

Fall 2014

## UNLV Magazine

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# UNLV

MAGAZINE

FALL 2014



## A TEACHER'S LIFE

100-YEAR-OLD AUDREY JAMES  
FOUND OPPORTUNITY AT  
UNLV AMID A SEGREGATED  
SOUTHERN NEVADA P32

## THE MENTAL GAME

UNLV PERFORMANCE  
PROGRAM REMOVES STIGMA  
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## MY SPECIAL HAND

UNLV TEAM HELPING LOCAL  
GIRL GET A ROBOHAND P16

OUR TOP GRADS SHARE THEIR  
WORKPLACE TALES WITH YOU

# 2014 Alumni of the Year

DR. TONY ALAMO ★ JOE ALDRIDGE ★ BRENT BELL  
KEITH BROWN ★ RANDALL J. CAMPANALE

NICOLE ANN CAVENAGH ★ JERALD M. DICK  
GERARD J. INZERILLO ★ CHAD W. MILLER

LISA MORRIS HIBBLER ★ DR. REWADEE MEEVASIN  
ROBERT SMALE ★ VICTORIA VANMEETREN



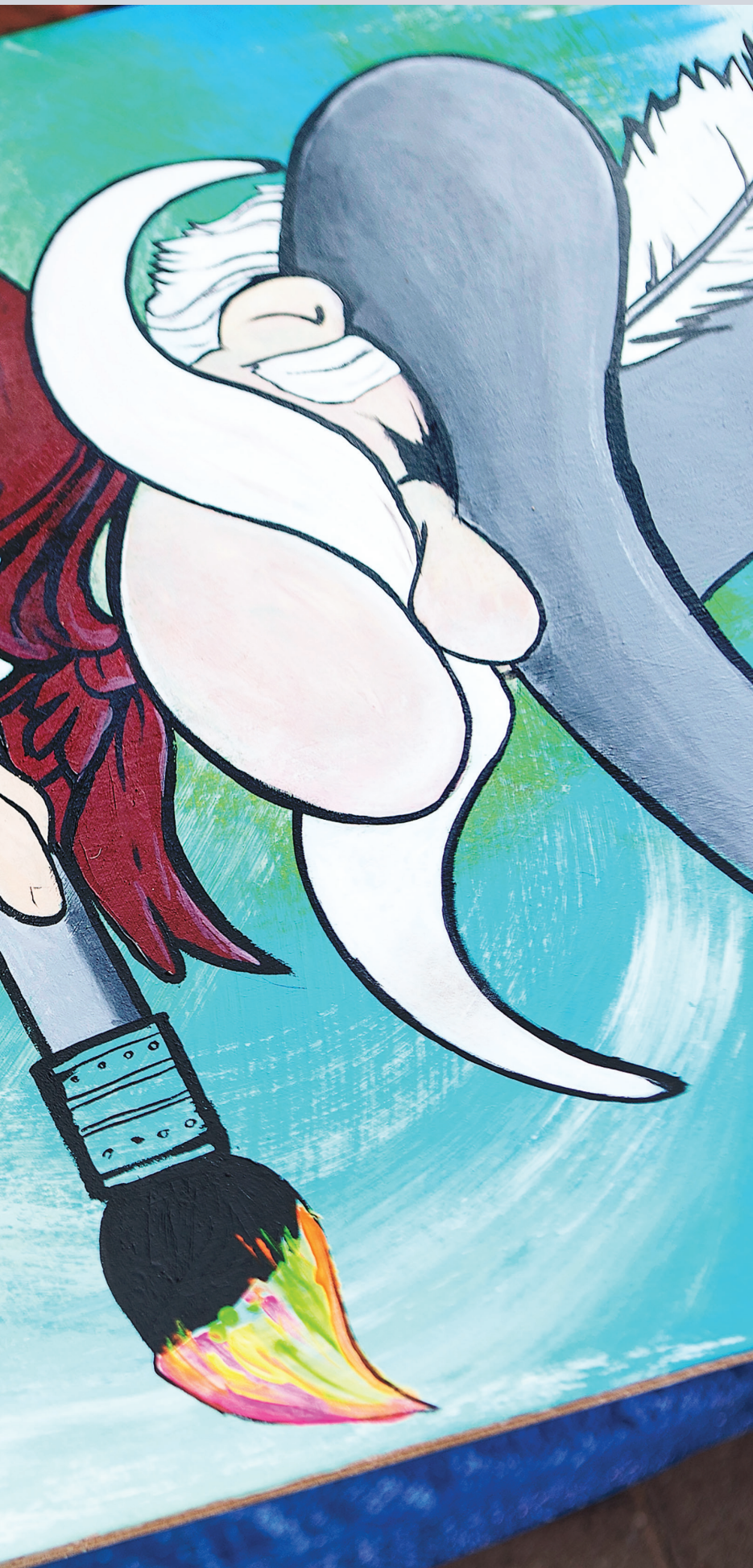
## Fitting Tribute

Our mascot offered some inspiration to artist Jono Vengo. His painting demonstration was part of Welcome Week activities at the beginning of the semester. Sadly, Mike Miller, the artist who created Hey Reb!, passed away Oct. 2. He created the mascot in 1982, charging the university just \$1 for his work. See Obituaries, page 39.

[Aaron Mayes/UNLV Photo Services]







# UNLV MAGAZINE

fall '14  
volume 22 • number 2

## The Mental Game

**12** To change risky behavior among student-athletes, UNLV psychology professor Brad Donohue strips away the stigma associated with mental health programs.

## The Numbers Drew Her Here

**14** The planning dean for UNLV's new School of Medicine shares her thoughts on improving health care in Nevada.

### ON THE COVER .....

## The Time I ...

**22** Our Alumni of the Year share their workplace tales with you.

## A Teacher's Life

**32** Audrey James was one of the few African-Americans in UNLV's earliest classes. Today, the centenarian still is working and spreading the message that education is a priority.

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- 14** MY THOUGHTS
- 32** CLASS NOTES

# Our Path Ahead

In the last few months, the proposed UNLV School of Medicine and the campus stadium project have generated most of the headlines for the university. But those important initiatives are part of a much larger vision for UNLV: achieving Tier One status, which encompasses classification by the Carnegie Foundation as a “Very High Research Activity” institution.

Tier One universities attract the best students and faculty members, are committed to student success, and are known for their overall academic excellence. Compared to the 4,600 other institutions in this country, they attract more federal grants and spur more economic development in their communities. Tier One university research enterprises facilitate startup companies and enhance broader workforce development efforts.

Las Vegas is one of the few major metropolitan areas without a Tier One university, and no institution in Nevada has attained this coveted and credible classification. In fact, only 2.3 percent of all higher-education institutions in the country have the designation, and only 75 are public universities.

Achieving Tier One is neither easy nor quick, but it is well worth the long-term investment. UNLV’s focus on becoming a research-based institution began in earnest with President Emerita Carol Harter; her successors, most recently former President Neal Smatresk, further defined the concept as Tier One.

Now we formally have started the process to turn vision into reality through our Path to Tier One, a strategic planning initiative. Earlier this year, we analyzed other institutions that have achieved Tier One status, such as Central Florida in Orlando, which has a tourism-based economy like Las Vegas; the University of Houston System; and Arizona State.

This fall, we are conducting a critical assessment of UNLV’s present situation, analyzing our organizational structure and accompanying infrastructure, identifying gaps, and developing a road map to help us achieve our goal. The efforts are being led by a broad committee of internal and external stakeholders as well as experienced

facilitators from an outside consulting firm. Collectively, we want to fully develop a strategic plan during the 2014-15 academic year to benefit both the university and the next UNLV president.\*

If we want our students and our alumni to be recognized for the excellence of their education, we must continue to move forward on this path. If we want to be recognized for our research in such critical fields to



Achieving Tier One is neither easy nor quick but it is well worth the long-term investment.

Nevada as gaming innovation and regulation, unmanned autonomous systems (i.e., drones), information technology, health and medical services and analytics, and science and technology, then we must be at the forefront. And if we want to have a stronger link to private industry in Las Vegas and throughout Nevada, then we must become more flexible and entrepreneurial. All these characteristics reflect Tier One. Business leaders as well as elected officials, both at the state and federal levels, have embraced this initiative because they recognize that it is an absolutely critical component for Southern Nevada to be competitive in the global marketplace.

Nearly 60 years ago, UNLV opened its doors to the community. Much like Southern Nevada, UNLV has grown and evolved over that time, but there is still much for us to achieve. I have always believed that you cannot have a great community without a great university,

connected to that community and beyond. To be the university that our community needs, our students need, and private industry needs, we must become a Carnegie Research “Very High” Tier One university.

**Donald D. Snyder,**  
UNLV President

\*Donald D. Snyder is serving as UNLV’s president while a national search is conducted for the position. Snyder is a longtime local business executive and philanthropist. He previously served as UNLV’s executive dean for strategic development and as dean of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration. Follow the search and UNLV’s progress on Tier One through our weekly newsletter. Subscribe at [news.unlv.edu/newsletters](http://news.unlv.edu/newsletters).

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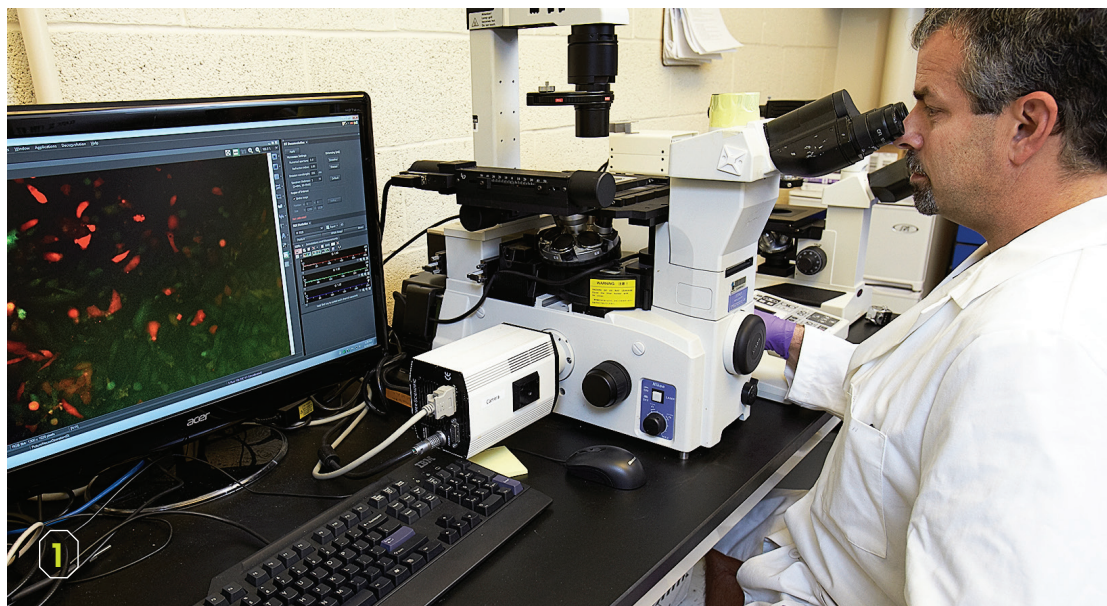
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## How we'll use it

The Cherry Creek supercomputer will boost UNLV's research in such areas as genomics and bioinformatics, climate research, molecular modeling, and data analytics. Here are four ways UNLV experts will tap into its processing power:

### 1 ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

— Despite substantial progress in studying the disease's etiology, treatments are still limited. Life sciences professor **Marty Schiller** and psychology professor Jeffery Kinney are exploring genome-based therapies, but such analyses involve processing massive amounts of data.

