ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Ralph Whitworth ’82 (political science)

Ralph Whitworth is co-founder, principal and investment committee member of Relational Investors LLC, a privately owned asset management firm based in San Diego, Calif., which has served some of the largest pension funds in the world.

The Winnemucca, Nev. native is considered an expert on corporate governance. Ralph has been invited to present his views before the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, New York Stock Exchange Board and Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

A student leader himself, Ralph established the Ralph Whitworth Scholar Leader Scholarship Endowment in 2009. The endowment benefits students involved in The College of Business’ scholar leader program, providing a four-year scholarship and the opportunity to further develop leadership skills through participation in student and professional organizations, service projects and internship opportunities.

Ralph has also generously supported the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Banquet.

In 1999, Ralph became chairman of Waste Management in the midst of an accounting crisis. He led a 2,000-person, bottom-up audit of the company’s financial statements as well as the recruitment effort to replace the company’s management team. BusinessWeek recognized Waste Management as one of the five “Most Improved Boards” during his tenure as a board member.

Ralph played a similar role at Apria Healthcare Group. During his tenure as chairman, the board was twice named by BusinessWeek as one of the 10 “Best Boards in America” and the “Best Governed Company in North America” by Institutional Shareholder Services. Ralph was named “Director of the Year” in 2004 by the Corporate Directors Forum.

During 2007 and 2008, two of the most challenging years in U.S. banking history, Ralph served as chairman of Sovereign Bancorp’s credit and risk committee and its capital committee.

The Winnemucca, Nev. native is considered an expert on corporate governance. Ralph has been invited to present his views before the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, New York Stock Exchange Board and Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Ralph Whitworth May Be America’s Best Board Member,” discusses Ralph’s effectiveness at Hewlett-Packard. “A successful activist investor, he has brought a period of relative calm to HP, and in doing so he has affirmed why he may just be America’s best board member.”

In 2013, Ralph was named the “Lifetime Achiever” by the International Corporate Governance Network, the highest honor bestowed by the global, investor-led, organization of governance professionals.


Ralph has served on the task force on corporate/investor engagement formed by The Conference Board Governance Center to find actionable solutions for creating an optimal governance system that supports maximizing corporate value. He is also a member of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board’s Advisory Council.

In July 2014, after a diagnosis of distant metastatic squamous cell cancer, Ralph took a medical leave of absence from his business activities to focus on his health.

In April 2015, Ralph and his wife Fernanda formed a public charity, Immunotherapy Foundation (IF). IF’s initial mission is to find an effective treatment, and ultimately cure, for HPV-related head and neck cancer. Fernanda and Ralph are committed to this cause for as long as it takes.

Ralph earned a Juris doctor from George-town University Law Center in 1985. M

—Christy Jerz ’97
2015 Nevada Alumni Association Award Recipients

Professional Achievement

Donato Cabrera ’96
(applying music)
Donato Cabrera has been the San Francisco Symphony’s resident conductor since 2009 and leads the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra as the Wattis Foundation Music Director. In 2014, Donato was appointed music director of the Las Vegas Philharmonic Orchestra and has been music director of the California Symphony and the New Hampshire Music Festival since 2013. His professional debut was with the Reno Chamber Orchestra in 1997.

Brian Landrus ’02
(applied music)
Brian Landrus is an internationally recognized low woodwind specialist, composer and educator living in Brooklyn, NY. He has released seven albums as a leader with the most recent being “The Deep Below” on BlueLand/Palmetto Records. Landrus has received acclaim from The New York Times, Huffington Post, Wall Street Journal, and many other international publications. Landrus is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers University in music composition, where he is also adjunct faculty.

Duane Peck ’80
(mining engineering)
Duane Peck is currently mine general manager of the Marigold Mining Company gold mine near Valmy, Nev. Duane is a fourth-generation miner and started working in the Nevada mining industry in 1981, before taking foreign assignments in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Armenia and Canada. He is an executive Board member of the Nevada Mining Association, board member of the Frontier Community Coalition and board trustee of the Mining Industry Foundation for Lowry High School.

