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Coordinator, Alumni Relations

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* ex-officio member
CLAS CHAT

PRESIDENT, Nevada Alumni Council

Nevada Alumni Council

NICK BUTLER ’02 (ECONOMICS), ’06 M.Acc. is the 2015-16 Nevada Alumni Council President. He's excited to lead the Nevada Alumni Association in its mission to foster and cultivate a common bond of pride, affinity and connection among alumni, students, prospective students and friends of the University.

Nick is looking forward to the Nevada Alumni Association’s Student Recruitment Receptions, held each spring throughout northern California and Nevada. He enjoys the opportunity to engage with prospective students and share his Nevada experience.

One of Nick’s favorite Nevada Alumni Association events is Pack Picnics on the Quad. This summertime tradition takes place Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. July 6 – Aug. 10. Nick and his family will be bringing their picnic dinner to enjoy the live music, face painting, bounce houses, games, lemonade and snacks.

1940s

AL LAZZARONE ’47 (economics) is retired, mainly because he just turned 93 years young. Al played on the first baseball team at Nevada in 1947. He is president of the Northern Nevada Italian Association, whose main purpose is to give five $2,500 annual scholarships to students in need to attend Nevada. He and his wife, Dorothy, were married for 68 years. She passed on a year ago last June. Al and Dorothy originally met in the Navy, and all-in-all, they had a great life.

1950s

BEVERLEY (LEHMAN) WEST ’50 (journalism) has written a memoir entitled Finding My Way Back to 1950s Paris about her adventures in Paris after college. Beverley, known as “Scoop” in college, worked as a writer for the San Francisco Chronicle, and later as a freelance travel writer for the Los Angeles Times, Denver Post, and the Paris edition of the International Herald Tribune, among others. She received a master’s degree in English as a Second Language (ESL) from San Francisco State University and taught at Seattle Central College for over 30 years. She currently lives on Bainbridge Island, Washington, and often returns to Paris with a backpack and a laptop.

1960s

JERRY GAINES ’61 (physics) has retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where he worked as a research physicist. Jerry visited the University of Nevada last year and hardly recognized the place. He spent many memorable years in Mackay Science.

1970s

ARLINE FISHER ’74 (journalism) has published her second novel, Keeper – Trial by Fire. The story is an action/suspense novel set largely in Las Vegas. Arline was the editor of The Native Nevadan for six...

GARY TACHOIRES ’64 (chemistry) and GEORGIA (TESKEY) TACHOIRES ’62 (elementary education), ’67 M.ED., ’75 EDSC have been married and living in Reno for 52 years. Due to Gary’s Parkinson’s, golf life and horse shows have become a thing of the past. Since retirement, they have traveled a lot, mostly cruises in Europe and Alaska, plus a land trip to Spain. Gary and Georgia have one grandson, Elliot, who is 7 years old. They have two dogs, two cats and two horses at their home in south Reno, where they have lived since 1971.

CLARENCE D. BASSO ’68 (journalism) has just published his 114th monograph on Nevada history. The Writings of Dan De Quille is a bibliography of the nineteenth century Comstock journalist’s prolific production that appeared in newspapers and literary journals across the U.S. De Quille, also known as William Wright, was a contemporary of Samuel Clemens on Virginia City’s Territorial Enterprise.

GARY JOHNSON ’69 (elementary education) retired in 1999 and has since “bagged” U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey markers at Mt. Eddy, Mt. Rose, Bad Water, Broke Off Mountain and Death Valley in California, Boundary Peak in Nevada, Phantom Ranch in Arizona and Four-Corners in Utah, as well as the entire Tahoe Rim Trail in California and Nevada. Next in sight are Havasupai Falls and Humphreys Peak in Arizona.