### 2 FRACKING

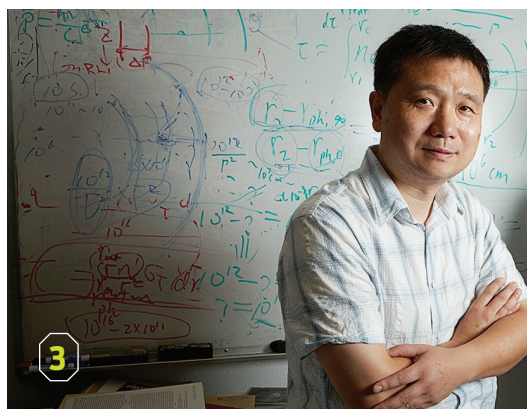
— Hydraulic fracturing, a technique for extracting oil and gas from shale rock, often takes place a mile or more below groundwater supplies. Mechanical engineering professor **Darrell Pepper** is using sophisticated numerical models to more accurately predict the prime locations for extraction and to assess possible contamination associated the process.

### 3 GAMMA-RAY BURSTS

— Gamma-ray bursts are the most luminous and violent explosions in the universe. They signify the deaths, collisions, or swallowing up of stars. Astrophysicist **Bing Zhang** is advancing our understanding of the physical mechanisms behind GRBs and other high-energy astrophysical phenomena.

### 4 QUANTUM DYNAMICS OF CHEMICAL REACTIONS

— Supercomputing has dramatically improved our ability to understand how atoms and molecules interact and the chemical reactions that occur in different environments. Chemistry professor Balakrishnan Naduvalath is using complex theoretical calculations to explore how molecules behave at temperatures close to absolute zero and under conditions important in astrophysics. — CATE WEEKS



# Super Charged Studies

## Supercomputer adds jolt to research, economic development

BY TONY ALLEN

Tech industry leaders Switch SUPERNAP and Intel are working with UNLV to bring one of the world's most powerful supercomputers to Las Vegas. UNLV was awarded the use of the Intel Cherry Creek supercomputer, which ranks among the world's fastest and most powerful supercomputers. It processes data roughly seven times faster than UNLV's current supercomputing center.

"Working together with Intel and Switch, UNLV has a tremendous opportunity, not only to keep pace with, but to play a leading role in big data research and economic development partnerships," said UNLV

## How fast is fast?

The speed of the Cherry Creek supercomputer is incomprehensible to most of us, but UNLV supercomputer administrators are geeked about its "massively parallel processing" and FLOPS speed rating of 200 trillion floating point operations per second. It ranked 400th on the Top500 list of the world's most powerful supercomputers and 41st in energy efficiency.

Joseph Lombardo, executive director of UNLV's National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment, put those FLOPS in perspective for us:

**A scientist with a handheld calculator would need 159,000 years of nonstop calculating to match a single second of the Cherry Creek supercomputer.**



# Computer

continued from page 3

President Donald Snyder. "It's also an excellent example of the kinds of resources that our Path to Tier One initiative will help bring to Southern Nevada." (See page 2.)

He noted that companies need access to the high-level computing power of supercomputers and the expertise of the UNLV teams that use them, so a portion of Cherry Creek's use will be reserved for private sector investment in university research.

The CEO and founder of Switch SUPERNAP, Rob Roy, was instrumental in helping UNLV secure the award because his company "understands how important this scientific research will be for economic development in the region. The SUPERNAP ecosystem will accelerate the development of new technology and provide the necessary industry relationships to advance UNLV's efforts."

Cherry Creek is housed in Switch's SUPERNAP data center in Las Vegas and is available to UNLV researchers and their collaborators across the globe through the company's unique connectivity network. It complements the computing arsenal that UNLV established in its National Supercomputing Center for Energy and the Environment (NSCEE).

Intel experts also will come to campus for guest lectures. Joseph Lombardo, executive director of NSCEE, said, "This special resource will enhance the educational experience for graduate and undergraduate students while playing an important role in faculty recruitment."

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

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## The Tool

### A broken M&M stapler

## The User

**Raquel O'Neill, '03 BA and '06 MA Social Work, interim director of UNLV's Disability Resource Center**

*O'Neill helps students with disabilities access services and alternative technologies for learning — something she's well-versed in. She is blind and tapped into the office's services herself as she obtained her degrees here. She uses text-to-speech technology extensively to do her job, but one of her most important tools is decidedly low-tech: A broken stapler.*

*"My husband decided that my office is too bland, so he bought colorful M&M office supplies. One day, a student of mine decided to use the stapler vigorously and happened to break the legs off the last M&M fellow on the stapler. The student was very upset about marring my stapler. Without thinking I just blurted out, 'That's OK. Now he's just like us. See, even though the M&M has no legs, the stapler still works just fine.' The student laughed and now comes to use the stapler throughout the semester before turning in papers as a confidence booster."*





## Scarlet Welcome

In August, as civil engineering professor Jaci Batista met a contingent of exchange students from Brazil, one of them asked, “Is that our welcome placard?” The student was pointing to a banner above a McCarran Airport baggage carousel that read “UNLV Educating Future Leaders.” The moment couldn’t have been more perfect if Batista had planned it.

The banners and digital signage are part of a larger display now being installed at the airport, which sees some 42 million passengers a year. By the time the holiday travel season gears up, UNLV will stand out with another installation between gates. Four 10-foot-tall pillars will carry the university’s acronym along with video displays providing more information about the university.

The project is a partnership with McCarran International Airport and the Board of the Clark County Commission.

# Bidding Adieu

**ENGLISH PROFESSORS** John and Darlene Unrue retired this year after teaching thousands of students, overseeing scores of master’s theses, and guiding the early careers of dozens of doctoral students. John joined the faculty in 1970 and went on to serve as UNLV’s provost. Darlene was hired full time in 1972. They saw UNLV grow from fewer than 5,700 students to more than 27,000.

## FIRST IMPRESSIONS

**John:** For us it was kind of a replay of the *Grapes of Wrath*. We felt like the Joads as we packed everything into our station wagon (and left Ohio). When we crossed the dam in the middle of the night, we both said, “This is a lovely place — and it’s green.” We didn’t realize we were in Boulder City.

Those first two years were banner hiring years. The people hired were good scholars who became good friends. And I remember that I was making a good salary. They had asked me to head the composition program as well as teach medieval



studies. I was paid \$11,000 a year.

## CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

**Darlene:** In those early years, we had to put up with a lot of comments about UNLV. “I didn’t know there was a university in Las Vegas. Do they really have serious scholars there?” It really changed in the late ’80s. The person who changed that perception was (President) Bob Maxson.

He had such a way about him. Positive reinforcement worked. People started feeling better about themselves. People started achieving some academic prestige, and we were taken seriously.

**John:** When I was provost ... we saw the first 10 Ph.D. programs and many master’s programs. Being able to be on the ground floor of the development of a university is about as great an opportunity as anybody could ever have. Also, we received the supercomputer, which brought a lot of national attention to UNLV. (See page 3 for the latest supercomputer development.)

## CHANGING STUDENT BODY

**Darlene:** The students are much more diverse these days, and that’s a good thing. ... It was rare to have students who weren’t Caucasian in those early years.

**John:** We have so many more international students. We have gotten to the point where the university doesn’t just reach out to the area, we reach out to the world. And, the students have gotten older. I have had senior citizens in my literature classes who actively participate in discussions. That really is wonderful when you hear the exchanges they have with much younger students.

**More:** Read the full conversation at [news.unlv.edu](http://news.unlv.edu).

UPDATES  
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## Presidential Search

As UNLV Magazine was going to press, the search firm working to find UNLV's next president was expected to present a list of candidates for the job to the search committee. Campus visits were tentatively scheduled for November. Visit [unlv.edu/presidentsearch](http://unlv.edu/presidentsearch) for the latest information.

## School of Medicine

If legislative funding requests and donations come through as planned, the UNLV School of Medicine will welcome its first class in 2017. In September, it submitted its application to start the accreditation process for all MD-granting medical schools in the United States and Canada. UNLV is now evaluating sites for the school, fundraising, and recruiting faculty and staff. (Learn more about the school, page 14.)

## Campus Stadium

The UNLV Campus Improvement Authority has recommended delaying consideration of the new stadium on UNLV's main campus until the 2017 legislative session. The delay will allow UNLV to focus efforts and funding requests on the new School of Medicine and on enhancing its Tier One initiative to rise in research university rankings.

# KUNV topping the charts again

**The college station where Jimmy Kimmel got his start is once again a pipeline for new broadcasting and music talents.**

BY MIKE KALIL

KUNV 91.5 FM soared from fledgling campus radio startup in 1981 to storied station in short order. With its rousing "Rock Avenue" programming, KUNV garnered industry nods as a Top Ten college station by the mid-'80s. Run by students, it served as the nucleus of a thriving local music scene. Among those who honed their early on-air skills there: late-night talk-show host **Jimmy Kimmel**; **Ken Jordan**, '88 BA Communication Studies, of the electronica duo The Crystal Method; and Jason Feinberg, head of artist marketing for Pandora. But FCC violations, loss of funding, format changes, a move off-campus, and dwindling student involvement followed.

Now, five years after returning to campus, KUNV is getting its groove back.

Rebranded as KUNV 91.5 **The Source**, a new contemporary jazz format has nearly doubled ratings, attracted a more culturally diverse audience, and lowered its average listener age by 20 years. Sister station 91.5 **The Rebel** KUNV HD-2 broadcasts progressive indie rock and hip-hop programming.

*"The thing that set me apart was that I had experience with the pressure of a morning news show and running an audio board."*

**Alexia K. Gyorody**  
NPR, Charlotte, N.C.

But KUNV's crowning achievement may be its renewed focus on offering students real-world experiences before they launch their careers.

"The training — I don't know how to quantify it besides saying it was invaluable," said Alexia K. Gyorody, '12 BA English.

Gyorody co-produced a morning news show on **The Source**, the main

KUNV station that goes out over traditional analog airwaves. She also hosted a talk show on **The Rebel**, the student station broadcast in HD over a digital signal. Shortly after graduation, Gyorody



## The Programming Sweet Spot

Programming changes at KUNV 91.5 FM have grown its listenership and attracted a younger and more diverse audience. The station primarily has played jazz for 15 years. But as **The Source**, it refocused on contemporary performers like Dave Koz and Boney James rather than artists of yesteryear like Miles Davis and Thelonious Monk — music some find too cerebral.

The result has been a rise in cumulative listeners per week from about 35,000 people two years ago to 55,000 now, according to Nielsen ratings.

New music also brought a new, different audience. Most of the listeners tuning in to the old format of traditional jazz were over 65. "We've grown with an audience a good 15 years younger," General Manager Frank Mueller said, citing Nielsen's KUNV data. "It's great to see that kind of change because that's the audience that has involvement and civic engagement that really drives the community."

In addition **The Source** is reflecting the diverse community it serves, Mueller said. "Almost 50 percent of our audience is minorities," he said. Amongst this portion of the listenership, "It's about a 50-50 split between the African-American community and the Latino community."





Brandon Wainright hosts The Morning Rebellion Show on KUNV radio.

was competing for a producing post at WFAE 90.7 FM, the NPR affiliate in Charlotte, N.C. Now she is the associate producer of the station's *Charlotte Talks*, the region's major public affairs show.