University Service

Jim Kidder
Jim Kidder is associate vice president for planning, budget and analysis emeritus at the University of Nevada and retired in 2001. Jim is a recipient of the 2001 University of Nevada Distinguished Service Award. He has provided the College of Liberal Arts with unwavering support as it continues to add new programs, faculty and space. In addition to serving on its advisory board, Jim has served on boards for the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, Saint Mary’s Foundation, the Reno Chamber Orchestra, the Reno Philharmonic Association, the Reno Jazz Orchestra and Pack PAWS. He played a major role in producing the book “We Were All Athletes,” an oral history of women’s intercollegiate athletics at Nevada.

Bill Kottinger ’54
(business administration)
Bill Kottinger was senior vice president with both RBC Wealth Management and UBS PaineWebber in Reno. Shortly after graduating from the University, he served as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. Bill dedicated over 30 years of service to the University, and is a trustee emeritus of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation. In 1975 he was elected president of the Greater Reno Chamber of Commerce, and in 1982 he was named the Raymond I. Smith Civic Leader of the Year by the Greater Reno/Sparks Chamber of Commerce. Bill also served as vice president of the Viola Vestal Coulter Foundation.

Robert and Jean Myles
Jean Myles and her late husband, Robert Myles, have a long history of supporting the School of Community Health Sciences, Orvis School of Nursing and the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Their investment of time and gifts has supported generations of students preparing to serve in the health care field. The Myles’ established a living legacy through the creation of the Myles Family Endowed Scholarship for Nursing, the Robert K. Myles Endowed Scholarship Fund for Nurse Practitioners and the Myles Family School of Public Health Scholarship Endowment. Robert taught physical diagnosis as one of the first professors of medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, and he also instructed students at the Orvis School of Nursing. In addition to raising four children, Jean has worked with nonprofit community organizations including the Alliance with the Washoe County Medical Society’s and served as a member of the University’s College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board.

Outstanding Young Alumni

Kelly Glenn ’06
(business administration)
Kelly Glenn is vice president and partner at The Glenn Group, a Nevada-based creative marketing communications firm, and Wide Awake, modern marketing for gaming properties. One of Kelly’s career highlights was serving on the public relations team for the United States Printer in Washington D.C. when the 9/11 Commission Report was released, working with media from around the world. She is currently the president of WIN and president-elect for The First Tee of Northern Nevada. Kelly enjoys playing golf, reading, cooking and West Coast Swing dancing.

Lydia Peri ’11
(ecohydrogeology), ’15 M.S.
Lydia Peri earned a bachelor’s in ecohydrology from the University of Nevada in 2011 and recently earned a dual...
master’s in hydrogeology and civil and environmental engineering in 2015. She is an environmental engineer with Washoe County and will sit for the professional engineering exam this fall. Lydia served as co-president of the University’s Student Association for International Water Issues Club and vice president of marketing and webmaster for the Nevada Young Alumni Chapter.

Chris Shanks ’08 (finance)
Chris Shanks earned his bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Nevada in 2008, and currently practices commercial real estate with Dickson Commercial Group. He is co-owner of Louis’ Basque Corner and The Depot, a craft distillery and brewery located in a 105-year-old train station on Fourth Street.

Alumni Association Service
Jenny Frayer ’77 (accounting), ’87 MBA
Jenny Frayer is the director of sponsored projects and compliance at Desert Research Institute. She is an emerita faculty of the University of Nevada and has worked for the Nevada System of Higher Education for nearly 32 years. She graduated from the University of Nevada in 1977 with a degree in accounting, and an MBA in 1987. While at the University, Jenny was faculty advisor for Nevada’s cycling team.

Rita Laden ’96 Ed.D.
Rita Laden is associate vice president for student life services emerita at the University of Nevada. She continues her work on campus by teaching graduate students in educational leadership. Rita received her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Nevada in 1996. She is a past president of the Nevada Alumni Council.

Lauren Sankovich-Bashista ’98 (accounting)
Lauren Sankovich-Bashista is a partner in the audit department of the accounting firm Eide Bailly. Lauren graduated from the University of Nevada in 1998 with a degree in accounting, which has been her passion ever since. Lauren served on the Nevada Alumni Council for six years and is a past Alumni Council president. When she’s not at work Lauren is camping and spending time outdoors with her family.

Chapter of the Year
Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter
The Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter brings together former members of the Cheer, Stunt, Dance, Mascot and Pom teams. The chapter provides members with a connection to the University, as well as networking opportunities with each other and the current team. This year the chapter doubled membership, started the first ever Alumni Chapter Professional Mentorship Program, established the base of a scholarship endowment, increased the attendance at flagship events, added new events in Las Vegas, grew the executive board and recruited one hundred percent of seniors into the chapter.

