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WE came. We saw.

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Presented by

Home Means NEVADA
2017 Nevada Alumni Council

For 2017, the Nevada Alumni Council will be led by Mary-Ann (Merlo) Brown ’85, ’96 M.S. and six executive committee officers. We also welcome four new board members this year.

MARY-ANN (MERLO) BROWN ’85, ’96 M.S.
TREASURER/PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kris (Perkins) Layman ’93
VICE PRESIDENT FOR CHapter DEVELOPMENT

Amy (Stechman) Ozuna ’08
VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mike McDowell ’03
VICE PRESIDENT FOR CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Joe Nannini ’00, ’10 Ed.S.
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Chrissy Menicucci ’86
VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP

Nick Butler ’02,’06 M.Acc
PAST PRESIDENT

John Krmpotic ’90

New Members

John Krmpotic ’90

Jake Pereira ’15

Christopher Smith ’11

Scott Walquist ’02
1960s

GARY TACHOIRES ’64 (chemistry) is not at all slowed down by his lower-extremity Parkinson’s. He and his wife, GEORGIA ’62 (elementary education), ’67 M.Ed., ’75 Ed.S., have traveled eight times recently, three to Alaska, one to the East Coast, one to Panama and three to Europe. They also have one trip scheduled this January to New Zealand. Traveling keeps Gary and Georgia lively and active. They still love their Reno home and have a son and grandson in San Francisco.

1970s

DOUGLAS D. PIIRTO ’70 (renewable natural resources) has received two lifetime career achievement awards. He recently retired as department head and professor from Cal Poly, San Louis Obispo. He is now the owner of Crestline Forestry Consultants and Piirto Farm in Michigan.

RONALD M. JAMES ’78 (history and anthropology), ’81 M.A. (history) was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame in 2014. On Sept. 3, 2016, he was initiated into the Gorsedh Kernow, an organization that maintains the national Celtic spirit of Cornwall, for his writings on Cornish immigration and folklore. Ron is the only bard inducted this year from North America.

1980s

DAN BURNETT ’84 (biology), ’89 M.D. recently retired from the United States Air Force after 26 years as an active duty family physician, flight surgeon, and public health and preventive medicine physician. Dan and his wife, Sara, are making their new home in San Diego, but hope to return to Reno/Sparks more frequently in the coming years.

SCOTT STANTON ’89 MBA is senior director of finance at Salem State University in Salem, Mass., where he oversees all financial and accounting applications and processes. On the weekends he can be found sailing out of Marblehead Harbor and all along the North Shore.

1990s

WILLIAM “BUZZ” HARRIS ’90 (political science) recently changed careers after 25 years in public affairs. He is now a licensed business broker at The Liberty Group of Nevada. Buzz and his wife of six years, Caroline Crowell Harris, reside in Reno and have two daughters, Ashley and Lindsey.

RICHARD TOLEDO ’90 (social psychology) is assistant vice president of enrollment management at Dominican University of California, a liberal arts institution in San Rafael. He oversees the offices of undergraduate and graduate admissions and financial aid. Rich enjoys hiking the trails and beaches of Marin County with his family and teaching his daughter how to surf.

JOELLE JAY ’92 (education) recently co-authored a book with Howard Morgan, “The New Advantage: How Women in Leadership Create Win-Wins for Their Companies and Themselves.” Joelle specializes in the advancement of executive women, and she is proud to have supported the development of top talent into positions of leadership for many successful companies, including MetLife, Adobe and Microsoft.

LESLEY COHEN ’93 (political science) was elected to the Nevada Assembly to represent Assembly District 29, which is mostly in Henderson. Lesley served in the 2013 session and is excited to see the recent changes to the Nevada campus.

WENDY (WYNESS) DAMONTE ’94 (journalism and Spanish) is vice president of advocacy and community partnerships at Renown Health in Reno. Renown is the largest not-for-profit health system in northern Nevada. Wendy is working on programs and initiatives to make all Nevadans healthier. Prior to joining Renown, Wendy spent 21 years as an anchor/reporter at KTVN, the CBS affiliate in Reno.
the San Francisco office of Coldwell Banker Previews International. In her spare time, she enjoys showing friends and family the Seward Street Slides and listening to live jazz at the Royal Cuckoo.