"The thing that set me apart was that I had experience with the pressure of a morning news show and running an audio board," the 25-year-old said. "I had on-air experience interviewing celebrities and prominent politicians because I was at KUNV during the 2012 elections."

Other alumni who hustled on air and behind the scenes at The Source and The Rebel have recently landed plum radio gigs at Las Vegas stations operated by Lotus Communications, Clear Channel Communications, and CBS Radio.

Unlike Gyorody, most KUNV interns enroll in the Greenspun School of Journalism & Media Studies program. The station supplements lessons in news-gathering, interviewing, recording production, audio engineering, and FCC regulations from KUNV General Manager Frank Mueller and other Greenspun faculty. They also receive mentoring from the college's student advisors like Lynn Briggs, the veteran mid-day radio host for Old School 105.7 FM.

Developing such relationships with established radio professionals doesn't hurt in turning a course of study into a career path.

Just ask Ryan Errisson.

Errisson, '13 BA Journalism and Media Studies, was co-hosting The Rebel's first morning zoo show during his senior year when Briggs tipped him to an opening at Las Vegas's Mix 94.1 FM. He went for it even though he was months from graduation.

He was hired as a board operator but soon moved into his current slot as a weekend DJ. Errisson credits his experience at KUNV with accelerating his rapid rise from student to behind-the-scenes soundman to on-air talent. It also confirmed his career commitment — Errisson spent two of his college years getting up daily at 3 a.m. to host KUNV's The Morning Rebellion. "Doing that every day, in and out, really tests whether you want to be in radio," he said. "Just getting in there, no matter what, and putting in the hours solidified my work ethic."

Spots like the ones Errisson and Gyorody held at KUNV are limited, with fierce competition for them. Las Vegas' commercial radio stations also offer internships, but often student interns are relegated to administrative tasks. Station sponsors expect polished DJs on air, not amateurs still finding their voices.

"Because those stations have to be run by professionals, they're not as able to be fully involved in experiences as they are here," said Mueller, the KUNV GM. "We're not as worried about commercial advertisers saying this doesn't sound professional. That being said, our students do sound great."

## BRIEFLY

### Association offers corporate memberships

This fall, the UNLV Alumni Association introduced its corporate membership program to strengthen relationships between businesses and UNLV.

The program highlights a company's support for higher education and connects its leaders and employees to UNLV students and alumni through the association's many programs and events. Employees also can access association benefits, such as discounted entertainment, travel, and pregame events as well as membership in the Rebel Business Network and other professional networking activities.

Tiered pricing for the corporate membership accommodates businesses of all sizes. Companies will also be recognized as event sponsors.

**More info:** Call 702-895-2399 or visit [unlv.edu/alumni](http://unlv.edu/alumni).

**Nov. 18: Rebel Business Network** luncheon features an economic forecast by Applied Analysis' **Jeremy Aguero**, '97 BS Hotel Administration and '04 JD. Register: [unlv.edu/alumni](http://unlv.edu/alumni)



# Happy 150th, Nevada



This year the UNLV News Center celebrated Nevada's 150th birthday with a series on the Silver State's history and culture. Faculty from across campus contributed their top 5 lists of favorite facts, quirky insights, and little-known trivia. Here's a taste for what they shared.

Read the full "My Nevada 5" series at [news.unlv.edu](https://news.unlv.edu).

## QUIRKY ECONOMY

**Mary Riddel**, chair of economics: "Nevada is simultaneously one of the most urban and rural states in the U.S. More than 94 percent of Nevada residents live in an urban area, but 99 percent of the total acreage of the state is within a rural area. No other state has this extreme contrast. This disparity has historically created interesting challenges for the people of the state, especially since the two urban areas, Clark and Washoe counties, are separated by 438 miles of desert. To add to this challenge, 75 percent of economic activity is generated in Clark, the southernmost county in the state, but the seat of state government is in Carson City in the north."

## LITTLE MICE WITH BIG IMPACTS

**Brett Riddle**, life sciences professor: "When a team of researchers formally identified the Great Basin pocket mouse, they forced mammalogists and ecologists to use a new taxonomy (ecologists generally are not happy about such things). The genes of pocket mice hold clues to the roles of geological and climatic history in the origination of modern species. When we read the genes of the Great Basin pocket mouse, we discovered that they actually include two very old species — one centered on Nevada, and the other in eastern Washington. We have a lot more work to do to flesh out other details, but I value this species for its record of evolution in and around Nevada over the past 8 million years or so."



## THE GREAT NEVADA METEOR SMACK DOWN

**Steve Rowland**, geoscience professor: "In the Devonian Period more than 360 million years ago, Nevada was a low-relief continental shelf with a lot of marine creatures living in a warm, shallow sea. One day, like a bolt of lightning out of the blue sky, a large meteor traveling faster than 20,000 miles per hour smashed into Nevada, striking about 100 miles north of where Las Vegas sits today. Like a cannonball landing in a kiddie pool, the hypervelocity impact made a spectacular splash, launching a series of devastating tsunamis that rippled across Nevada, ripping up chunks of sea floor. The resulting layer of jumbled rock is called the Alamo Breccia. Ironically, ground zero was close to Rachel on Nevada State Highway 375 — nicknamed the Extraterrestrial Highway."

## STORIED JOURNALISTS

History professor **Michael Green**, '86 BA and '88 MA History: "Hank Greenspun came to Las Vegas in 1946 as a young lawyer and died in 1989 as a giant. Soon after arriving, he became publisher of an entertainment magazine, a publicist for Bugsy Siegel, and an investor in a radio station and the Desert Inn Hotel. He also ended up running guns to Israel during the war leading up to its founding in 1948. He earned national attention (as publisher of the *Las Vegas Sun*) for taking on two powerful U.S. senators: Nevada's Pat McCarran, who engineered an advertising boycott intended to put the *Sun* out of business (it failed), and Wisconsin's Joseph McCarthy."







Las Vegas' infamous Block 16, circa 1905

## LAS VEGAS' FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

**Su Kim Chung**, head of public services for UNLV Libraries Special Collections: "The single most important collection at UNLV on early Las Vegas contains the official corporate records of the Union Pacific Railroad. These document the purchase of the land (the original Stewart ranch) and the construction of the original depot and town that became modern Las Vegas. Comprised of nearly 175 linear feet of documents, maps, and architectural drawings, the collection also contains the records of the Las Vegas Land & Water Co., a subsidiary of the railroad, to handle all the railroad's land transactions."

## ELY'S PLACE IN FLIGHT HISTORY

Aviation historian **Dan Bubb**, '01 MA History: "In July 1913, Frank Burnside became the first person to fly an airplane in Nevada when he landed his eight-cylinder, 80-horsepower Thomas-Morse airplane in Ely, a town with fewer than 2,000 residents. The Thomas Morse Co. was invited to send one of its planes and pilots to Ely as part of the town's July 4 celebration. Ely residents gave Burnside a hero's welcome and were ecstatic that a machine with wings landed in their town."



## FRONTIER JUSTICE

**Claytee White**, director of the Oral History Research Center: "Among the pioneers who tamed Virginia City was the state's first black doctor, W.H.C. Stephenson. The Washington, D.C., native practiced in Nevada from 1863-70. He registered to vote as soon as the 15th amendment passed and in 1865 helped to organize the Nevada Executive Committee to unite blacks in Virginia City, Silver City, and Gold Hill. The group agitated effectively to win in small ways — such as securing participation in city parades — and large — including addressing issues of representation on juries and access to schools."

## STAMPING OUT BROTHELS

Women's studies professor **Lynn Comella**: "While never fully sanctioned, brothels were tolerated on Block 16 in downtown Las Vegas for decades. The first serious campaign to stamp out prostitution was initiated by Fannie Ryan, the wife of state Sen. Frank Ryan, who lodged a formal complaint with the city in 1936, arguing that the brothels were a 'public nuisance.' Mrs. Ryan owned property near the block, and thus had a financial interest in the area."

**Watch It:** The Women's Research Institute of Nevada at UNLV, in collaboration with Vegas PBS, developed "MAKERS: Women in Nevada History," a three-part series. WRIN's extensive research and oral history collection served as the primary content for the series. The documentary will air at various times Oct. 21-Nov. 10 on Vegas PBS. Check [vegaspbs.org](http://vegaspbs.org) for times.





# Would Internet access turn you into a problem gambler?

**New study finds no causal relationship between Internet use and problem gambling**

BY HOLLY IVY DEVORE

Gambling has found its way into people's homes through the Internet. If you like to browse or shop online, are you at a greater risk for problem gambling? Does gambling online increase your chances of becoming a problem gambler?

Kahlil S. Philander, director of research at the UNLV International Gaming Institute and professor of hotel administration, and Terri-Lynn MacKay, educational and clinical studies professor, sought to answer these questions. Their study, "Online Gambling Participation and Problem Gambling Severity: Is There a Causal Relationship?," was published in the March issue of *International Gambling Studies*. In August the study was cited in The WAGER (The Worldwide Addiction Gambling Report), published by the Cambridge Health Alliance, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

## The TANF welfare program

Eleven years before the Great Recession hit, the federal government had replaced what was then commonly called welfare with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to help financially struggling families with children. But some questioned how well it responded and how it compared to other governmental safety nets.

"All in all," according to a new study, "the American system of balancing work requirements and welfare benefits worked fairly well, even during the most severe recession since the Depression of the 1930s."

The study, "The Responsiveness of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program During the Great Recession," was authored by Ron Haskins and Kimberly Howard of the Brookings Institution and Vicky Albert, UNLV professor of social work.

Their unique state-by-state analysis also showed, however, that the TANF response also depended greatly on where you live. "While we are one nation, we must recognize the diverse experiences states offer individuals and families during economic downturn," Albert said, adding that "since single-parent households with children are five times more likely to be poor than their counterparts, this study illustrates the important role that safety nets play for these families during recessions."

**More:** Read the full story at [news.unlv.edu/TANF](http://news.unlv.edu/TANF)

### THE ISSUE

**GAMBLING ONLINE HAS GROWN** to a \$32 billion industry worldwide. However, some countries have been slow to adopt it as a legal form of gambling — often citing concerns that the Internet is a causal factor for players turning into problem gamblers. Some studies have connected an increase in online gaming to an increased risk of problem gambling. However, their methodologies have been questioned, specifically the omission of variables in study models that may lead to bias. According to Philander, the bias in past studies appeared to show that when online gambling goes up, problem gambling goes up, too.

### METHODOLOGY

**PHILANDER AND MACKAY** used a different modeling technique called "two-stage least squares" to better isolate the relationship between the two variables of online gambling participation and problem gambling severity. They reviewed data from two studies:

- 2010 British Gambling Prevalence Study of 7,756 adults from England, Scotland, and Wales that measured respondents' participation in gambling, estimated their prevalence of problem gambling, and explored their socio-demographic factors.
- 2006 survey of an online research panel of 3,343 respondents from Ontario, Canada, that measured participants' online and offline gambling behavior, demographics, online leisure activities (shopping and browsing), and problem gambling severity.

The researchers used an instrumental variables model approach, which allowed them to better assess the relationship between online gambling participation and gambling-related problems. They determined the statistical appropriateness of two instrumental variables — shopping online and browsing the Internet — and then used these instrumental variables to estimate individuals' likelihood of online gambling and to predict the likelihood of gambling-related problems.