Silver and Blue Appreciation Award
The Clarence & Martha Jones Family Foundation
Clarence and Martha Jones believed in hard work, grounded in honesty and respect for others. These key values laid the foundation for lives of service and philanthropy as embodied in their personal motto: “We worked hard so we could share with others.” And share they did, constantly looking for opportunities to help others, to build a better community, and of course to improve education and their beloved University of Nevada. Clarence and Martha always believed in making a difference, particularly when it came to education, and their philanthropic support has touched every corner of the University of Nevada campus, from historic preservation and special collections to student services, scholarships and athletics. By establishing a foundation, they ensured that their lives’ work would continue. We are honored to carry on their legacy. Pictured: Clarence & Martha Jones Family Foundation Trustees Charlotte McConnell, NSHE Chancellor Daniel Klaich and Ann Carlson.

College and Unit Distinguished Alumni
College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources
Steven Knapp ’78 (agriculture), ’80 M.S.
Steven Knapp is director of the Strawberry Breeding Program at the University of California, Davis, where he works with leaders from industry and academia to tackle scientific challenges.
in strawberry production, breeding, genetics and genomics. Prior to joining the University of California, Davis, Steve was global director of vegetable breeding technology at Monsanto, where he oversaw an international team focused on research and development of various vegetables.

College of Education

Gini Cunningham ’74 (French), ’99 M.Ed.

Gini Cunningham spent 28 years as a teacher in Nevada, and is now a regional coordinator for professional development where she mentors to new teachers and volunteers in classrooms. Gini is the founder of Energized Learning, an educational consulting company in Winnemucca. She is also the author of the book The New Teacher’s Companion and writes a monthly newspaper column, often passing along educational tips to parents. All of Gini’s three children also attended Nevada. She established a scholarship in the Department of Education in memory of her parents, William and Eleanor Lipscomb, to inspire and support teaching students.

College of Engineering’s James G. Scrugham Medal

Brian Lent ’93 (computer science)

Brian Lent is chief analytics officer at HERE, a global leader in the mapping and location intelligence business, and a subsidiary of Nokia. Brian founded Medio Systems in 2004 and served as its chairman and chief technology officer until its acquisition by HERE/Nokia in 2014. Brian holds patents in the topic of data mining, information retrieval and database systems. While at Stanford University, he cofounded the MIDAS (Mining Data At Stanford) group, the lab that spawned the Google crawler and search engine.

College of Liberal Arts

Dolora Zajick ’76 (music), ’78 M.A.

Dolora Zajick is one of the most acclaimed and respected mezzo soprano singers in the opera world today. She has sung all over the world to critical acclaim and has appeared in opera and in concert with some of the world’s foremost conductors. This year, Dolora has chosen the University of Nevada as the location of her institute for Young Dramatic Voices, a three-week summer program dedicated to developing and inspiring young singers with large and dramatic voices.

College of Science

John Larue ’65 (mathematics)

John Larue spent 30 years working at IBM and later Lockheed Martin where he specialized in real-time programming in assembly language as a commercial applications software engineer. John enjoyed working at the leading edge of technological innovation. John is deeply committed to supporting the College of Science and has established two endowments that support students and faculty in the college. Since his retirement, John and his wife enjoy the opera, traveling and using his season tickets to Navy football.

Division of Health Sciences

Karen Ross ’90 (general studies), ’06 MPH

Karen Ross is community relations manager for NV Energy in northern Nevada, and has been with NV Energy for 30 years. Karen currently serves on many community boards, including Nevada Land Trust, Special Assistance Fund for Energy, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, and she is an advisory board member of the University of Nevada, Reno Division of Community and Health Sciences, Access to Healthcare Network and High Sierra Industries. She is past president of Truckee Meadows Tomorrow, a regional quality of life group, and past chair of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in Washoe County. Karen was honored in 2005 as a Truckee Meadows Tomorrow “Sustaining Star” for her efforts in leading and participating in community quality of life initiatives. Also in 2005, the Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada honored Karen as a Woman in Leadership, and the Nevada Women’s Fund acknowledged her as a Woman of Achievement.

Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering

Donald Ranta ’67 M.S. (geological engineering)

Donald Ranta is the former chairman, president and CEO of Rare Element Resources, which controls one of the largest, highest-grade and most advanced rare-earths projects in the world. He is an exploration and mine development executive experienced in planning, implementing and directing successful exploration and evaluation programs throughout the world. Donald is also a former president and board member of SME, the world’s largest organization of mining professionals.

School of Medicine

Philippe Bishop ’93 M.D.

Philippe Bishop is senior vice president of hematology and oncology therapeutics at Gilead Sciences, Inc., where he also serves as a member of the Gilead Executive Committee. Prior to joining Gilead Sciences, Inc., Philippe was the vice president of product development and oncology at Genentech. He led efforts at Johnson & Johnson and Sanofi-Aventis to develop cancer therapies, and he also held positions at the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and the National Institute of Health.
The College of Business

Deane Albright ’71 (accounting)

Deane Albright is founding partner of Albright & Associates, Ltd. CPA’s and an investor in various Reno businesses: Brasserie St. James, The Saint, Sierra Wellness Connection and Mid-town Community Yoga. Deane is a trustee of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation and a member of the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities. He is also a member of EDAWN and the Reno Chamber of Commerce. His community involvement extends even further, as he serves on the board of advisors for the Holland Project and Artown’s annual Bartley Ranch summer concert series, as well as the finance committee of the Nevada Museum of Art.

The Reynolds School of Journalism

Steve Martarano ’79 (journalism)

Steve Martarano is a public affairs specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Bay-Delta office in Sacramento, Calif. Steve has worked for both state and federal tax, disaster response and wildlife agencies, where he’s addressed many high-profile issues. He spent 10 years working as a reporter for The Sacramento Union newspaper and continues to use the journalism skills he first developed at Nevada as a freelance journalist. He has established two journalism-related endowments to benefit students at Nevada.

University Libraries

Marian LaVoy ’44 (normal school), ’71 (English)

Marian LaVoy is a proud Nevadan, born and raised in the Silver State. Marian received her teaching degree from the University’s Normal School in 1944, and returned to complete her bachelor’s degree in English in 1971. She has been very active with the Friends of the University Libraries, serving on the board for more than 16 years and volunteering in the Book Nook used bookstore. In honor of her late husband, Colonel John LaVoy USMC (ret.), and as her own legacy to the University of Nevada, Marian established an endowment for the benefit of University Special Collections.

2015 HOME COMING Gala

Great Memories Come Home

Milt Glick Ballroom, Joe Crowley Student Union | October 22

6 p.m. No Host Reception | 7 p.m. Dinner & Program

For tickets call 888.NV ALUMS or 775.784.6620
Visit alumni.unr.edu for more information.
Message from the President

Dear Nevada Alumni,

First let me say what a privilege and honor it has been to serve on the Nevada Alumni Council and, more specifically, as council president this past year. The experience has allowed me to reconnect with the University, the student body, faculty and my fellow alums. It has been a very rewarding experience and one that I will never forget.

During my tenure on the council, there have been a number of exciting changes at Nevada both physically and academically, but our board’s primary focus has always been alumni engagement. “How can we better connect with our alumni and friends?” is a constant chorus. Often the answer to that question is “let’s plan an event.” And this fall is no exception.

Our Homecoming schedule kicks off October 22 with the Homecoming Gala. Join us at the Joe Crowley Student Union as we celebrate an incredible slate of award recipients, including Alumnus of the Year Ralph Whitworth ’82. Visit page 32 to learn more.

The Third Annual March from the Arch October 23 is a great way to celebrate our community-campus connection. Grab some dinner downtown from one of the nearby food trucks and restaurants, as you watch the Homecoming parade pass by. Then follow the processional up Virginia Street to the Quad for pep rally festivities. A huge thank you is owed to ASUN for their partnership in making this event a success. See page 43 for details.

As the football season began, so did our popular tailgate parties. Two hours before the October 24 Homecoming game – and every home game – you’ll find some of my fellow Nevada Alumni Council members at Legacy Hall, ready to welcome hungry fans. Nevada Alumni Association members (there are now more than 2,200 of them listed on pages 48-51!) receive a discount, and the amazing food is a large part of what keeps the tailgates packed on game day.