MIKE VADER ’69 (marketing) has had a successful life, thanks to his education at Nevada. Mike was appointed assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Education by President George H.W. Bush. He was also appointed chief deputy director of California Department of Fair Employment and Housing and assistant secretary by former California Governor George Deukmejian, commissioner of the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission by California Governor Jerry Brown, and chief deputy director of California Department of Consumer Affairs by California Governor Pete Wilson. Mike has also owned several prosperous businesses.

1980s

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years and worked in publishing in Chicago, editing two national travel magazines. She also specialized in book packaging and direct-mail marketing. She lives in St. George, Utah.

GENE BAUMANN ’76 (health education) retired from being an airline captain Sept. 1, 2015. Gene is now traveling more than when he was working, just with longer layovers.

FRED MCELROY ’76 (physical education) of Dickson Realty has been named The 2016 Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) President for The Council of Residential Specialists, Sierra Nevada Chapter. Fred has been a realtor since 1986 and is past president of the Reno Sparks Association of Realtors. Fred and his wife, Alice, spend their recreational time traveling, sailing and skiing with family.

1980s

JEFF COONCE ’85 (art) owns Pyro Guys, a Reno fireworks display company. Jeff produces fireworks displays for the Wolf Pack football team runout, the March from the Arch pep rally display off Morrill Hall, the Reno Rodeo and the Reno Aces. He has also produced displays nationally for Professional Bull Riders, the San Francisco 49ers and the Super Bowl.

TOM VERDUCCI ’85 (finance) has spent the past 30 years assisting more than 20,000 Nevada public employees to save in their employer-sponsored retirement plans. Tom began working for The Hartford in 1987 on the State of Nevada Deferred Compensation Plan and currently works for MassMutual, assisting Washoe County and City of Reno employees in their deferred compensation plan. He lives in Reno with his wife, LORI (BAUER) VERDUCCI ’85 (accounting), whom he met at Nevada in 1983.

GREG BORTOLIN ’86 (journalism), ’11 M.E.D. recently accepted a position as public information officer for the Nevada Department of Education.

ADRIENNE KRISTINE ’87 (sociology), ’91 M.A. (English) had an interview published in the February 2016 issue of VegNews magazine. Adrienne is a two-time cancer survivor, and she is thriving without chemo or radiation on a whole foods, plant-based vegan diet, plenty of water and a daily exercise program. Both cancers are in remission.

TODD BLONSLY ’89 (finance and criminal justice), ’92 MBA received the Platinum Award from Marcus & Millichap Real Estate Investment Services Company for his 2015 achievements. Todd also won the Crystal Ball Award from the Northern Nevada Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) Chapter for his 2015 forecast on the northern Nevada apartment market.

1990s

DAN DOHERTY ’90 (finance) is executive vice president for Colliers International, and is happy to see the commercial real estate market improving in southern Nevada.

Lee Scarlett ’91 (history) recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of his company, Celtic Construction. Celtic Construction received the Builder of the Year award for the sixth year from Citiscapes Magazine, Best Builder in Celebrate Arkansas Magazine for the third year and Best of Houzz.com for the fifth year. He and his wife celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in October 2015. The couple live in Arkansas with their three daughters.

MATTHEW FRANCIS ’93 (political science and English) joined the board of directors for High Fives Nonprofit Foundation, a California nonprofit focused on raising awareness of injury prevention, while providing resources and inspiration to those who suffer from life-altering mountain sport injuries.

KRISTINA MATHews ’93 (education) has released four novels in the series, More Than a Game, from Lyrical Press, and is starting a new series, Swift River Romance. The first of three books in the series is entitled Swept Away.

Lisa friede rebaglia ti ’93 (speech communication) was recently named learning engagement director at Idea Learning Group in Portland, Ore. Lisa joined Idea Learning Group as a senior learning consultant in 2013 and most recently held the position of learning engagement manager.

SEAN EVANS ’94 MPA wrote an article entitled “Developing Sustainable Security: Police Intelligence in Post-Conflict Reconstruction,” which has been published in the March issue of Policing, Intelligence, and Counter Terrorism.