### RESULTS

**"THE KEY FINDING IS** that participation in online gambling is not found to increase problem gambling rates observed in the general population. This was a remarkable finding, since many prior studies found strong correlation between these two variables, which people assumed was a cause-and-effect relationship," Philander said.

Specifically, the study showed:

- No association between the variables of shopping online and browsing the Internet and the risk levels for problem gambling.
- Those who shopped online and those who browsed on the Internet were more likely to use online gambling products.
- Online shopping, Internet browsing, and a number of gambling activities were predictors of online gambling participation — but not of problem gambling.

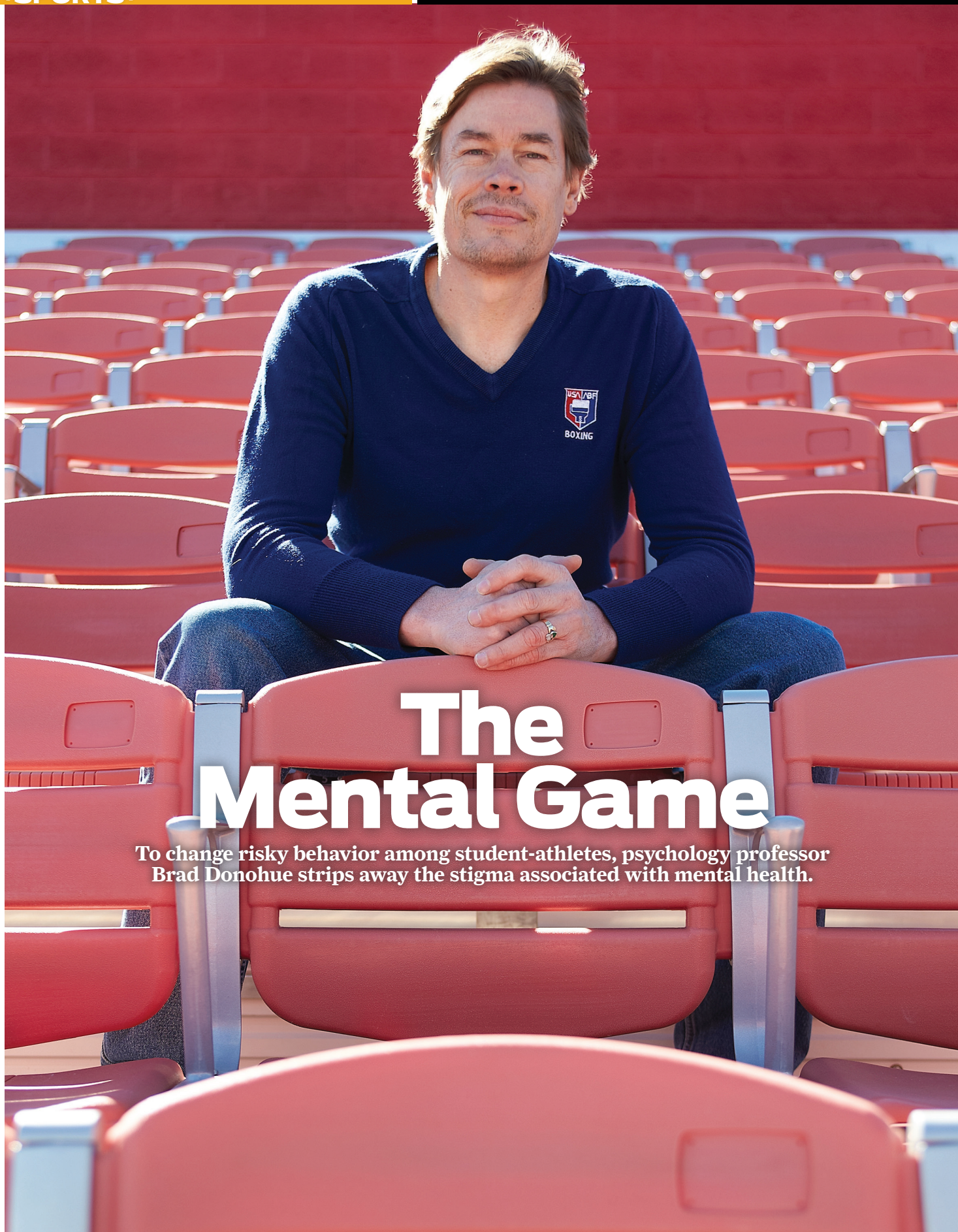
"This is not to say that some people don't have problematic issues with online gambling, but when we look at the population as a whole, we don't observe a causal effect of online gambling participation on problem gambling prevalence," he added.

According to the report, while the study provided a consistent estimate of the relationship between online gambling participation and problem gambling severity, and provides plausible explanations for this relationship, a full explanation of the causal mechanism still is needed. As more evidence of online and offline gambler behavior becomes available through longitudinal research, future studies should be able to enlighten this relationship more fully.

### THE TAKEAWAY

"The key takeaway is that wider adoption of online gambling may not increase problem gambling rates. So, if the main reason that policymakers are concerned about expanding online gambling is that they are cautious about its potential effects on public health — and indeed these are the conversations we tend to see in public debates — then they should now lean toward expansion rather than restriction," Philander said.





# The Mental Game

To change risky behavior among student-athletes, psychology professor Brad Donohue strips away the stigma associated with mental health.



BY CHED WHITNEY

**BALTIMORE RAVENS RUNNING BACK** Ray Rice punching his fiancé in an Atlantic City, N.J., elevator. Minnesota Vikings star Adrian Peterson indicted on child abuse charges for allegedly striking his young son with a tree branch. And repeated cases of players being convicted for drunk driving with few repercussions.

The NFL has been under fire for being too slow to act and for imposing mild penalties when players show such serious behavioral issues. But, while penalties have their place, UNLV psychologist Brad Donohue said sanctions alone won't end domestic violence, substance abuse, and other conduct issues.

"They can punish those behaviors," Donohue said, "but that doesn't really address the core issues. It doesn't lead to positive behaviors."

One of the biggest obstacles, he said, lies within the tough, competitive culture of sports, where the stigma associated with mental health counseling is a major reason athletes avoid counseling programs — to the detriment of both their athletic and personal performance. At the same time, he said, mental health professionals have failed to incorporate sports culture into their intervention programs.

That's where Donohue's innovative performance program, The Optimum Performance Program in Sports (TOPPS), comes in.

Donohue is a national expert on Family Behavior Therapy, an intervention that focuses on goal achievement, particularly in substance abuse treatment. He built TOPPS off that model and landed a four-year, \$2 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse to study its effectiveness among UNLV student-athletes.

"I can't tell you how hard it was to get that grant," said Donohue, a former Top-5 amateur boxer. He had to overcome another stigma to land it: "One reviewer asked, 'Why should we provide funding? Athletes already get a good portion of funds on campus.'"

Yet, previous studies show that student-athletes avoid traditional campus counseling services. As "Big Men (or Women) on Campus," they have little privacy walking into a counseling center.

So Donohue and his team of graduate students stripped away some of the stigma-laden terminology: "Performance coaches" replaced therapists, "intervention meetings" supplanted treatment sessions, and participants strived for "goal-oriented behaviors" and "mental strength."

"This program isn't about 'fixing' a problem; it's about optimizing whatever aspect of their life or sport they want to enhance," Donohue said.

Unlike typical sport psychology programs, which focus on the techniques to improve on-field perfor-

mance, the TOPPS performance coaches, who are graduate psychology students, were equipped with standardized interventions to tackle stress-related behaviors — depression, anxiety, alcohol and drug abuse, and unsafe sexual practices — that are incompatible with optimum physical performance.

The TOPPS coaches offered team workshops and individual sessions in which student-athletes learned to make their thinking patterns more objective and to visualize themselves achieving life- and sport-specific goals. Participants also focused on life skills, such as financial management, career planning, and academic achievement.

Because teammates and coaches often are an integral part of student-athletes' family, they were invited to individual meetings. "We're showing that mental health and sport performance improve together, and coaches really bought in on that," Donohue said.

UNLV swim coach Jim Reitz considered himself a sports psychology skeptic, but Donohue opened his eyes. The most important part of TOPPS, Reitz said, is that it addresses all parts of a student's life. "I like it because it's practical," he said. "In effect, coaches are skills instructors." And positive, goal-oriented behavior is another skill to be learned.

The pilot study subjects completed twelve 60- to 90-minute meetings within four months as well as post-intervention, 1-month and 3-month follow-ups. The group reported sharp improvements in academic performance and functional thoughts in competition. Unsafe sexual practices and illicit drug use were diminished. "The performance goal student-athletes were least motivated to address was binge drinking," Donohue said, noting that most did not believe it interfered with their sports performance. That's one area that Donohue is now tweaking in the program.

The pilot study was published in the journal *Clinical Case Studies* and offers a number of recommendations for athletic administrators. Now, Donohue is doing what he considers the definitive follow-up study: a randomized clinical trial to directly compare TOPPS with traditional intervention programs.

Meanwhile, he is hopeful that prominent athletes will help reduce the stigma that exists. Chicago Bears wide receiver Brandon Marshall, who has been diagnosed with borderline personality disorder, has become a vocal activist for mental health. LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers has talked about the correlation between his mental strength program and his physical performance.

"It would be my dream come true if we can eliminate stigma-laden terms — mental health disorder, psychology, problems," Donohue said. "This is about achieving behaviors consistent with a state of well-being in sports and life in general."



## Hoops Games of the Year

UNLV basketball coach Dave Rice faces a challenge this year: He must replace all five starters from team that went 20-13 and missed out on the postseason.

The 2014-15 Runnin' Rebels could be led by their new backcourt, five-star recruit Rashad Vaughn from Las Vegas' Findlay Prep, and Cody Doolin, a senior transfer from the University of San Francisco. They will be joined by two top-25 freshmen — forward Dwayne Morgan and center Goodluck Okonoboh — and Oregon transfer Ben Carter.

Hoping to impress the NCAA Tournament selection committee come March, Rice has built a challenging schedule for his young team. Here are five of the Rebels' most intriguing opponents:

**Stanford (Nov. 21):** The Rebels meet the Cardinals in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic in Brooklyn, N.Y. If UNLV can pull the upset, Las Vegas will be salivating for the next matchup: Duke.

**Duke (Nov. 22):** Las Vegas consider the Blue Devils an archrival even though the teams haven't met since 1991, when UNLV lost 79-77 in the NCAA Final Four game. Duke will be led by 6-11 freshman center Jahil Okafor, a favorite to be selected first in next year's NBA draft.

**Arizona (Dec. 23):** The Rebels will host the Wildcats, after losing to them in Tucson 63-58 a year ago. ESPN recently picked the Wildcats' starting five as the nation's best.

**San Diego State (Jan. 17, March 4) and New Mexico (Jan. 21, Feb. 21):** The league favorite Aztecs and rebuilding Lobos will once again be UNLV's chief rivals for Mountain West Conference supremacy.

Dr. Barbara Atkinson was just settling into retirement from the University of Kansas Medical Center when Karen West, dean of UNLV's School of Dental Medicine, called. UNLV was looking for an experienced administrator to launch a much-needed School of Medicine. Atkinson began to skim the materials and soon was absorbed by the reports outlining the region's medical infrastructure needs. The statistics were daunting — Las Vegas is the largest city without an allopathic medical school — but she also saw the tremendous opportunity to do what doctors do: help people.