I’ve mentioned in past issues that our members receive discounts and benefits every day. But on November 13, Nevada Alumni Association members will get to enjoy the unveiling of Monster Fish: In Search of the Last River Giants at the Discovery Museum before the general public. This free, members-only exhibition features the work of University of Nevada Department of Biology researcher Dr. Zeb Hogan. You’ll find additional details on page 25.

When the winter 2016 issue of this magazine hits your mailbox, you’ll be greeted by incoming president Nick Butler ’02, ’06 M.Acc. As my whirlwind year of presidency comes to an end, I’d like to sincerely thank the Nevada Alumni Council for their support throughout my term. Their passion and volunteer hours keep this organization moving forward.

GO PACK!

Sincerely,

Matt Clafton ’93
President, Nevada Alumni Council
‘50s

John B. Harris ’54 (art) has been studying brain and spinal cord injuries in Western American skiing and alpine winter sports for 37 years. He has been able to combine his specialty surgical activities with his lifelong involvement in skiing, and he has served as a volunteer race physician for local, regional, national and international ski races. He was appointed to the 1960 Winter Olympics Ski Patrol and serves as medical staff volunteer for the U.S. Olympic Committee.

‘60s

Barbara R. (Marcus) Dahlke ’61 (journalism) recently retired from the entertainment industry and political public relations, and she moved to Santa Barbara from Beverly Hills, Calif. She was the former press secretary to Nevada Sen. Howard W. Cannon (1967-77) and aide to former California Gov. Pat Brown (1986-96). Barbara also worked extensively as a publicist in the entertainment industry.

Kathleen (Oldham) Taylor ’61 (elementary education) just sold the ranch near Elko after 105 years in the Oldham family.

Don Kissig ’62 (civil engineering) and Marcia (Craig) Kissig ’59 (education) are now retired and living in Trophy Club, Texas, to be closer their three children and four grandchildren.

This follows 17 moves around the world during their 55 (and counting) years of marriage, including Ethiopia and Malawi. During their working careers, Don served in a number of engineering assignments while Marcia was engaged in various educational endeavors and raising their children.

‘70s

Tim C. King ’71 (mechanical engineering) has published a book entitled Fleet Services: Managing to Redefine Success. Focusing on automotive fleets, the book provides an overview of customer service excellence with insights and supporting best practices to transition from surviving to thriving. Tim retired in 2008 from a 30-year career with NVEnergy.

Debbie (Brown) Cutshaw ’74 (criminal justice), ’01 M.A. (English), ’07 M.A.-T.E. (teaching of English) has retired from the Nevada Department of Corrections where she served as a caseworker and has since been busy volunteering, writing western film essays and movie scripts for fun. Her first novel, A Pleasant Distraction, is available for Kindle.

Ron James ’78 (history), ’81 M.A. received the Rodman Paul Award for Outstanding Contributions to Mining History from the Mining History Association for his efforts in preserving western mining sites. Ron was the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer from 1983 to 2012, and he recently retired as the executive director of the Comstock Foundation for History and Culture, which he created in 2013. Last year he was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame.

‘80s

Egan Walker ’86 (nursing) of the Second Judicial District Court, Family Division, Washoe County, has joined the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges as a member of the board of directors. He also serves on the board of directors of The Children’s Cabinet. He is past board member and member of Sparks Rotary and has had the pleasure of working with the Reed High School We the People program and at Sierra Vista Elementary School.

‘90s

Darl Kiernan ’94 (education), ’98 M.Ed., ’12 Ph.D. recently received the Celebrate Literacy award from the International Literacy Association. She was also recognized with a Nevada Distinguished Literacy Award from the Nevada Department of Education for her contributions to the revised State Literacy Plan. Darl serves as a literacy trainer for Washoe County’s Striving Readers Grant.

David O’Shea ’94 (economics) was recently appointed to serve as vice president of strategic initiatives and information services for Rio Salado College in Tempe, Ariz. David also had the position of acting chief information officer and chief technology officer for the college.
Dave Hall ’96 (journalism) has returned to Las Vegas as morning anchor at FOX5 TV. After starting his career at KRNV in Reno, Dave spent eleven years at FOX5 in Las Vegas as a sports anchor and later morning anchor. He then moved to the midwest where he spent three years at KCTV5 in Kansas City. Dave is happy to be back in Las Vegas with his wife and daughter. Dave is married to his college sweetheart, a fellow Nevada alumnus Bianca (Garces) Hall ’98 (nursing).