STACY KENDALL ’94 (social psychology), ’99 M.A. (sociology) received the 2015 Gold Spike Community Excellence Award for public service from the Public Relations Society of America – Sierra Nevada Chapter. This follows previous honors from Reno-Tahoe Twenty under 40 and Northern Nevada Women of Achievement. Stacy recently joined the board of the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum and serves as the director of communications and new media for Renown Health.

STEPHANIE CLEMO HANNA ’96 (journalism) has joined Waddell & Reed as a financial advisor where she will help develop customized financial plans, recommend investment strategies and counsel clients throughout the area. Stephanie has a passion for financial planning and enjoys helping people. She and her husband, JOHN HANNA ’96 (computer information systems), live in Reno with their three young boys.

VINCE ILLIA ’96 (speech communications) was recently named regional sales manager for Federal Signal Corporation. Vince was previously the truck sales manager at Peterbilt of Las Vegas.

DEBORAH SELTZER-KELLY ’97 (history) was promoted and granted tenure at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind. She teaches in the educational studies department, and her academic interests center on diversity and multiculturalism in the classroom, epistemologies of teaching and learning, and the methodological aspects and implications of research approaches commonly used in education.

WENDI MINA ’98 (elementary education) recently started a new vending business. JW Vending Nevada provides customized snacks, beverages, fresh food and over-the-counter medicines to local businesses in the Reno, Sparks and Carson City areas. In addition to partnering with local businesses, Wendi is actively involved in giving back to the community.

SUSAN (BENEFIELD) RICE ’98 (music education) has been appointed head of school at Palm Valley School in Rancho Mirage, Calif. Susan worked in public education for 12 years and was named Nevada Music Educator of the Year by the Nevada Music Educators Association in 2009 before making a switch to independent/private schools. She and her husband, Tim, a software engineer, were just married in San Francisco last summer and are now enjoying the warm climate of Southern California and the great hiking in the San Jacinto mountains.
almost famous Paul Mitchell

A

s the recruitment and retention coordinator for the Reynolds School of Journalism, PAUL MITCHELL M.A. ’96 (journalism), ’10 Ph.D. (educational leadership), gives advice all day long – but none of it about hair.

Formerly a reporter and editor, Paul left the newspaper business for the world of academia. No surprise, since his roots are in education. Paul was named for his dad, a master's in education graduate from the University of Pennsylvania. And when Paul received his doctorate in educational leadership in 2010, it was his mother, a doctor of education herself, who did the hooding.

Paul routinely shaves his head in honor of his brother, a chronic lymphocytic leukemia survivor who lost his hair during treatment. He’s handing that love of family down to son Josiah, 24, and leadership in 2010, it was his mother, a doctor of education herself, who did the hooding. No surprise, since his roots are in education. Paul was named for his dad, a master's in education graduate from the University of Pennsylvania. And when Paul received his doctorate in educational leadership in 2010, it was his mother, a doctor of education herself, who did the hooding.

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by CHRISTY JERZ ’97

N. DAVID O’MARA ’99 (political science), owner of the O’Mara Law Firm, has been named an American Bar Foundation Fellow. Membership in this prestigious organization is limited to one percent of the attorney population in Nevada.

DAVID TAYLOR ’99 (journalism), marketing director of Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows, has been promoted to president of the Great Reno Balloon Race board. David has been involved with the event since 2011.

2000s

BRADLEY CORN ’00 (marketing) recently started Fit Body Boot Camp after working as a real estate appraiser for 13 years. Bradley lives in Reno with his wife, KACEY DURANT ’07 (biochemistry), ’11 M.D. and their two sons, Remy and Austin.

DEREK FORSCHEL ’00 (health education), ’02 (biology) has been selected to be director of the anesthesiology residency program at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Portsmouth, Va., one of three U.S. Navy anesthesiology residency programs. Derek lives in Chesapeake, Va. with his wife, Charlotte, and two children.