JENNIFER ANDREWS-LEISE ’04 (criminal justice) recently won her election to the Mayfield Board of Education. She took off in July 2016. Jennifer works for docSTAR, an ECM solutions company, and lives in Mayfield, N.Y. with her husband, Randy, and daughter, Abbey.

JERRY HOGAN ’94 (civil engineering) is chief estimator and partner at Clark & Sullivan Construction in Sparks, Nev. Jerry is leading the renovation of the Palmer Engineering Building on campus. Nevada's historic buildings were his favorite part of his time at the University, and he is excited to preserve the history in this renovation project. Jerry also played Wolf Pack basketball from 1990-1994.

NICOLA (NIKI) NEILON ’95 (general studies) has been nominated mountain region director of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy.

KIRSTEN MASHINTER ’98 (English), ’03 M.A. (teaching English as a second language) has been selected by the United States Department of State to serve as an English language specialist in Tajikistan where she will give workshops on reading and writing strategies to public school teachers and university lecturers.

SEAN M. EVANS ’94 MPA recently published an article in The Journal of Policing, Intelligence and Counter Terrorism and one in Taylor & Francis Online called “Developing Sustainable Security: Police Intelligence in Post-Conflict Reconstruction.”

MONICA MYLES ’04 (journalism) promotes the importance of organ, eye and tissue donation as the partner liaison for Nevada Donor Network. She develops and supports partnerships with hospitals and other organizations that play important roles in the donation process, works to educate the public about the life-changing impact of donation and encourages people to register as donor heroes.

BILL WEST ’05 (speech communications), ’07 M.A. (speech communications) is co-owner of Bareknuckle Brand Marketing in Reno, a company that takes the gloves off to help business owners create and grow meaningful brands. Last year, Bill merged his first company, GhostWest, with another Reno-based company to create Bareknuckle. Bill remains connected with the University by hiring interns and employees from the journalism school.

WES CAPPS ’07 (management) recently joined ITS Logistics’ Brokerage Division, ITS National, as a carrier specialist. Drew is also on the board of the College of Business Alumni Association and is a member of the Young Alumni Chapter.

PETER A. KOPP ’12 PH.D. (history) is assistant professor and director of public history at New Mexico State University. He published his first book, "Hoptopia: A World of Agriculture and Beer in Oregon’s Willamette Valley," which delves into the contents of your pint glass to discover a rich history of the environment, culture, economy, labor and science.

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committee secretary of transportation for the Nevada Legislature in 2013.

BRIEN HAYES ’13 (political science) recently graduated from Grand Canyon University with a master’s of public administration. He is currently pursuing a juris doctor at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego.

PATRICK HARRIS ’14 (marketing), author of the superhero series, The Waterman Chronicles, recently completed the novel “Silver Rain,” which has been nominated for several book awards, including a Pulitzer Prize for Best in Fiction. The story is set in Reno and discusses themes of discrimination vs. acceptance while following everyday Americans after a mad scientist launches a toxin in the rain that turns it silver.

NICK LESTER ’16 (marketing) recently joined ITS Logistics’ Brokerage Division, ITS National, as the head of the departures division in the transportation management department. He is responsible for defining business needs, developing procurement strategy, supplier selection and evaluation, as well as contract negotiation.

BRYAN ORELLANA ’16 (international business) recently joined ITS Logistics’ Brokerage Division, ITS National, as the head of the departures division in the transportation management department. He is responsible for scheduling, route planning and high-level client communication.
Katie (Revelino) Rada ’06 (health ecology) and Brandyn Rada ’05 (environmental and natural resource science) announce the birth of Colton James on July 16, 2016. Colton joins big brother, Levi.

Elyse (Smith) Hansen ’03 (elementary education) and Dale “Travis” Hansen announce the birth of Remy Royal on March 25, 2016. Remy joins big sister, Elliott Maeve.

Susan N. Smith ’00 (health science) announces the adoption of Jackson Benet on Nov. 18, 2015. Jackson was born May 13, 2014.