Michael D. Maupin ’96 (history) graduated from the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV in December 2014 and recently passed the State Bar of Nevada examination. Before entering law school, he was in theater at Galena High School in Reno, and has acted in local community theater for many years. Mike is employed as a law clerk for Judge Simons in the Washoe District Court.

Tony Illia ’96 M.A. (English) won a 2015 Abzee Award of Excellence from the American Society of Business Publication Editors. The article, entitled “Go/No-Go,” appeared in Engineering News Record. Tony currently serves as chief public information officer for the Nevada Department of Transportation in the southern part of the state.

Patrick McFarland ’97 (journalism) has left the University of Nevada after almost 8 years as art director of Nevada Silver & Blue magazine and manager of publications in development and alumni relations. He has treasured his time on campus and will always be a proud alumnus. Patrick joins ITS Logistics as the director of marketing. He lives with his wife, Amy McFarland ’02 (health ecology),’04 M.A., daughter, Kaylee (9), and son, Sean (7) in sunny Reno, Nevada and enjoys general merriment. Go Pack!

Michael E. Norris ’99 Ph.D. (political science) has published his second book, Undue Process, an analysis of the privatization of law enforcement in America. His doctoral dissertation, Reinventing the Administrative State, was published the year after he earned his Ph.D. For many years Michael was a newspaper journalist in Reno and a co-founder of Nevada Weekly, the precursor of Reno News & Review.

’00s

Pam Beaton ’00 (health sciences) has joined the American Society of Transplant Surgeons as director of education. Throughout her career, Pam has been active in advancing the field of continuing medical education and received a Fellow designation from the Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Professions, where she is chair of the Medical Specialty Society member section. Pam lives in Alexandria, Va., is active in her local Nevada State Society and loves trying new tricks on the flying trapeze.

Karen Griffin ’00 (journalism) has been promoted to vice president, public affairs at Faiass Foley Warren Public Relations & Public

Wolf cubs

Rebecca (Richards) Rosback ’08 (human development and family studies) and Gerald Rosback are happy to introduce the newest Wolf Pack fan, Bodie Edward Rosback, born July 1, 2015.

Misty (McKitrick) Wells ’07 (elementary education) and Shay Wells ’07 (criminal justice) would like to announce the birth of their third son, Gavin Shay Wells. Gavin was born March 30, 2015.

Jasia Beehler ’12 (general studies) and Anthony Beehler ’09 (economics) announce the birth of their baby boy, Nolan Mitchell, on May 17, 2015.

Virginia Ibarra ’00 (civil engineering), ’15 M.S. would like to announce the birth of her son, Maximum Sebastian Ibarra-Madrid, on Nov. 30, 2014.
Affairs. In this role, Karen provides strategic direction and communications to the firm’s clients throughout Nevada.

Sarah Carmona ’05 (economics) has been named the number one individual real estate agent in the state of Nevada and number 39 in the nation by REAL Trends, Inc. Sarah is co-founder of the Dreams Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has given more than $325,000 to local individuals and organizations since 2012.

Tyler Ames ’07 (biology) is assistant professor of Clinical Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Vanderbilt University. He recently joined the Vanderbilt Dental Clinic where he specializes in a range of services, including cosmetic dentistry, implants and performing periodontal surgery.

Matt McKnight ’07 (political science) works as a project director for the League of Conservation Voters in Washington, D.C. and volunteers with Nevada’s Northeast Alumni Chapter and the Sigma Phi Epsilon Chapter at American University.

Ben Garrido ’08 (journalism) recently published his first novel, The Blackguard, a thriller about a community of white supremacists that gets overrun by urban sprawl. It explores the meaning of racial identity and the process of cutting off one’s roots.

Michael Lisowski ’09 (sociology) now lives in

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Kickin’ it with K-von | Last Comic Standing

It was an amazing experience to be part of NBC’s “Last Comic Standing” this year! And it was especially rewarding sharing the stage with celebrity judges Roseanne, Norm MacDonald (“Saturday Night Live”), and Keenan Ivory Wayans (“In Living Color”). These are legends that I grew up admiring. They always made me laugh and it was a dream come true to return the favor.