JOE NANNINI ’00 (human development and family studies), ’10 Ed.S has recently joined the Nevada Career Studio at the University of Nevada as coordinator of internship and professional experience. He is excited for the opportunity to work with the team at the University’s central career office in developing programming and relationships to help Nevada students prepare to move seamlessly from the University into their careers. Joe is proud to be vice president for student outreach on the Nevada Alumni Council, and he also serves as vice chairman of the Artown board of directors.

SCOTT MORRISON ’00 (mathematics), ’04 M.S. (mathematics) has taught mathematics at Western Nevada College since 2006, where he earned the 2006-07 Outstanding Instructor of the Year award. He accepted the position of academic director for the Western Nevada College Liberal Arts Division in 2013. Scott is married to fellow Nevada grad, SARA MOORE ’14 (community health sciences), and together they have two beautiful children, Maya and Lincoln. Scott has lived in northern Nevada for 28 years.

NATALE CARASALI ’01 M.D. recently completed a six-month mission with Doctors Without Borders in western Ethiopia, near the South Sudan border. During this time, Natale lived and worked as a pediatrician at a Doctors Without Borders hospital located in the middle of a refugee camp, where 40,000 displaced persons fleeing the civil war in South Sudan were living.
CHRIS DONDERO '01 (journalism), licensed producer for Nevada Insurance Agency Company, has been promoted to board vice president for the Great Reno Balloon Race (GRBR). Chris joined the board in 2012, and has taken an active role within the organization, including managing GRBR’s Cloud 9 VIP Club for the past two years.

BECKY BOSSHART '02, after two years of work, completed an English literacy project to develop two curriculum workbooks for studying modern and contemporary American literature at Chernivtsi National University, where she served as a TEFL Higher Ed Program volunteer with the Peace Corps. The goal of the project, named Inspired to Write Ukraine, was to create an engaging contemporary reading curricula for teachers and students at the university’s English and translation departments. Becky served with the Peace Corps in Ukraine from 2012 to 2014.

ANDRE WALTON '02 (social psychology), '05 Ph.D. (social psychology) recently wrote a paper on group creativity that has been published in the Harvard Business Review. Creativity is Andre’s passion and was the focus of his Ph.D. research at Nevada.

LAUREL L. BOWER '03 Ph.D. (English) retired from teaching after more than 10 years at the University of Phoenix, Idaho campus, where she received several teaching awards and taught literature, humanities and writing, in order to pursue her dream of publishing novels. In December 2014, she published Fairy Wars: The Dark Ones, the first of a fantasy trilogy. She is working on her second book, Fairy Wars: Spies among Us.

JENNIFER ALLEN '06 MSN has been promoted to nurse manager of Renown South Meadows Emergency Department after more than 16 years at the Renown Regional main campus. She is also one of the community’s many great nurses to be nominated for a Northern Nevada Nurse of Achievement award.

ALEXANDRA (REARDON) PENN '06 (English literature) recently earned her master of arts in instructional design and technology with a specialization in e-learning from the University of Central Florida. Shortly after graduation, she accepted a position at Valencia College in Orlando, Fla. as a faculty/instructional developer.

THOMAS BARCIA '08 (economics), '10 MBA is a former Wolf Pack football walk-on (2004-2007) from Reno High, who recently earned his Certified Financial Planner (CFP) designation. Thomas is now one of 49 CFPs in Reno. He lives in south Reno with his wife, Elisa, and 1-year-old son, Ben.

N CHRISTOPHER E. HARVEY '08 (anthropology) recently earned an MBA from the Angelo College of Business at Grand Canyon University. He was accepted to their doctor of business administration program and began classes in January.

ERIC HOLLEN '09 (finance and economics) recently earned the Certified Financial Planner designation, a professional certification for financial planners. Eric is an advisor at Open Window, a Reno-based
investment advisory firm. He is also an active board officer of the University of Nevada, College of Business Alumni Association.