# THE NUMBERS DREW HER HERE

**Dr. Barbara Atkinson, planning dean for the UNLV School of Medicine**

**I was truly an outlier.** I was a housewife until my children went to kindergarten and the only young mother in my medical school class. My own mother and mother-in-law both thought the kids would be ruined. But my father, a biochemist, and husband, a physician, both encouraged me.

**I thought I would focus on cancer research but soon found myself wanting to change how things were done.** When I was director of the cytopathology lab at the University of Pennsylvania, I thought there should be a better way of diagnosing cancer than just looking in a microscope and deciding it looks like cancer. We tried to do it by research, but when that didn't work, I decided that I could better make a difference as an administrator. So that's where my career took me.

**For the most part, I think the doctor/God complex is a bygone.**

**Doctors used to be so paternalistic.** They thought they knew what was best and just did it — sometimes without really talking to the patient. I think having more women in the profession helped change that. Women are more open to discussions.

**It's also a reflection of access to information.** Patients are better advocates for themselves. Unfortunately, there's also so much noise in the system.

**Look at the anti-vaccination disaster.** Kids shouldn't be dying of measles. Adults shouldn't be getting whooping cough. The person who says vaccines caused her kid's autism can get just as much media attention as a doctor with actual expertise and scientific data. The layperson can't always separate the importance of their two statements. And it seems to be human nature that we're more taken by the scary statement than by the reassuring one.

**That's a danger for medical students too.** They might Google to find answers too. So you have to teach students to think, to find information, assess it, and apply it.

**You can't teach students the one right treatment because it changes almost every day.** I don't think there's a drug today being used in the same way as when I learned about it in medical school — except maybe aspirin.

**The vision for this school is exactly right.**

**Building the medical school from scratch** allows us to take all the best ideas in medical education and put them together in a new way — in a way that's right for future doctors and for this region. At established schools, it's hard and time-consuming to unseat some of the methods that are now becoming outmoded.

**We won't have many lectures or routine dissections in gross anatomy.** We'll have virtual gross anatomy with MRIs and CT scans, the same technology doctors use every day in practice.

**“Our faculty and student body will be part of the fabric of the community they serve.”**

**Our curriculum will be problem-based.** Students will be given a symptom, like a cough, and have to learn what causes it, the mechanics of coughing, the possible treatments. They'll be focused on solving the problem, in much the same way that they'll have to as practicing physicians.

**It's a more intensive experience, particularly for faculty.**

It appeals to the ones who are true teachers at heart, but it's also proven to be more effective for producing good doctors.

**I was shocked at the state of medical access here.** Nevada ranks No. 45 out of 50 states in the number of doctors per capita here.

**Everyone seems to have a story about long wait times** and having to go to California or Arizona for their care. The problem is particularly acute in accessing specialists.

**One woman told me how she went to Baylor Medical Center**

**for a fairly routine dermatology appointment** because she had trouble getting an appointment in a realistic time. You can't get a liver transplant here at all. The transplant surgeons who are here can only harvest livers and send them out, although they do kidney transplants here.





**One mother couldn't find a rheumatologist to treat her son with arthritis.** There are no pediatric arthritis specialists here. Imagine being that mother. Imagine being that child.

**If your financial resources are limited, you just keep waiting.**

**Las Vegas also has the least number of psychiatrists per capita in the country.** This, of course, taxes all of our community resources. It affects criminal justice and social service programs as well as our schools. So mental health and addiction treatments will be a significant area of focus for the school.

**Those in the medical community here are just as frustrated as patients.** Early major supporters of this new school have been the large physician groups and hospitals that have to recruit medical

professionals from out of state. They can't recruit fast enough to fill the extraordinary demand, particularly for specialists.

**We'll see some relief almost immediately as faculty come in.** They'll bring their practices and begin seeing patients almost immediately. We'll start hiring this spring.

**Recruiting them is actually pretty exciting.** This appeals to people who want to truly put their stamp on something and use their experience to make a profound difference by building programs. Others are bold and aggressive and recognize the advancements that can be made by

bringing extensive research and clinical trials to this population.

**There's really not much push-back on building this school — the need is so apparent.**

Some people have proposed that the problem could be solved by expanding residencies, but that's just a piece, and it doesn't address the need for more specialists and for the types of research studies and clinical trials that an academic medical school will bring.

**Others have said that UNR should just expand, but in my experience distance is prohibitive.** When I was at what's now called Drexel University, the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh cam-

puses were 300 miles apart and extremely difficult to manage.

**Having a medical school here will raise aspirations for Southern Nevada's young people.** It will make becoming a doctor — or entering any of the much-needed health care professions — that much more attainable.

**The medical school also will make an extraordinary economic impact in the community.** It's a wise investment of resources. People who travel for care will now spend those dollars here. We'll have a healthier, more productive population. Within 10 years, we will have created 5,300 new jobs and have a \$1.2 billion dollar annual economic impact. And, I hope, we won't be hearing those heart-breaking stories from people who endured pain or whose diseases progressed while they were on long waiting lists.

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**More info:** If funding is approved during the upcoming Legislative session, the UNLV School of Medicine will welcome its first students in 2017. Follow the school's development online at [unlv.edu/medicalschoo](http://unlv.edu/medicalschoo).



# My Special Hand

Story by Brian Sodoma  
Photos by Aaron Mayes

Hailey Dawson calls it her "special hand." And it is indeed different. The 4-year-old's right hand has a pinky, a thumb, and three "hubbins," as her family members refer to them, in place of the other fingers. Hailey has Poland Syndrome and was born without a right pectoral muscle, which also affects the growth of her right hand. But, as children do, Hailey has adapted well and she seems convinced there is nothing in the world she can't do.

"She'll even tell some people, 'You can't do that because you don't have a special hand,'" her mother, Yong Dawson, said with a laugh.

But there are some barriers Dawson would like her daughter to overcome. Holding a bike's handlebar, for example, is difficult, and Hailey wants to play baseball.

At a cost of \$20,000 or more, traditional prosthetics are not feasible for a growing girl. Dawson turned to the Internet and came across Robohand, a South African organization that is using 3-D printing technology, along with various wires, nuts, bolts, and hinges, to create cost-effective prosthetic hands. The concept is open-source; anyone can access the 100 or so Robohand files and use them to create their own prosthetics, so long as the models aren't being sold for a profit.

Dawson considered working with the organization to create a hand for Hailey, but the process would require shipping prosthetic pieces back and forth for constant re-sizing and fitting. So the Henderson mother emailed UNLV's Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering to see if anyone there could help and was surprised by the response.

"I walked in thinking I was going to sell them on what I wanted done. But it was the complete opposite. They were trying to sell me on letting them do it," Dawson added.









Visiting student Katherine Lau (**above**) programs UNLV's 3-D printer to create parts for a prosthetic hand for 4-year-old Hailey Dawson (**opposite, above**). Designing the hand required a series of measurements and molds.



## An opportunity, a bond

Brendan O'Toole, chair of the mechanical engineering department, and Mohamed Trabia, associate dean for research, graduate studies, and computing, took on the project. O'Toole has worked with foot and ankle prosthetics, but those projects did not involve 3-D printing.

"We liked the idea of a community-based design where we're using our research and resources to help someone," O'Toole said. "That, coupled with 3-D printing improvements in the last couple of years, made for some pretty good design opportunities. So it also makes a good learning project for engineering."

Trabia and O'Toole started in May. They were joined by Katherine Lau, a visiting student researcher from Rutgers University; UNLV engineering student Zack Cook; and Advanced Technologies High School students Claire Ong and Kareem Trabia (Mohamed Trabia's son).

Lau, a Palo Verde High School graduate, was home for the summer and

looking for a research project. She found that, as well as an important personal connection with the Dawson family.

Lau shared a common bond with Hailey and her family of being from Hawaii. The cultural connection with the shy preschooler proved helpful during the many time-consuming fittings and measurements Hailey underwent throughout the summer. Hailey had to sit still for long periods while the molds of her hand set. And there were plenty of other long waits as the team tinkered with ways to make the hand look and feel more natural.

"The whole reason I went into biomedical engineering was to improve the lives of others," Lau said. "I didn't want to make something and give it to someone and never meet them. Getting to know her made it more personal; it helped me to do a better job. The first hand didn't really fit because I didn't take the time to get to know her. It was just measurements and a picture. I didn't want to make that mistake again."

## The journey

Initially, the researchers thought that one of the Robohand concepts, among the roughly 100 or so already developed and available to the public, would be a perfect fit for Hailey. But none were, and the team needed to start from scratch, creating a customized hand blending design ideas and materials found around the world through Internet research.

The new hand will bend and grip with the flex of Hailey's wrist. To improve grip, the team tweaked their design with ideas from the Flexy-Hand platform. "The tasks the person using the hand wants to accomplish affect the design," said O'Toole. "One challenge is that once you get to use the hand, does the amount of wrist flexation give enough grip to do with it what she wants to do?" Like swinging a bat.

UNLV's Stratasys Fortus 250MC 3-D printer has been the workhorse for this project. The machine's very fine resolution allows for precision printing of parts. In the machine, a yarn-like spool of plastic filament connects to a print head, which sprays layers of plastic just 0.007-inches thick until eventually smooth, very real-looking hand shapes form. The team chose ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) plastic for all-weather use.

"It's not going to be completely smooth, but it does get pretty close," said Jeff Markle, director of the mechanical engineering department's laboratory.

The more intricate the project, the longer and harder the Fortus must work, adds Markle. Some print jobs can take several days, and several versions of Hailey Dawson's prosthetic hand, and its numerous small pieces, have had to make their way through the Fortus machine. The greatest challenge still lies in translating the idea from the CAD software into a final 3-D product.

"As with anything, when you have the model in the computer it looks good. But when you really assemble it, that's when you see the problems," Trabia said.

The team enlisted local physical therapists from Touro University and from Matt Smith Physical Therapy to fine-tune the fit and help Hailey adjust to the hand.





**(Right)** Mohamed Trabia, associate dean of the College of Engineering, on right, inspects parts of a prototype prosthetic with UNLV engineering student Zack Cook, left, and Advanced Technologies High School student Kareem Trabia.

### Next steps

As UNLV works to open a medical school in 2017 and enhance community-engaged research as part of its Tier One initiative, both Trabia and O'Toole hope UNLV will land grants to further the study of prosthetics. The pair notes that prosthetic advancements are largely tied to the trial-and-error of hobbyists rather than the intensive research of academics. "Most of the information you find is more amateur kind of people tinkering and creating variations on models," Trabia added.

O'Toole said expanding research in this area will build on the expertise already on campus. The next logical step is partnering with the kinesiology and physical therapy departments to help the hand feel more natural and comfortable for Hailey. And, since she'll need replacements periodically as she



grows, Hailey's special hand might continue to be perfect for student projects. All engineering students must complete a capstone project before graduation.

"We see possibilities for improving all forms of mechanization, things like actuators to make each finger close and

open independently," Trabia added.

In the meantime, Cook has taken over as the lead student researcher. The group expects Hailey to be swinging a bat with her new hand later this fall.

"What they've done so far has been amazing," Hailey's mother added. ■









## Old-School Communication

While most days for UNLV Photo Services photographers include back-to-back assignments — shooting campus events, covering a Rebels game, or taking portraits of faculty — sometimes they get to walk through campus with the vague assignment of “capturing student life.” This image, photographer R. Marsh Starks says, is something of a rarity in the Student Union. It captures “two students, in the wild, not staring at an electronic device. They were having a conversation without texting, Instagramming, or Googling something on their laptops.”