Caleb Jensen ’07 (accounting) and Sarah Painter announce the birth of Miles Robert on Sept. 12, 2015.

Tamara (Guinn) Steinmann ’09 (management), ’15 M.S. (human development and family studies) and Gordon Steinmann ’06 (chemistry) announce the birth of Layla Ann on June 3, 2016.

Jon Salisbury ’08 (criminal justice) and Ashley (Guidry) Salisbury ’07 (journalism), ’13 M.S. (equity & diversity in education settings) announce the birth of Landry Hale on June 13, 2016. Landry joins big brother, Jace.

Sam DiMuzio ’02 (elementary education) ’12 (animal science) and Brian DiMuzio announce the birth of Crystal Rose on Dec. 11, 2015.

Danny Wadhams ’09 (management) and Courtney B. Wadhams announce the birth of Maya James on July 9, 2016.

Harold Peterson ’08 Ph.D. (atmospheric science) and Kelly Lee announce the birth of Cheyenne Elizabeth on Oct. 3, 2016.

Sophia (Raphael) Cardinal ’10 (accounting) and Andrew Cardinal ’09 (criminal justice) are overjoyed to announce the birth of Henry Cole on May 10, 2016. Henry joins big sister, Evaline.
Mary-Ann Brown ’85, ’96 M.S.
President, Nevada Alumni Council

Like most healthcare professionals, Mary-Ann Brown ’85 (nursing), ’96 M.S. (nursing) has a passion for helping people. But she is also deeply motivated to develop programs and initiatives that impact the whole community, in addition to individual patients. Mary-Ann’s career has taken her from intensive-care nursing in Reno, to travel nursing in Australia, to a stint as executive director of the Children’s Cabinet, to Renown, where she serves as director of palliative care. And it all began right here at the University of Nevada.

Mary-Ann’s specialty is hospice and palliative care. Guiding families through life-altering illnesses and end-of-life issues is a delicate subject, and discussing the complexities of terminal diseases is a conversation many shy away from. Not Mary-Ann. “It’s a privilege to be invited by patients and their families to help when they are at their most vulnerable,” she said.

This passion to help when she’s most needed has been a constant theme throughout her career, a passion she discovered as a student at the Orvis School of Nursing. “The biggest influence on my career,” Mary-Ann said, “was my experience at the University. That’s where I discovered my passion for bioethics, and professors like Dr. Barbara Thornton helped me make key introductions in the community that I rely on to this day.”

Mary-Ann is mission driven and constantly seeks opportunities to be a change agent. At Renown, she and Dr. Kelle Brogan developed the new multidisciplinary inpatient palliative care program that she now directs. Mary-Ann spends her days directly helping patients and families deal with the most difficult situations in their lives. She is also committed to moving the state and University forward. She is president of the Nevada Alumni Council and vice president of the Nevada State Board of Nursing, and she sits on numerous other boards and committees devoted to health care and education.

But the highlight of her career traces right back to where it all began. This spring, Mary-Ann will sit on stage representing Nevada alumni during Commencement when her daughter walks across to accept her diploma. “My work has come full circle,” she said. “I’m so proud of this University, what it’s given me and my family, and for what my education has allowed me to do.”

So are we, Mary-Ann.
JANELLE (KING) GODOY ’15 (integrated elementary teaching) and BRIAN GODOY ’15 (criminal justice) were married June 18, 2016 in Graeagle, Calif.

ERIN (CARR) BROOKS ’14 M.A. (psychology) and JACK BROOKS ’08 (materials science and engineering), ’14 MBA were married March 28, 2015 at the Bard Mansion in Port Hueneme, Calif.

CASEY STITELER ’12 (political science) and JORDAN (WOLL) STITELER ’12 (community health science) were married Aug. 8, 2015 at Kirkwood Mountain Resort near Lake Tahoe.

NIKI NEILON ’95 (general studies) and PAUL GOSSI ’90 MBA were married June 4, 2016 at the Pink House in Genoa, Nev.

LAURA EAST ’09 (nutrition) and Trevor Pease were married April 16, 2016 in Seattle.