**J. MATTHEW MARTIN ’09 MBA** recently accepted an appointment as an administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration.

**VICTORIA ROCHA ’09** (international affairs/ German/theatre) is pursuing a master of public administration at USC after six years in Washington, D.C., working in federal government and non-profit government relations. Victoria received a City/County Fellowship from USC and hopes to transition into local government or consulting work.

**DREW ERNHOUT ’12** (theatre) is teaching Impact Award.

**LAINE DURGIN ’11** (social work) recently earned her master of social work from Western New Mexico University and was inducted into the Phi Alpha Honor Society. Laine also received the master of social work Community Impact Award.

**TREVOR DEW ’12** (information systems) is a project manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise. Trevor’s experiences at Nevada have contributed greatly to a successful career in IT. He and his wife, Mikaela, are expecting their first child in April.

**DREW ERNHOUT ’12** (theatre) is teaching English and performing in Osaka, Japan.

**ALLEN HARDISON ’12** (general studies) was recently named general manager of the Orange County Breakers professional tennis team. Allen, a former All-Mountain West Selection and Scholar Athlete for the Wolf Pack football team, is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Breakers. He still follows Wolf Pack athletics closely while living in Newport Beach, Calif. with his wife, Eva.

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**ERIN MEYERING ’14** (journalism) was hired as the full-time associate editor of Edible Reno-Tahoe magazine, a publication dedicated to the local food and drink movement.

**RACHEL WILLIMOTT ’14** (psychology) earned her master of social work from USC in 2015 and is now working toward a clinical license at University of Nevada. She is so glad to be back on campus!

**RYAN BAYFIELD ’15** (general business) recently accepted a job at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He’ll use the experience with laser cutters and 3D printers he gained working in Nevada’s DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library on space exploration projects.

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**DENISE GARCIA SEGURO ’15** (social work) recently landed her dream job as a social worker for the State of Nevada.
Chris Vargas '95 (finance)
Occupation: Financial Planner

A Silver And Blue
EVENT.

Thursday, May 12
- Welcome Luncheon
- Campus Tour
- Reunion Dinner

Friday, May 13
- Commencement Ceremony
- Class of 1966 Photo
- Golden Reunion Breakfast

Mark your calendars and get ready for a celebration fifty years in the making!

www.unr.edu/alumni/events/golden-reunion
OSNAA members help Orvis students prepare for their careers during the annual Orvis Mock Interview event Feb. 17.

Nevada Sagebrush Alumni Chapter
Amy Beck '09, amyjeanbeck@gmail.com

The Nevada Sagebrush Alumni Chapter hosted its fourth annual Alumni Dinner Sept. 30. More than 50 alumni, current staff members and friends gathered at Pinocchio’s Bar and Grill as the chapter awarded Warren Lerude ’61 (journalism) with the 2015 Frank McCulloch Lifetime Achievement Award. Warren served as editor-in-chief of the Sagebrush from 1959-60, before spending the majority of his newspaper career as editor and publisher of the Nevada State Journal and the Reno Evening Gazette. The award was created in 2013 to honor the many accomplishments of successful Sagebrush alumni. Past recipients include Guy Clifton and award namesake Frank McCulloch ’41 (journalism), ’67 (honorary doctor of letters). The chapter board is already working on details for the 2016 dinner and will announce information soon.

Join us for our monthly Deadwine happy hour event April 25 at Beer NV in south Reno. Please follow us on Facebook to stay up to date, and visit our webpage to join the chapter. Membership is only $25 per year and is open to all.

Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter
Jocelyn Weart ’00, jocelynweart@gmail.com

At the end of March, the Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter (NVBAAC) socialized at the Draft Kings Lounge in Oracle Arena before watching the record-setting Golden State Warriors take on the Dallas Mavericks! This event quickly sold out, so we’ll be sure to increase the number of tickets available for next year’s game.

