in North Africa,  
service, during which time he performed  
interrupted when he was drafted into military  
Reno in 1948. His academic career was briefly  
University of Nevada,  
engineering from the  
his degree in mining  
from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1997,  
and is currently the  
project leader for the  
Yellowstone Gray Wolf  
Restoration Project in  
Yellowstone Na-  
tional Park. Doug has  
published numerous  
papers on both the wolf and the beaver. His  
passion for wildlife has led his entire career,  
including the study of wolves on Isle Royal in  
1979, and in Minnesota in 1983 prior to studying  
the gray wolf in Yellowstone in 1997.  

School of Medicine  
Rubin H. Saavedra  
’95 M.D.  
Throughout his childhood, Rubin Saavedra dreamed of  
becoming a physician and helping the most underserved and working poor. He became  
an emergency medical technician when he was 15 years old, and after earning his undergraduate degree from UNLV, came to the University of Nevada School of Medicine to fulfill his lifelong dream. Following graduation in 1995, Rubin was elected chief resident of the Las Vegas Family Residency Program. In 2005, he started the Community Outreach Medical Center, a public, nonprofit medical center dedicated to helping the working poor and under/uninsured.  

Science  
Opal F. Adams ’85  
M.S. (geology)  
After earning her bachelor’s in geology  
from the University of Idaho, Opal Adams spent several years in the wilds of Alaska, living in tents and avoiding bear encounters, before beginning  
her graduate work at the Mackay School of Mines. She spent the next 15 years conducting mineral exploration and mining throughout the Western United States. In 2000, Opal and her husband, Rich DeLong, started Environ-scientists Inc., an environmental permitting firm that services natural resource companies and the federal government. Opal is currently serving as a trustee on the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Board, is a member of the Executive Advisory Board of the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, past president of the Nevada Geological Society, and a past trustee on the Board of the American and Exploration Mining Association. For fun, Opal enjoys photography and is very involved with rescue dogs at Sugarland Ranch.  

The Reynolds School  
Susan E. Thronson  
’83 (journalism)  
Susan (Anderson) Thronson graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1983 with a bachelor’s in journalism. During her time at Nevada, she interned for Sen. Paul Laxalt ’71 (honorary doctor of laws), ’85 (honorary degree) and the Nevada Appeal. She also worked at the Sagebrush, and edited the 1982 edition of Artemisia.  

Susan’s career in marketing is highlighted by her role as senior vice president of global marketing for Marriott International Inc., a position she held until 2013. Susan led the company’s integrated marketing efforts for its portfolio of 18 hotel brands in more than 72 countries. Her responsibilities included on- and off-line advertising, social media, strategic alliances, brand and field marketing, and customer relationship.  

Susan was appointed to the Angie’s List Inc. board of directors in 2012, and she also serves as secretary on the PFLAG National Board of Directors.  

Society, the Discovery Museum, the National Automobile Museum, Nevada Museum of Art and Retired Teachers of WCSD.  
Education has always been important to Elizabeth. Through the Help the Helpless program, she supports four girls in India with their education through high school and college, if they desire. Elizabeth was an active supporter of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and DeLaMare Science and Engineering Library.  
Elizabeth continues her commitment to education by creating educational materials and volunteering at Reno’s Grace Warner Elementary School in her spare time.
Message from the President

Dear Nevada Alumni,

Our University is much like a fine wine… it gets better with age. The University of Nevada continues to excel in a multitude of areas, making me proud to be part of the Nevada Alumni Association. It is often stated that the University of Nevada is “Reno’s best kept secret.” I’m here to tell you, it’s a secret no more!

I am saddened to see my term as president come to an end so quickly, but I am excited to see the bright future ahead. It has been a pleasure to witness the awe-inspiring projects the University has completed during my term, including the College of Liberal Arts and School of the Arts Act 1 renovation project, the Earthquake Engineering Laboratory and the Ponderosa Village (a new graduate housing on campus).

Future projects we are looking forward to include the E. L. Wiegand Fitness Center, the William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center and Peavine Hall (a new residence building). I encourage everyone to visit and see firsthand the transformations that are unfolding.

The fall season is upon us, bringing a number of reasons to visit campus, including home football games! Back the Pack, and be sure to join us at the official Alumni Association tailgate parties in Legacy Hall, starting two hours prior to kick off for each home game. Most importantly, you don’t want to miss the Homecoming game against arch rival Boise State Oct. 4. Homecoming celebrations begin the evening before with the second annual March from the Arch. Last year’s event was a tremendous success, and this year’s planning committee is making it even more impressive. I hope to see everyone there!