BRADLEY AUSTIN ’10 (biology) and DANIELLE (DAVIS) AUSTIN ’13 (philosophy) were married Sept. 10, 2016 at Red Hawk Golf and Resort.
Family, friends, college deans and University administrators joined the Nevada Alumni Association to recognize graduates with one of the most prestigious awards at the University — the Senior Scholar distinction. The December 8 event honored the graduating student with the highest grade-point average in their respective school or college. Also recognized were the mentors selected by each scholar as having the greatest impact on their studies.
The Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter at the annual field introduction during halftime of the Homecoming football game Oct. 22.

**Nevada Cheer and Spirit Alumni Chapter**  
Elliot E. Sparkman ’04  
eesparkman@gmail.com

Fall kicked off with our fourth annual Cheers to Happy Hour where we raised $3,400 in scholarships for the current team. Thank you to Greenstreet, Napa Sonoma, Sapphire Wines, Morrey Distributing, our generous sponsors who donated for our silent auction, and all those who purchased tickets to attend.

We celebrated Homecoming 2016 with our largest events yet! Our social took place at Roundabout Grill where we watched the March from the Arch. Our Tailgate included Famous Dave’s BBQ, Tahoe Blue Vodka, Bud Light, chapter merchandise from Silver and Blue Outfitters and a visit from the current team. We then had our annual field introduction and a block of seats to cheer on the Pack together! Thank you to Creative Coverings, Camelot, Action Design and Greenstreet.

The AAPI Alumni Chapter raised nearly $2,000 during the annual Mystery Bus Trip fundraiser Oct. 14! A packed bus of 56 alumni and friends discovered new bars and restaurants around Reno. All proceeds from the event go towards scholarships for AAPI undergraduate students.

We will celebrate the fifth year hosting the AAPI graduation celebration this spring. Faculty, staff, alumni and friends will welcome the newest graduates to the ranks of proud Nevada alumni.

**College of Business Alumni Association**  
Vick Wowo ’11  
vwowo@whitneypeakhotel.com

COBAA hosted a reception following the Career Fair Networking Event at the Little Waldorf Oct. 18, where the board of directors helped alumni and students get a better understanding of what the chapter does to support alumni, students, the college and the University.

In September we released the fifth annual publication of our magazine, N Venture. If you haven’t had a chance to take a peek, issues of the magazine are available around campus and online at www.cobaa.org.

We’re excited to announce new events for 2017 that will engage and excite College of Business alumni and students. To learn more about COBAA and to find out how to join, please contact VP of Membership Megan Lowe-Lynch ’10 at mlowe@chaseinternational.com.

**Nevada Football Alumni Association**  
Matt Airoldi ’94  
tgratsunami61@yahoo.com

Homecoming 2016 marked the 50th reunion of the 1966 team and anniversary of Mackay Stadium. To celebrate, the Block N Society and the Football Alumni Chapter held a tailgate where alumni and friends gathered before the game.

Our annual Poker Tournament is again planned for spring, so stay tuned and visit us online for updates. You can also follow our Facebook pages, Nevada Football Alumni and Nevada Wolfpack Blackshirts, or on Twitter, @NevadaFBAAlumni.
Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter
Jocelyn Weart ’00
nvbaac@gmail.com

The Nevada Bay Area Alumni Chapter was named Chapter of the Year for 2016 and recognized at the Homecoming Gala and football game! We also celebrated this award with fellow alumni in September at Seven Stills Brewery in San Francisco. We can’t thank our members enough for making this possible!

We had incredible turnouts for football this year with a viewing party at Brasserie Saint James in San Francisco for the Notre Dame game and a tailgate for the SJSU game in San Jose. Next year, we’re planning our Warriors’ tailgate for April 8, so stay tuned for more details!

As always, please stay in touch on Facebook and our website, nvbaac.com.