[R. Marsh Starks/UNLV Photo Services]





**2014  
Alumni  
of the  
Year**


# The Time I...



*Our alumni are succeeding as industry leaders, up-and-coming entrepreneurs, and fervent supporters of their communities. No doubt, they've all learned some lessons along the way. We asked the 2014 Alumni of the Year to share a story from their careers with us. The UNLV Alumni Association honored these Rebels during this year's Homecoming. It also bestowed the Silver State Award on former Regent Carolyn Sparks and the Outstanding Faculty Award on hotel administration professor Seyhmus Baloglu.*

**BY BRIAN SODOMA AND MIKE KALIL**



A man in a dark pinstripe suit, white shirt, and red tie is sitting on a dark, curved bar. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. He has a watch on his left wrist and a ring on his left hand. On the bar in front of him are two glasses filled with a drink and garnished with fruit, along with two folded napkins featuring a floral pattern. The background is dark with some reflective surfaces and a small light source.

★ Read about  
his cleaning  
skills, next pg.

**Brent Bell**  
★ **Alumnus of the Year**



2014  
Alumni  
of the  
Year

# ★ Brent Bell

'91 BS Business Administration

**BELL IS PRESIDENT AND CEO** of Whittlesea-Bell, one of the largest private transportation conglomerates in Nevada with a fleet of 450 taxicabs, 230 limousines, and 200 other vehicles. A vocal advocate and volunteer for UNLV, Bell is the association's top honoree as the 2014 UNLV Alumnus of the Year.

*The time I ...*

## LED A TEAM BY SCRUBBING TOILETS

In the aftermath of 9/11, the airport was closed for five days. When it re-opened, we had 767s landing with just six people onboard. There was no demand for limo service or taxicabs. I had never dealt with anything like this.

I was very serious about cutting costs and about everyone chipping in. I cut salaries, I cut hours, and I took the same percentage pay cut that everyone else did. I also cut janitorial service. I got the staff together and told them they were going to be responsible for cleaning their own work areas and bathrooms. I showed up in jeans and a T-shirt the next day, put the rubber gloves on, and scrubbed toilets. I cleaned the dirtiest bathroom. My assistant took a picture and sent it to my wife. When I got home, I heard about it because we had been married for five years, and I had never cleaned a bathroom.

So, it got me in trouble at home. But that move earned me a lot of respect at work. Never underestimate the power of leading by example.



# Dr. Rewadee Meevasin

'07 Doctor of Dental Medicine

**A NATIVE LAS VEGAN** known to patients as Dr. Dee Dee, Meevasin is the owner of Dee for Dentist and one of the leading proponents of digital dentistry in Southern Nevada.

*The time I ...*

## RESET MY HIRING PRIORITIES

Working for another doctor, I only had to worry about the dentistry. Overhead, payroll, and staff weren't issues (for me). I wanted to go for it, but I didn't imagine the amount of stress I would face owning my own business.

I had one business class in the whole four years of school. My husband quit his job to help, and we came up with a business plan.

I had saved money, we had support from both of our parents, and we got a bank loan. We had a friend who was an architect,

another was an interior designer, then a financial planner, and we had an IT friend setting up workstations. That really saved us.

Then I needed a staff. At first, I thought I wanted someone with experience, and

that's how I hired. We had some turnover.

When I interview now, I want to know more about the person than their skills. I'm looking for personality, that they're easygoing, fun, and that they're going to come to work happy. We see (employees) more than

we see our families, so it's important to trust them, to respect them, and to genuinely like them. I can train on the skills.

“I wanted to go for it, but I didn't imagine the amount of stress I would face owning my own business.”





# Joe Aldridge

'79 MA Theatre

**EMPLOYED AT UNLV SINCE 1974**, Aldridge served as technical director of the theatre department from 1984 to 2005 and currently coordinates entertainment engineering & design, a multidisciplinary program he helped develop with the College of Engineering in 2007. He has been involved in more than 200 productions on campus.

*The time I...*

## RISKED GETTING ARRESTED

The play *Steambath* by Bruce Jay Friedman was one of my two thesis projects. It was cutting edge for 1979. It was the first time that we had full-frontal nudity on the university stage in Las Vegas. It wasn't the nudity that made this my favorite production; it was that we were willing to take the chance of

offending the sensibilities of people.

The only blowback was that we discovered there's an ordinance here where you can't have full-frontal nudity on stage and serve alcohol. Typically, there's a bar in the lobby. We got wind of an impending raid, of a visit from the cops. You couldn't have both, so we got rid of the booze. We didn't want to compromise the production values.

“It was the first time that we had full-frontal nudity on the university stage.”

## RANDALL J. CAMPANALE

'77 BS Finance

**WITH MORE THAN 30 YEARS** of wealth management experience, Campanale is senior vice president and senior portfolio manager for The Northern Trust Co. and previously served as regional manager with Wells Fargo Private Client Services. He has been a passionate supporter of UNLV and its alumni for three decades.

*The time I...*

## CONQUERED MY JITTERS

There are various studies showing that the greatest fear Americans have, besides death, is public speaking. My first job at a bank was to go out and discuss estate-planning issues. I would get very nervous about speaking to groups. When you're nervous in a speech or a discussion with a group, your focus is on trying to speak effectively.

So the one piece of advice that I always give folks in college is to join Toastmasters, like I did. Within six months, my speaking was more about making sure I imparted information rather than going down a speaking checklist of things like maintaining eye contact — all of those things had become second nature when you get some training.





2014  
Alumni  
of the  
Year



# Robert Smale

'95 BA History and Spanish

**SMALE SERVED AS CAPTAIN** of UNLV's swim team for two years before graduating summa cum laude from the Honors College and completing his doctoral degree at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a history professor at the University of Missouri and author of *I Sweat the Flavor of Tin: Labor Activism in Early Twentieth Century Bolivia*.

**The time I...**

## **STOPPED BELABORING MY LABOR**

I spent two years in Bolivia conducting research in the archives on the labor movement for my dissertation. I came back to the states, and my wife and I had our first child. After a year of fatherhood and teaching my own classes, I had made almost no progress on my dissertation.

We moved back to Austin so I could cut my workload. But then there was another issue: I had accumulated just an enormous amount of material, an overwhelming amount of data. You think, I spent two years on this, I've put so

much work into this — it all needs to go into the dissertation. Then, when you're editing rationally, you realize it doesn't work. It's not bad material. It just doesn't all belong. It doesn't all have to go in. But

“When you're editing rationally, you realize it doesn't work. It's not bad material. It just doesn't all belong. It doesn't all have to go in. But letting go is really, really tough.”

letting go is really, really tough.

It still took me two more years to finish the dissertation after narrowing the focus. The dream is that perhaps the discarded material can come out as something else later on, perhaps an article. But for me, it's still in a drawer.





## DR. TONY ALAMO

'86 BA Chemistry

**ALAMO IS THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR** of Alamo Medical Clinic in Henderson and current chairman of the Nevada Gaming Commission. The Las Vegas native returned to the valley to practice medicine after attending the University of Southern California School of Medicine. He was also a member and eventually chair of the Nevada State Athletic Commission from 2001 to 2007.

### *The Time I...*

#### **BECAME AN UNOFFICIAL UNLV MERCHANDISE DISTRIBUTOR**

While I was in medical school and doing my residency at USC from 1986 to 1994, the Runnin' Rebels went to the Final Four three times and won the national championship once. During that time in L.A., I found that anything unattended with UNLV written on it disappeared.

I came to find out these were highly wanted commodities and therefore I became an unofficial distributor of UNLV goods — caps, shirts, jerseys, notebooks, etc. I took orders and picked up merchandise during trips back home for the holidays.

While it could have been a fun entrepreneurial move, I didn't really do it with the intention of making money. I just liked seeing so many UNLV logos making their way around L.A. Some of my friends would take the product with the idea of paying me back. They still owe me money.



## Lisa Morris Hibbler

'96 BA Environmental Studies, '98 MPA

**AFTER UNLV**, Morris Hibbler earned a doctorate in public administration from the University of La Verne in 2005 and has worked nearly two decades for the city of Las Vegas. The deputy director for the office of community services is also a major player in helping re-shape the state's juvenile justice system and a fierce advocate for helping foster children find permanent homes. She is on Gov. Brian Sandoval's Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice and on the Juvenile Justice Commission.

### *The time I...*

#### **ENDURED AN AWKWARD FOUR-HOUR JOB INTERVIEW**

It was 1996, and I had been working as an intern in the Clark County Commissioners Office. I knew I wanted a career in public service. I followed a lead and applied for a job with the city for a management analyst position for the office of federal, state, and local initiatives.

The interviewer asked me a few questions then gave me a report to type up. It was some sort of grant proposal, and it had some handwritten notes. I think she was looking for some

free labor — and she got it. Several hours later, I was still typing. I was 20, about to graduate, and I was so nervous. I started saying "I gotta leave now" and we just kept going. It was one of those experiences where you leave and think: What in the world just happened? But I landed a top-notch job, and 17 years later, I'm still with the city and couldn't be happier.

I graduated from college prepared for a lot of things. But oftentimes the real world is totally different. You have to be flexible, no matter how weird things can get.



2014  
Alumni  
of the  
Year



# Jerald M. Dick

'65 BS Business Administration

**RECRUITED TO UNLV** on a basketball scholarship, Dick was part of the university's second graduating class. His first job out of college was leasing space in the then-new Boulevard Mall on Maryland Parkway. Dick's 46-year career developing shopping centers mirrored the rise of the mall as a cornerstone of American consumerism.

*The time I...*

## APPLIED A FULL-COURT PRESS

Even though Boulevard Mall was a local project, my name got out there in national notoriety because bringing downtown retailers into a mall was really hard to do in the '60s, and I succeeded.

Les Wexner started The Limited, the apparel stores for women. He came to me and said, "You're the only guy who can put together my real estate department and grow this business." He convinced me. When I went there, The Limited had 300 stores doing \$350 million in business. When I retired seven years later, we had over 3,000 stores doing \$3.5 billion.

Now, in the '70s and '80s, all of these retailers were growing incredibly. So I was in the right place at the right time. I got lucky. But you've got to know how to take advantage of that. My high school basketball coach would always preach to the team, "Never leave any regrets on the court." So I always approached every business that way. I didn't always win, but that got me more results than anything.

“I was in the right place at the right time. I got lucky. But you've got to know how to take advantage of that.”



## CHAD W. MILLER

'92 BS Electrical Engineering

**AN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEY**, Miller's expertise include patent and trademark prosecution. He is a co-founder of Weide & Miller, Ltd. and provides pro bono services to the College of Engineering Senior Design Competition and to the Andre Agassi Foundation.

*The time I...*

## HAD TO SINK OR SWIM

After years of a booming economy, I ventured out to form my own law firm in 2000, just in time for the dot-com crash and then the housing bust. As a new business, it felt as if we were a small boat braving rough seas.

I believed, and still do, that it would be difficult for a business to fail if it simply provided a superior product for a better price than competitors. We didn't place much emphasis on short-term revenue, growth, or profits. The focus was on high-quality products, relationships, and client satisfaction. We knew if these basics were met, the numbers would follow.

And they did. We never borrowed money, and still won't, having seen that debt is the primary reason for so many of our clients' insolvency. And even though the economy was brutal, we are proud that we never laid off anyone. It simply was not an option.



A portrait of Gerard J. Inzerillo, an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit, a striped shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling and leaning on a wooden table. The background is a wall covered with many small, framed photographs.