Alumni gathered in San Francisco for viewing parties Jan. 23 and Feb. 20 to watch both Nevada vs. UNLV basketball games and cheer on our Wolf Pack! We also gathered for pizza and drinks before attending the Nevada vs. San Jose State University game Feb. 17.

The chapter will be hosting two educational events on financial planning, presented by a certified financial planner from Ameriprise Financial. One will be held in the Ameriprise office San Francisco, and the other will be held in the Ameriprise office in Campbell (the South Bay). We hope alumni from all across the Bay Area will be able to attend, so stay tuned for more details. As always, we’ll continue NVBAAC happy hours and other events this spring! Visit our website for contacts and upcoming events, and don’t forget to stay in touch on Facebook. Go Pack!
**Student Ambassador Alumni Chapter**
Priscilla Acosta '10, nvambassadoralumni@gmail.com

Members of the Student Ambassador Alumni Chapter sat on a panel of professionals for the First in the Pack retreat in January. The program supports first-generation freshmen throughout their first year of college. The panel allowed students to see their majors in real life. The advice was invaluable and students left inspired and motivated for the spring semester.

This spring the chapter plans to take a trip to Napa Valley and will also continue our community service activities. Please visit our website for more chapter information and upcoming events.

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**Sacramento Alumni Chapter**
Steve Park '99, steve.park@tricommercial.com

Young alumni living in the Sacramento area have begun meeting regularly at Bunz Sports Pub & Grub with owners Aaron Toto '03 (physical education) and Rebecca Howe '96 (elementary education). Visit our website, stay in touch on Facebook for details on the next meeting and the upcoming Founders’ Day event at Bunz.

Thanks to Kyle Ramos '76 (managerial science) and Tom Ramos '77 (civil engineering) for a stout Mystery Bus Trip. We had a lot of fun and raised $3,000 for the scholarship fund.

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**Nevada Football Alumni Chapter**
Matt Airoldi '94, tgratsunami61@yahoo.com

The Nevada Football Alumni Chapter is now on Twitter! Follow us on Twitter, @NevadaFBAlumni, and “like” us on Facebook to stay in touch and hear about upcoming events.

Congratulations to Virgil Green '10 (criminal justice), Brandon Marshall '11 (criminal justice) and Kyle Roberts '14 (biology) who are now Super Bowl Champions!

We meet the first Monday of each month from 6-8 p.m. at the Little Wal to stay in touch during the off season. Come say hello, and hear what’s coming up for the next football season. Go Pack!

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**Student Ambassador Alumni Chapter**
Priscilla Acosta '10, nvambassadoralumni@gmail.com

Student Ambassador Alumni Chapter members during their trip to Apple Hill Nov. 11. Front row: Theo Meek ’15, Priscilla Acosta ’10, Desiree Acosta ’15 Back row: Lily Davalos ’15, Jackie Barrera ’14, Jessica Adams ’13, Mimi Premo ’14, Cynthia Uba ’14, ’15, Hector Mendoza ’12 and Peter Reed, director of the Sanford Center for Aging.
The Asian American Pacific Islander Alumni Chapter (AAPI) held a sushi social Oct. 7, and it was a blast! We were able to meet new friends and catch up with old ones from out of town, all while having all-you-can-eat sushi! Did somebody say food coma?! The 2015 Mystery Bus Tour Nov. 20 did the impossible—it was even better than the year before! We had pizza and beer at the Little Wal, more food and tea at Moo Dangs, kamikaze shots at Se7en, orange crush drinks at Singer, and 50 raffle prizes to split among the 40 attendees. We sure painted the town BLUE! To cap off the school year, we will be hosting the AAPI Graduation May 10 at 7 p.m. in the Joe Crowley Student Union. Come see our new grads off as they celebrate their educational achievements. Stay tuned to AAPI emails as we will be hosting our spring sushi social sometime during the week after graduation. Bring your empty bellies!

The Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter had a fantastic showing of alumni at Born And Raised bar and restaurant in Las Vegas for the Nevada vs. UNLV football game viewing party Oct. 3! While all of us would have liked to see the football game end with a win, we were happy to see our basketball team defeat UNLV Jan. 23! Our chapter is gearing up to assist the Nevada Alumni Association with spring student recruitment events, as well as planning for various spring, summer and fall events. Find us on Facebook or stay updated with emails from the Nevada Alumni Association!

The Southern California Alumni Chapter’s annual holiday luncheon was held Saturday, Dec. 5 at Mimi’s Café, directly across from Disneyland. It was a great time for Nevada graduates living in Southern California to connect with each other and celebrate the holiday season.

The Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter held the second Professional Mentorship Lunch and Learn Jan. 28. We hosted lunch and a faculty member led a workshop on time management. Our professional mentorship program continues to be the only program of its kind offered through an alumni chapter to Nevada student-athletes.

One of the three pillars of our mission is to raise money to support academic scholarships for our student-athletes. We are asking for your support as we strive toward our goal of raising money for a permanent endowment and two $1,000 annual awards. Our goal is to raise $10,000 this year. Please consider making a donation through our website at www.unr.edu/alumni/chapters/cheer and select the Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter Scholarship under designation. Thanks and go Pack!

The Southern Nevada Alumni Chapter
Misha Ray ’12, misha_ray@yahoo.com

The Southern California Alumni Chapter
Chris Polimeni ’85, cpolimeni@fwg.com

The Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter
Elliot E. Sparkman ’04, eesparkman@gmail.com
In 1906 the first snow survey system was created by University Professor James Edward Church on the flanks of Mt. Rose. This pioneering system led to the process used to determine the amount of water supplied to Tahoe, Reno and northern Nevada by each winter’s snow pack. Today, this same system is what Chad Blanchard ‘93 (resource management/hydrology), ’03 M.S. (resource and applied economics), ’09 MBA relies on to determine the amount of water available from the Carson and Truckee rivers that flows to users downstream.

As the region’s federal water master, Chad is like a tightrope walker, expertly balancing the historic legal rights of water users with an ever-fluctuating resource. Allocating water for municipal and agricultural use, power generation, and the protection of threatened endangered species keeps Chad on his toes managing the water levels and releases of Tahoe, Boca, Stampede and Prosser reservoirs.

The relationship between humans and water is especially complicated in the West, fraught with competing interests. Chad is charged with managing the water distribution process that upholds both new and centuries-old water rights pertaining to the Carson and Truckee rivers. When the snow accumulation period ended and the snow-melt season began April 1 of this year, Chad began the intricate process of determining water levels and allocations for water right owners along each river, a task that his office will repeat almost daily until next April.

Chad looks back fondly on his time at Nevada. His love of learning and the opportunities the University afforded him continue to impact his life and career.
Student Recruitment Reception

The Nevada Alumni Association, in partnership with the Office for Prospective Students, recently held the third in a series of 10 student recruitment receptions throughout northern California and Nevada. More than 350 prospective students and their families attended the event March 10 at Arden Hills Club & Spa to learn more about Nevada.

Prospective student Miranda Psaila and Alyssa Harrison with their moms, Linda (left) and Sandra (right).

Prospective student Christian Keller and his parents learn about pursuing an engineering degree from College of Engineering Dean Manos Maragakis.

Prospective student Kaylie Greathouse and her parents, Alice and Eric, speak with Rod Aeschlimann, executive director of residential life, housing and food service.