Native American Alumni Chapter
Stephanie Wyatt ’12
swyatt1031@gmail.com

The Native American Alumni Chapter had a busy fall! We kicked off Homecoming by participating in the March from the Arch with our Pow Wow Royalty and Native American Student group. For Native American Heritage month, we partnered with University Athletics and The Center to bring Bunky Echo-Hawk, Nike’s N7 Ambassador, to campus Nov. 11. During select games in November, the basketball teams wore turquoise uniforms, a color that represents harmony, friendship and fellowship in Native American culture. And in September, the NAAC and The Center hosted a welcome back barbecue for new and returning students and their families.

Lifetime chapter memberships are now available at $300 for individuals or $500 per couple. To learn more about the chapter or to become a member, please visit us online or contact Stephanie Wyatt.

Fallon Alumni Chapter
Cheryl Venturacci
cventuracci@cccomm.net

The Fallon Alumni Chapter was busy this summer and fall raising scholarship money for local Churchill County seniors. We also held our first Italian Dinner Aug. 26 at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Fallon, where more than 100 Wolf Pack fans feasted on spaghetti, salad, Italian green beans and affogato. It was a great night of dancing, a silent auction, a raffle, and great food and drink!

On Oct. 8 the chapter sponsored a rooter bus from Fallon to watch Nevada defeat Fresno State. Forty Wolf Pack fans stopped at Woody’s Bar and Grill for lunch and libations before the game.

Because of the generosity of our boosters, we will be awarding three $1,000 scholarships to seniors this spring.
The Sacramento Alumni Chapter has been very active lately with luncheons, wine tasting and road tripping to Notre Dame to support the Wolf Pack. We had a full Homecoming schedule, with members attending the Gala, March from the Arch, a social at Whitney Peak, and pre-game parties and tailgates.

Congratulations to Bill Chaffin ’66 for being nominated to the Sigma Nu, Delta Xi Chapter Legion of Honor. Since its inception in 1959, Bill joins only 92 other “Snakes” in recognition of his service to the fraternity and the University.

Please join us for our annual Mystery Dinner Bus Trip Saturday, Feb. 11. For more information, contact Chapter President Steve Park.
Veterans Alumni Chapter
Zack Totans '14
ztotans@gmail.com

The Veterans Alumni Chapter was proud to host Gov. Brian Sandoval '86 and Carson City Mayor Robert Crowell at Engage Veteran Professionals Networking Breakfast Sept. 23. The veterans in attendance received inspiring insight and kind words from supportive state and local officials.

The VAC also held its first tailgate party before the Wolf Pack's battle against San Diego State Nov. 12. We had a phenomenal time and were proud to show our support for the Pack.

We're excited that our March Engage breakfast will be held on the Nevada campus, in the Joe Crowley Student Union Ballroom, to showcase veteran leaders and their commitment to serve their community. We look forward to seeing you there.

Young Alumni Chapter
McKenna Peri '11, '12
mckennaperi@gmail.com

The Young Alumni Chapter hosted many lively tailgate parties this season and had a blast backing the Pack! We also congratulated and recruited new graduates with our Mimosa & Membership event at The Lil Wal for winter Commencement. The chapter hosted a festive ugly Christmas sweater mixer in December and looks forward to hosting a bowling mixer in January and a roller skating night in February!

We are excited to announce our 24th annual Beer Fest fundraiser will be held Friday, April 21. Please save the date! Chapter membership is only $10 per year and can be purchased on our website, nevadayac.com. To stay in touch, please like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram at nevadayoungalum.

Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association
Jan (Pritchard) Brady '63, '88 MBA
lvccrrsswdrd@aol.com

We are thrilled to announce that the Nevada System of Higher Education's Board of Regents voted in September to reinstate the Orvis School of Nursing as an independent school. On Oct. 1, Patsy Ruchala assumed the position of dean of the school. Congratulations to Dean Ruchala and the Orvis School of Nursing!

OSNAA joined the OSNA in the March to the Arch for a fun walk with the students. We will make it a yearly tradition!

The Diamond Jubilee Gala Celebration for the 60th anniversary of the Orvis School of Nursing will be held April 22. Plans are nearly complete and it promises to be a very lovely evening at the Atlantis Casino and Resort. This is going to be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our school and to reminisce with old chums about the days we spent on the Nevada campus in the Orvis School of Nursing. See you there!