# Gerard J. Inzerillo

'75 BS Hotel Administration

**IN HIS MORE THAN FOUR DECADES** at the helm of major hospitality companies, Inzerillo led development of hotels such as Morgans, the Delano, and Atlantis Resorts. He is the former president and CEO of IMG Artists, a global leader in performing arts management, and currently leads Forbes Travel Guide as chief executive.

*The time I...*

**HELPED A  
STRANGER AND  
BEFRIENDED A GREAT MAN**

There are young people asking me, "How can I be the next Conrad Hilton?" The answer is you don't get overwhelmed. Just practice your craft every day and build relationships.

You have to collect relationships like bricks, one at a time. You're going to go to work and say, "OK, I have to collect a brick today." You're going to have some lucky days where you collect two bricks. You're going to have some days where you stumble and break bricks. But if you respect relationships and you fulfill your promises, before you know it, all those bricks add up to a wall, and that's where reputations come from.

Relationships often begin with something small, by doing something without expectation. Acts of kindness bestow new relationships. For example, as a result of being kind to a woman by the name of Barbara Masakela, she told my act of kindness to a guy by the name of Nelson Mandela. That led to Mandela and I becoming lifelong friends, a close relationship with one of the great moral leaders of our time.



# 2014 Alumni of the Year

## KEITH BROWN

'05 JD

**WORKING AS ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL** at Southwest Gas Corp., Brown also holds the distinction of being the first Boyd

School of Law night student to graduate first in his class. He continued his 24-year career in accounting and public utilities while attending Boyd to prepare for his second career in law.



### *The time I ...*

#### **BENEFITED FROM A RUMOR**

My dream job I owe to serendipity and a rumor — a rumor that, to this day, I am still uncertain who started. As a part-time student in the Boyd night program, I worked full-time for Southwest Gas Corp., my employer for 15 years at that point. I dreamed of staying on as part of in-house counsel, but openings were rare.

Someone began a rumor that I was leaving as soon as I graduated. Southwest's general counsel caught word of the rumor and called me to his office. Unbeknownst to me, a senior attorney was considering retirement. Though I had not graduated yet, the then recently-approved Nevada Supreme Court student practitioner rule would allow me to practice under the supervision of a licensed attorney. A transitional position was created, allowing me to work in the legal affairs department, mentored by the attorney who was retiring, all while completing my final semester at Boyd. My dream job became a reality! I could not have planned it better if I tried. I am forever grateful for my good fortune — and to whoever started that rumor.



# Nicole Ann Cavenagh

'03 MA Psychology, '08 Ph.D Psychology

**CAVENAGH IS A NEUROPSYCHOLOGIST** and clinical director for Touro University's Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities, where she helped create a paid pre-doctoral internship. Cavenagh also supervises practicum experiences for doctoral candidates, serves on the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, and is the co-training director of the Nevada Psychological Association Training Consortium internship program.

### *The time I ...*

#### **LANDED MY DREAM JOB RIGHT OUT OF SCHOOL**

After completing my internship at UCLA, I knew I wanted to move back to Las Vegas. It had become home to me over the course of 13 years, but unfortunately there were no opportunities that aligned with my clinical interests. Two days before signing a contract with UCLA, I received a call from Touro University Nevada. They couldn't have painted a more perfect job picture.

But I was as green as they come for a director role, and during the lengthy interview process, I was convinced that the associate vice president for administration — a master of silence — was not at all impressed with me. But Mike Harter, who was CEO/senior provost at the time, took a huge chance on me.

I would be lying if I didn't say I was terrified when I started. You have to be willing to ask questions and not be ashamed to admit what you don't know. Six years later, we've grown this program from 30 monthly patient visits to more than 400 today. I owe a lot to the Harter family. They really helped to shape my career. And that vice president I once thought disliked me has been one of my greatest allies.





# Victoria VanMeetren

'81 AA Nursing, '96 BS Healthcare Administration, '05 EMBA

**VANMEETREN WAS MOST RECENTLY** the president and CEO of Dignity Health's San Martin campus. She was also instrumental in developing Dignity's Siena Campus in 2000. Under her leadership, the San Martin campus was ranked No. 1 by *U.S. News & World Report* for neurology and neurosurgery.

## ***The times I...***

### **KNOW I BUILT THE BEST TEAM**

In virtually every career evaluation, I've had comments that have touched on my ability to build a great team.

It's something I haven't given much thought, but when reflecting on a long career, maybe I was indeed lucky enough to have picked some great ones.

Once, when a young couple expecting their first child was warned about coming to the hospital too early; they waited perhaps a little too long. The father ended up "catching" the baby in the car in our parking lot. Even more impressive than the doctors' responses was how the housekeepers and nurses cleaned the car for the couple while they recuperated with their healthy newborn.

There was also the time a young bride-to-be dying of Stage-4 cancer wanted to marry her betrothed. The chaplain made the veil, a nurse furnished the dress, the kitchen crew baked a cake, and the ceremony was completed with a small group of onlookers. Another time, a homeless man suffering from severe dehydration and malnutrition stayed with us for 24 hours. He returned to his life cleaned, groomed, and with freshly pressed clothes. The confidence on his face was priceless.



“In the very beginning I grew up on the farm, and I didn’t like it, picking cotton in the hot sun and all that. So I saw how the teachers lived, and I said, ‘Well, I’m going to school.’”

# A Teacher’s Life

Audrey James

was one of the few African-Americans in UNLV’s earliest classes. Today, the centenarian still is working and spreading the message that education is a priority.

BY PAIGE FRANK

T

here were hotels, there were schools, and there were houses — just like everywhere else in town. But where Audrey James lived, there were no paved streets, no sewers, and no sidewalks. It was 1952, and Las Vegas was segregated.

But the school that would become UNLV was not.

James had spotted a newspaper ad for the college classes being offered in the evenings in downtown Las Vegas. Those classes would expand to become the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada, popularly known as Nevada Southern, and later as UNLV.

James was the only black student out of a dozen enrolled. She took a literature class under James Dickenson, the first administrator for Nevada Southern.

In July, she turned 100, possibly making her the oldest living Rebel.

She earned her degrees while she was teaching first grade in the predominantly African-American schools in west Las Vegas. She steadily took a class or two at a time in the evenings and during the summers to eventually earn her bachelor of science degree in elementary education in 1965. She went on to receive her master of education in 1971.

On campus then, she said, “there were a few sarcastic comments along the lines of ‘Let’s see what osmosis will do,’ but for the better part of the time, I was just another student.

“One day, in fact, the whole class decided to go out to lunch over on Fremont Street. We sat down and a waiter came over and said, ‘No blacks allowed.’ So we all left. We went back to school, and we did not eat lunch that day.

“I’d gone through so much of that before I came out here, it didn’t really bother me. But it bothered some of my classmates.”

With limited options under the Jim Crow laws in her native Mississippi, James didn’t begin her teaching career until she was in her 30s. The public schools she attended as a child held classes only a few months out of the year, but her mother taught at a one-room school in another county. James was able to piece together a few extra months of learning each year at her mother’s side. She graduated from high school in 1935 and was the only one of her seven siblings eventually to go on to college.







NOTES  
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## 1960s

**Allin Chandler**, '68 BS Education, '72 Master of Education, '74 Educational Specialist, is retired. He worked for the Clark County Association of School Administrators from 1991 to 2012. From 1964 to 1990 he worked for the Clark County School District.

**Diana Armstrong Winn**, '68 BA English, just celebrated her third year as operations manager at Rebuilding Together Southern Nevada, an organization that provides home repair, accessibility modifications, and energy conservation services for low-income homeowners. On the most recent National Rebuilding Day, 20 homes were "adopted," including one that was rehabbed by a team from UNLV. Her hobbies include Zumba, turbo kickboxing, and Pilates.

## 1970s

**Jenny Weingarten Batlay**, '71 BA French, '72 MA French, is a professor of French, a writer, and a portrait artist. She has one daughter, Marcelline Block. Her hobbies include playing the piano, singing, and writing poetry. She lives in New York City.

**Steven Stucker**, '71 BS Accounting, is an attorney. He received his law degree from Southern Methodist University and was admitted to the Nevada Bar in 1974 and the Idaho Bar in 1979. He is married and has two children, five grandchildren, and two more on the way. He lives in Reno.

**Earl Sheehy**, '74 BS Hotel Administration, became the CEO of Missouri's Ray County Memorial Hospital in June. He lives in Richmond.

**Gina Ameci**, '77 BS Hotel Administration, is a partner in the Philadelphia law firm of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney. She is a member of the firm's labor and employment law section. Traveling is her hobby. She and her husband, Steve Rhykerd, live in Norristown.

**Vickie Turner**, '77 BS Business Administration, is an attorney and partner with Wilson Turner Kosmo, one of the largest law firms in Southern California owned by women. Her practice includes defending corporations in complex litigation filed throughout the state. In July, she was elected chair of the commercial law section of the National Bar Association. Her hobbies include gardening and working with youth programs. She and her husband, George, have three adult sons. The couple lives in Chula Vista.

**Michael Bonner**, '78 BS Business Administration, has been recognized in the 2015 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in three areas — corporate law, gaming law, and mergers & acquisitions law. Inclusion is based entirely on peer-review, a methodology designed to capture as accurately as possible the consensus opinion of lawyers about the professional abilities of their colleagues within the same geographical and legal practice areas. He is the managing shareholder of the Las Vegas office of the international law firm Greenberg Traurig. He is one of 14 lawyers from the Las Vegas office to be included in *Best Lawyers*.

**Mark Ferrario**, '78 BS Business Administration, has been recognized in the 2015 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in five litigation areas — commercial, banking and finance, construction, labor

## A Teacher's Life

continued from previous page

"In the very beginning I grew up on the farm, and I didn't like it, picking cotton in the hot sun and all that," James remembers. "So I saw how the teachers lived, and I said, 'Well, I'm going to school.'"

After high school she moved to Cincinnati, where she attended The Cosmopolitan School of Music and Salmon P. Chase College of Commerce. Her work experience included stints in both Cincinnati and Chicago as a hospital attendant, a nanny, and during World War II, in a factory assembling microphones for airplane pilots.

Her eventual career in teaching began when she was a kindergarten teacher's assistant at Waterman School, a private Cincinnati boarding school. It was an era of such entrenched segregation that James was prohibited from watching movies with her white students. She could drop the children off and pick them up, but she could not sit with them in the theater.

"I tried to get into the nursing school," James remembers. "They wouldn't accept any blacks. The principal of the Waterman School said, 'Audrey, you're so good with kids you need to go to teacher's college.'"

James eventually returned home to Mississippi to care for her mother and taught for three years, third- and fourth-graders at Globe Academy in Columbia at a starting salary of \$97 a month.

"When I started I was not a good disciplinarian," James says. "But as time went on, I learned you don't yell at the students. You talk very quietly, and then they talk quietly among themselves."

She met her husband, construction worker Isaiah James, while he was in Mississippi visiting family. They corresponded for a year before she joined him in Las Vegas, where they married. They bought their first house in 1963 on Revere Street in North Las Vegas with a down payment of \$950. They moved into the North Las Vegas home on the day of President John F. Kennedy's funeral, and James has lived there ever since. The couple had no children of their own. Her husband died in 1984.

James taught hundreds of children to read during her career at Westside, Madison, Paul Culley, Jo Mackey, and Laura Dearing elementary schools. By 1968 these and other Westside schools were home to more than 80 percent of

black teachers, and more than 97 percent of their students were black, according to Documenting the African American Experience in Las Vegas, an oral history project from UNLV Libraries.