The one thing I didn’t like about the show was that’s how the show works and it was fun being a part of it. I thought I’d give you a behind-the-scenes look into how it all works:

- **Getting Seen:** You send in an audition tape to NBC, and if you’re lucky, they ask to see you live at a local comedy club.
- **Showcase:** If they happen to check you out and like you enough, then they give you a formal showcase date to see what you’ve got. It’s on!
- **Another Showcase:** They liked you... now they want to make sure it wasn’t a fluke.
- **Network Approval:** And now another showcase... this time with the producers/execs lurking in the shadows, watching and taking notes. No pressure, right?!
- **You’re on the Show:** Out of more than 3,000 comedians vying for a spot, if you make the cut, you get the call that you’re in the top 100 and will appear on NBC in front of 15 MILLION PEOPLE from around the world! (what did I get myself into)! Now you need to block out a few months on your calendar, because no one knows when that night might be.
- **Reschedule:** Oh, you thought it was next week? No. They move the dates around a few times just to keep you on your toes.
- **Picking Your Jokes:** As a comic you have to sift through your arsenal and find the best 3 minutes of material you think will set you apart while also lighting the crowd on fire. Not easy. A short set like that leaves no room for error. Each joke must land as expected and hit hard. (My advantage: I snuck off to Vegas and performed 3 shows a night for 10 days leading up to the big event. THANK YOU NEVADA!)
- **Day of Filming:** Arrive 14 hours early to cake on the makeup and then... wait for hours. You see your comic ‘friends’ who are now your sworn enemies. (Not really, but you know, there’s about a million dollars on the line, so, yeah). Some are nervous, while others seem fine. Some are faking fine, but really nervous. Some are faking that they’re nervous but really fine! Comics are a weird bunch. You start deciding how you’re going to play it. (I went with faking nervous, but also, actually nervous.)
- **Time to Shine:** You can’t watch the other comics perform as you’re held in a secluded area for six hours or so. Then they call out your name, hand you a mic, and basically shove you out on stage! Now you have to deliver. My strategy is to focus on winning the audience and forget the pressure of the judges. If the audience is laughing, the judges have to feel that.
- **Sit Back, Relax:** Let the chips fall as they may, you did your job so enjoy the moment... whew!

Thank you to everyone that watched the show and sent your support along the way. It was a great experience. I ended up a semi-finalist on the biggest comedy showcase in the world and now... more great things to come. #staytuned

K-von ’03 (marketing) is a Nevada alum and comedian. Visit www.Kvon.tv or facebook.com/ KvonComedy for info.
Wolf Mates

Karah (Lucas) English '08 (international affairs) '11 M.Ed. and Chris English '12 M.Ed were married Oct. 4, 2014 at Montreux Golf and Country Club. They met in a political science class at Nevada while undergrads in 2006, and are now both teachers in Washoe County.

Matt McKnight '07 (political science) and Michael Lisowski '09 (sociology) were married at the Church of the Epiphany in Washington, D.C. July 25. They were joined by family and friends, including dozens of Nevada alumni. Matt and Michael first met in Sociology 101 in 2004 and now reside in Washington, D.C.


‘10s

Scott O’Bar ’11 (general studies) is the author of Alternative Crops for Drylands: Proactively Adapting to Climate Change and Water Shortages. The book is a useful resource for individuals in drought affected areas in the U.S. and for those seeking ways to improve the livelihoods of farmers in arid climates.

Submissions are due Nov. 13 and can be sent to: chatter@unr.edu. We edit all submissions for style, clarity and length.

NEVADA SILVER & BLUE

• Fall 2015

NEVADA SILVER & BLUE • Fall 2015

Alumni

A University of Nevada license plate doesn’t just show off your Pack pride. It also illustrates your support for University of Nevada students. Last year alone, nearly 8,200 new and renewed plates generated more than $160,000 for scholarships! Talk about a moving display of generosity.

Visit www.dmvnv.com/platescharitable.htm to learn more.

Wear your heart on your bumper

NEVADA

PKLV

GO PACK!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Celebrate Homecoming 2015 at the 3rd Annual March from the Arch!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

6:00 PM GATHER
Food and fun in Downtown Reno

8:00 PM MARCH
Parade and processional from the Reno Arch to the University Quad

8:45 PM RALLY
Go! Fight! Win! on the University Quad

Presented by
MarchFromTheArch.com PackTakesHawaii