Twins Jackson and Benjamin Maves came to learn more about studying biology and engineering at Nevada.
Sixty-four medical students from the Class of 2016 were matched with residency institutions in Nevada and across the nation March 18 at events in Las Vegas and Reno. Forty-four percent of the 2016 School of Medicine graduates will enter primary care specialties. ANNE MCMILLIN, APR

John and Karen Thiele celebrate Karen’s match into family medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Christina and Evan Raps ’11 celebrate their couples match at the University of Utah. She is going into emergency medicine while he is pursuing pathology. Brianna Ruch ’12 and Paulo Garcia ’10 matched into general surgery and pathology, respectively, at Virginia Commonwealth University, and Daniel Ignatiuk matched into pediatrics at the University of Utah. EDGAR ANTONIO NUÑEZ. Members of the Class of 2016 who matched in the Reno event on the steps of the Center for Molecular Medicine.
True-Blue Roots Run Deep

John and Mary O’Gara moved to Reno in 1955 from Butte, Montana. Their five children all attended the University of Nevada, Reno and pursued medical and dental careers. They are strong supporters of Nevada athletics. Their Nevada roots run deep as all of their 12 grandchildren have attended or graduated from Nevada. The O’Gara family makes Reno their home.

Colleen ‘81, ’96 M.D. and Brad Capurro ‘80 at Colleen’s medical school hooding in 1996.
The O’Gara family at their home in 1967.

How many University of Nevada alumni make up your family tree? Let us know, and you could all be featured in an upcoming issue of Nevada Silver & Blue. For details, visit unr.edu/alumni/magazine or call 888.NV ALUMS.

John and Mary O’Gara at their 50th wedding anniversary in 2003.

Philanthropist and University Foundation Trustee Emerita Carol Franc Buck has long been an avid supporter of visual and performing arts in the American West. Her generosity has already left a big impact on the University of Nevada, Reno campus, and that impact continues to grow as the University sharpens its focus on arts education.

Buck, who serves as president of the Carol Franc Buck Foundation, recently pledged $1 million to support the Act Two project in the School of the Arts, which will create a new fine arts building that will connect to Church Fine Arts through a sky-walk or bridge. The building will include a new recital hall, an art museum, an instrumental rehearsal room, digital media space, practice rooms and offices. It will also include a choral opera rehearsal room named in Buck’s honor.

“This new space will give our students the chance to hone their skills in an acoustically and visually superb environment, and will truly elevate the musical and artistic standards of the University,” said College of Liberal Arts Interim Dean Larry Engstrom. “We are delighted that community members like Ms. Buck value the visual and performing arts so highly and are making arts education a priority in the Reno-Tahoe area.”

In addition to her support of Act Two, Buck made a major gift to fund the creation of the Carol Franc Buck Foundation Sculpture Garden, which serves as a transition between the campus green and the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center. The popular garden is a calm, visually appealing space that was designed for both social interaction and personal reflection in the middle of a bustling campus.

“It is exciting and satisfying to be a part of the beautiful transformations that have been happening on campus over the last decade,” said Buck.

Buck has been a dedicated supporter of the University for more than thirty years. Reflecting the broad range of her interest in visual and performing art, she has lent major support to the book arts projects of Foundation Professor Peter Goin, who has focused on the changing landscapes of the Nevada desert and Lake Tahoe. Buck has also given generously to the University’s marching band and KUNR radio.

Outside of the University, Buck supports many of northern Nevada’s major cultural institutions, including the Reno Philharmonic, the Nevada Museum of Art, Nevada Opera, Sierra Nevada Chorale and the Nevada Ballet Theatre, among others.

In 2006, Buck received the Nevada Governor’s Art Award in recognition of her outstanding and enduring contributions to Nevada through artistic achievement, commitment and service to the arts. In 2007, she was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Northern Nevada Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

“Individuals like Carol Franc Buck are the reason that northern Nevada is becoming known as a haven for artists and performers,” says Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations John Carothers. “She has played a major role in our focus on the arts at the University for more than three decades, and we are thankful for the tremendously positive impact she has made.”

by JOANNA TRIEGER