It truly has been an honor to serve as President of Nevada Alumni Council. I would like to thank the entire council for their support and commitment to the University. Most importantly, I would like to thank the Nevada Alumni Association team. They work tirelessly to ensure that each and every event is successful. The efforts of this team do not go unnoticed, and it is because of their dedication that we have such an amazing University of Nevada Alumni Association!

Once Nevada. Always Nevada!

Sincerely,

Ty Windfeldt ’95
President, Nevada Alumni Council
Thomas J. Hall ’65 (finance) became the board chair of the Community Foundation of Western Nevada Board in July. He has been an active trustee for the foundation since 2008. The Community Foundation is leading a community-wide initiative in Washoe County to address the challenges facing runaway, homeless, unattached and aging-out foster youth between the ages of 12 and 24. Tom has served as president of the Reno-Stead Airport Association, the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation, the Nevada Alumni Association, the Washoe County Bar Association and the Reno Air Racing Foundation.

Ellyn Simms Mackenzie ’64 (English), ’77 M.A. (educational administration/higher education) and the Nevada State Museum recently coordinated USS Nevada (BB-36) battleship’s 100th birthday and memorial plaque celebration in Carson City as part of the Nevada Sesquicentennial Celebration. The July 11 event was the latest endeavor in a project that she and her 1991 Vaughn Middle School gifted and talented students have worked on for the past 23 years.

Mercy Mott ’81 (nursing) is the assistant program director at Breckinridge School of Nursing and Health Sciences at ITT Technical Institute in Rancho Cordova, Calif. After graduating from Nevada, Mercy worked for the VA Long Beach Health Care System and later was a traveling nurse for Cross Country TravCorps. She earned a master’s in nursing from UCLA and taught at Hawaii Pacific University for 16 years before retirement. She came out of retirement to work at Nevada State College in Henderson and received her doctor of nursing practice from Case Western Reserve University. She has three children and nine grandchildren.

Mark E. Smith ’86 M.S. (civil engineering) was appointed to the board of directors for Brazilian Nickel Ltd., a London-based mining company with nickel laterite properties.
in Brazil. Mark is a specialist in processing nickel laterite ores using heap leaching, a technique broadly used in Nevada for gold and silver. Mark is also a member of the University of Nevada, Reno College of Engineering Advisory Board.

90s

Glen S. Krutz ’90 (political science), ’93 M.P.A. (public administration and policy) was appointed vice provost for academic initiatives at the University of Oklahoma. In addition to his current administrative duties, he will continue to teach freshman American government classes as professor of political science. He previously served as associate director of the University of Oklahoma’s Carl Albert Congressional Studies Center and director of Arizona State University’s partnership program with The Washington Center in Washington, D.C.

Wade Gochnour ’92 (accounting) is one of Howard & Howard’s seven attorneys recently named to the 2014 Mountain States Super Lawyers and Rising Stars lists. Selections for this list are made by the research team at Super Lawyers through a rigorous process, including a statewide survey of lawyers, independent evaluation of candidates, a peer review of candidates and disciplinary check. Mountain States Super Lawyers covers the states of Nevada, Utah, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. Only 5 percent of the lawyers in each of these states are named to Super Lawyers.

Donato Cabrera ’96 (applied music) is the resident conductor for the San Francisco Symphony, the Wattis Foundation Music Director for the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, and music director for the Las Vegas Philharmonic, the California Symphony and the New Hampshire Music Festival. His 2014-15 season will take him across the country and abroad.

Jeremy Rayburn ’05 (information systems) and Elizabeth Rayburn ’05, ’14 M.Ed. (education) are happy to announce the birth of their son Jake, born Jan. 22.

Brandy Rada ’05 (environmental and wildlife biology) and Katie (Revelino) Rada ’06 (health ecology) proudly announce the birth of their son, Levi David, born May 13.

Rachel Graffam ’07 MBA (business administration) and Dan Graffam ’08 (civil engineering) welcomed twins March 20. Daphne and Esther now join big sister Charlotte on hikes and bike rides around their Galena-area home.

Greg Ruzzine ’07 (finance) and Emily (Stratton) Ruzzine ’08 (journalism), would like to introduce their newest Wolf Pack fan, Dominic Daniel Ruzzine, born May 5, 2014.
Joey Orduna Hastings ’97 (political science) has been awarded the honor of Court Executive of the Year by the Nevada Association of Court Executives. Joey was nominated by the Second Judicial District Court judges and several elected and appointed Washoe County officials. She is the district court administrator and clerk at the Second Judicial District Court in Reno.

Tom Lavin ’97 M.A. (counseling and educational psychology) is the recipient of the 2014 IMPACT AWARD from the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS) for his work as a psychotherapist and health educator. The ACBS noted Tom’s 19-year health and wellness show, New Skills for Living on KOLO 8, specifically his 17-part-series on using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to address anxiety, depression, chronic illness, substance abuse and problematic relationships. Also noted were his psycho-education series “ACT: Live Better” and “ACT Mindfully,” as well as classes for nurses, social workers and other healthcare providers on how to respond therapeutically to patients who are suffering.

Mike Anderson ’99 (electrical engineering), ’03 MBA was recently hired by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Mike and his wife, Holly, will move with their two daughters to northern Virginia.

Maj. Dennis Crawford ’01 (geography) is an Air Force nuclear and missile operations officer and has been assigned to the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he will teach military and strategic studies. This is his sixth active duty assignment.

Kristen Simmons ’03 (psychology) is author of the ARTICLE 5 trilogy, a young-adult dystopian series. She has six more fiction books due out in the next three years.

Austyn Crites ’05 (Spanish) is co-founder and president of Rockzip Highballoons, and...
recently launched a Kickstarter campaign to fund product development. With a mission to promote “inexpensive space access for all,” Austyn and his team build high-altitude balloons that are light and strong enough to float up to the edges of space. Applications for their products range from telecommunications to disaster relief.

Kristin Larsen ’05 (journalism) recently joined Noble Studios’ strategy team as a digital media specialist. From the newsroom to the classroom to the fast-paced environment of an agency, Kristin brings extensive experience overseeing integrated marketing initiatives to the Noble Studios team. As a digital media specialist, she will oversee email marketing, SEO/SEM and paid digital advertising. Previously, Kristin was the marketing manager and web developer for OnStrategy/M3 Planning in Reno. Prior to OnStrategy, she was an instructor in the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism. She taught classes covering multimedia reporting, Web design, Dreamweaver, InDesign, Photoshop and video production. She began her career in Web and breaking news, holding positions with Sparks Tribune, KUNR Public Radio and Reno Gazette-Journal. An award-winning content creator, Larsen has earned two staff recognition awards from the Reno Gazette-Journal and a Communicator Award of Distinction for a KUNR radio story.

Carrie ( Henderson) Busha ’06 (political science) recently joined Development and Alumni Relations as coordinator, and will be assisting the editorial team in producing the Nevada Silver & Blue magazine and alumni events. Carrie lives in Reno with her husband, David, and their son, Elliott.

Tim Mullin ’06 (journalism, political science) was recently hired as the center director for the United Service Organization (USO) Las Vegas office. He will oversee all programming and fundraising efforts locally to further the USO’s mission to uplift the spirits of American troops and their families.
Join me and never celebrate the holidays ... on the holidays! I understand there will be resistance to this new method, but let me explain.

Holidays lose their luster when everybody’s doing it. No longer is it a relaxing time to get together with your loved ones and experience it for what it was meant to be. Yet, I have a solution.

We don’t need the calendar to boss us around, telling us precisely when to show our appreciation for one another. Be your own person and shift the holidays so they fall two days later than normal! Whatever day the holiday lands on for everyone else, you now still have two more days to prepare. Much like daylight savings, I deem this: “Holiday Savings.” The benefits are plentiful:

• Your birthday now happens a few days later (translation: you stay younger, longer).
• Christmas for your family is now celebrated on Dec 27. No more lines at the malls, less traffic, and think how much you’ll save on presents, hotels, flights and rental cars.
• Never miss Mother’s Day again (you’re welcome, Mom).
• On Valentine’s Day, finally get the table of your choice and at a reasonable rate.
• Your fireworks will really stand out on the 6th of July.
• Enjoy some piping hot turkey and stuffing while all the other families are choking down cold leftovers.
• And finally, get more attention and be considered a lot scarier to the general public while prancing around in your Halloween costume on Nov. 2!