In her early days teaching, the district saved the best materials for the white schools, James recalled. So she developed her own teaching materials by hand, including lined paper.

"I had a lot of good days teaching," James says. "Everything would go well in the classroom, and it was just such a pleasure to teach because I could see how much the children improved. By the month of March, they would just bloom."

In the early 1970s, James moved to Jo Mackey Elementary, a so-called "prestige school," one of Clark County School District's failed attempts at integration. James says she only faced outright prejudice from one mother, who would not allow her to discipline her child.

"Children are not really prejudiced. It's the parents. Children like you for who you are."

She finished her elementary teaching career at Laura Dearing Elementary School in 1978, just eight years after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the school district to develop a mandatory desegregation plan. But having worked her entire life, James was not ready to retire. She taught adult literacy and math for many more years through a program aimed at mothers on welfare.

Today, the centenarian still works three mornings a week as supervisor of FISH, a food pantry she started 27 years ago located at Calvary Southern Baptist Church.

Over the years, she has told her nieces and nephews that "they have to believe in the almighty God. With that kind of faith, you can succeed. You can overcome the barriers," James says. "And, of course, you need to go to school. That's the main thing. Stay in school. Because it helps you to live a better life, all the way around."

Two of James' nieces also hold degrees from UNLV: Judy P. Conner, '00 MS Educational Leadership, and Lamona Jones, '10 BS Workforce Education.

"The only reason I finished my bachelor's degree is because she pushed me," says Jones, her great-great-grandniece, who is now going on for a master's degree while she works part-time as a grant assistant at UNLV.

**More:** Audrey James was one of the voices in the oral history project, Documenting the African American Experience in Las Vegas. Listen to her share a story about the challenges of teaching at [digital.library.unlv.edu/aae](http://digital.library.unlv.edu/aae).





Turner, '77



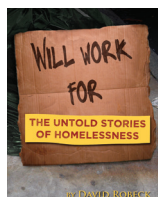
Bonner, '78



Ferrario, '78



Hedger, '79



Robeck, '79



Robeck, '79



Mullins, '84



Wills, '85



**Tony Llanos, '97 BS Hotel Administration**, is pictured with Lee Business School student Catherine Ho. Ho was a contestant in the Miss Asian Global & Miss Asian America Pageant in August. San Francisco's Hotel G, where Llanos serves as controller, hosted the contestants.

and employment, and real estate. He also was recognized as the 2015 "Lawyer of the Year" for banking and finance litigation in Las Vegas by *Best Lawyers*. Only one attorney is recognized as such in each practice area and metropolitan area. He is a shareholder in the Las Vegas office of the international law firm Greenberg Traurig.

**Dan Fischer, '79 BA Chemistry, '90 MS Environmental Analytical Chemistry**, is general manager of the Clark County Water Reclamation District. He was the first person to receive a master's degree from UNLV's chemistry department. He oversees the operations, maintenance, and performance of seven treatment facilities serving unincorporated Clark County, including the communities of Blue Diamond, Indian Springs, Laughlin, Moapa Valley, and Searchlight. Combined, the treatment facilities receive, treat, and reclaim more than 100 million gallons of wastewater each day. In 1997, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UNLV's College of Sciences. While at UNLV he was a pitcher on the baseball team. In 1979, he was drafted by the Kansas City Royals and played

for more than three seasons for the AAA team in Omaha, Neb.

**Ronald Hedger, '79 BA Psychology**, is assistant dean of clinical skills training at Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also is president of the Nevada State Board of Osteopathic Medicine. His hobbies include communications and television production. He lives in Henderson.

**David Robeck, '79 BS Finance, '87 MBA**, is the author of the book *WILL WORK FOR... The Untold Stories of Homelessness*. Using the stories of more than 40 people, he explores the fundamental causes of homelessness. He then challenges common strategies of managing the homeless population while confronting the wider consequences the strategies may produce. Previously, he spent 25 years as a banker and served as executive director of two nonprofit organizations in Las Vegas. He was the first UNLV graduate to serve in the Peace Corps in Russia. After returning to Las Vegas he adopted four special needs sons from Russian orphanages as a single father.



Harter, '88



Mixer, '89

## 1980s

**Gwen Rutar Mullins, '84 BA English**, was included in the 2015 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*. Selection is based on an exhaustive peer-review survey. Corporate Counsel has called it the most respected referral list of attorneys in practice. She practices construction law with Howard & Howard in Las Vegas.

**Robert "Woody" Sorrell, '84 BS Hotel Administration**, works at UGA Paralegal as a legal assistant in criminal litigation. Previously, he spent more than 35 years in banking and finance. He at one time worked for the Royal Bank of Scotland. He has lived in Boston, Atlanta, and Edinburgh, Scotland. His hobbies include world travel, gourmet cooking, attending sporting events, reading novels and biographies, and gardening. He is a Braves and Red Sox fan. He has three grown sons and three grandchildren. He lives in Athens, Ga.

**Amy Harris Gardner Wills, '85 BS Education, '92 MA History**, is a special education facilitator with the education management systems department of the Clark County School District. She provides training and technical support for all employees using Web-based documentation such as individualized education programs for students with disabilities and progress monitoring for all students. Her hobbies include attending UNLV football and basketball games and riding her Harley Davidson Softail Deluxe. Riding to South Dakota to see Mt. Rushmore is on her bucket list. She has two children, a son, **Geoffrey Gardner, '14 BS Computer Science**, and a daughter, Sandra. She also has two stepsons, Brennan Wills and Garrison Wills. She and her husband, Ben, live in Henderson.

**Mike Thompson, '87 Master of Education**, is principal of North Cache Center School, which serves eighth- and ninth-grade students in Rich- mond, Utah. His hobbies include fishing, skiing, and spending time with his family. He and his wife, Sue, live in Smithfield.

**Matthew Harter, '88 BS Business Administration**, is running for re-election as a judge in District Court, Family Division, Department N. The native Nevadan is married and has eight children. Replying to a question about hobbies, he referred to his "eight children" answer and responded, "No time." He lives in Logandale.

**Susan Katz, '88 BS Hotel Administration**, pursues hobbies such as going to the gym, scrap- booking, and traveling. She lives in Irvine, Calif.

**Jeff Grace, '89 BS Finance**, is CEO of NetEf- fect, an IT service provider that recently merged with uptimeLV. Service upgrades resulting from the merger include more resources and greater efficiencies, improved strategic IT consulting, more personalized customer service, and expanded hours. He is married to **Dina Phayre, '09 AS Radiography**.

**Mike Mixer, '89 BS Hotel Administration, '89 BS Business Administration**, was selected to co-lead the Colliers International USA Hotel Group. He is the executive managing director and cofounder of the Colliers International Las Vegas office, the leading full-service commercial real estate firm in Southern Nevada. An expert in the resort and gaming market, Mixer's expertise has been used by many of the top development and investment firms through- out the world.

## 1990s

**Colin E. Humphrey, '90 MS Educational Psychology, '94 MFA Theatre Arts**, is the clinical director for Sunrise Behavioral Healthcare.

**Robert "Kim" Blanchard, '91 MS Hotel Administration**, is a high school special edu- cation teacher in a PASS (Positive Approach to Student Success) program. He lives in Katy, Texas.

**Wendy Goldstein Gelbart, '92 BS Business Administration, '09 Master of Education**, has launched The Spot Las Vegas, a weekly email guide to "free and frugal" events in Southern Nevada. It includes up-to-the-moment infor- mation on everything from free concerts to car shows to family-friendly activities. A teacher with the Clark County School District, she also co-owns Yellow Bucket Janitorial, a commercial cleaning service, with her husband. Enjoying Las Vegas shows is her hobby.

**Tim Delaney, '94 PhD Sociology**, is chair of the sociology department at the State University of New York, Oswego. He has edited 15 books and numerous journal articles. His hobbies include traveling, attending sporting events, and keep- ing up with popular culture. He lives in Auburn.

**Linda Marie Gray Norcross, '94 BA Political Science, '04 JD**, recently joined the firm of How- ard & Howard as a partner in the intellectual property practice group. Her practice focuses primarily on trademark law and related intel- lectual property rights, such as copyright and rights of publicity. She also was named to the 2014 Mountain States "Super Lawyers" list.

**Gina Gallardo Tolomeo, '94 BA Communi- cation Studies**, recently became vice president of aftermarket sales for Pearson Packaging Systems. Previously, she served as aftermarket parts manager for FleetwoodGoldcoWyard for its Illinois and Virginia facilities. She has worked in the packaging industry for more than 17 years. Traveling and photography are her hobbies. She and her husband, Matthew, have a 3-year-old son, Noah. The family lives in Chicago.



## NOTES

**Michelle Lee**, '95 BS Business Administration, '06 Master of Education, is a certified life coach and owner of Relish Your Life Now. She offers individual, group, and corporate coaching sessions that provide clients with a renewed sense of hope and passion for life and the results for which they are looking. Her hobbies include health and wellness, motivational speaking, feng shui, traveling, listening to music, watching cooking shows, attending major league sports games, exercising, and eating healthy foods. She married Marco Levenberger on Sept. 24, 2011.

**Tracy DiFillippo**, '98 BA Political Science, was named to *Nevada Business* magazine's "Southern Nevada's Best" list in the magazine's seventh annual "Legal Elite" issue. Lawyers were selected for the list by their peers in an online voting process. A partner in the Las Vegas office of Armstrong Teasdale, she focuses on commercial litigation with an emphasis on construction, medical and dental malpractice, and insurance.

**Mark Knoblauch**, '98 MS Kinesiology, is the clinical coordinator of the new master of athletic training program at the University of Houston.

**Andrew Marx**, '98 BA English, is a writer who launched a new, modern fantasy ebook series this year. It is titled *Second Job Hero*. The series follows an erstwhile hero caught up in a twisted conspiracy taking him to the last place he ever expected to be again — home. He lives in Waltham, Mass.

**Laura Burke Archuleta**, '99 BS Education, is the founder and executive director of IDEAS Inc., a nonprofit organization that supports the success of students with disabilities through innovative workshops for students, parents, and educators. It also provides individualized consultations. Previously, she spent 15 years as a special education teacher and department chair in both the Denver Public School District and the Cherry Creek School District. Her hobbies include spending time with family and friends, learning new things, and traveling to new places. She lives in Aurora, Colo., with her husband; three children, ages 13, 10, and 2; and 7-year-old stepdaughter.

**Dan Barry**, '99 BA Ethics & Policy Studies, published his memoir, *Ready, Aim Trust*. The book offers personal stories — from working as an undercover cop at a high school to collaborating with the FBI — from his 30 years of policing in Las Vegas as well as advice that can be applied to any leadership role. He is the chair of the criminal justice & security program for the University of Phoenix's Las Vegas campus. He enjoys volunteering with this church, visiting his children and eight grandchildren, exercising, and spending time with his wife, Allison.

**Thomas Uhlenberg**, '99 BA Communication Studies, '00 BA History, '02 Master of Education, runs All Pro Carpet Cleaning. He enjoys spending time with his 4-year-old son, Ryker, whom he describes as a Rebel in the making. His hobbies include hiking, biking, rollerblading, attending rock concerts, and going to sporting events. He lives in Phoenix and says he attends every UNLV game played there.

**Michael Vander Hook**, '99 BS Sports Injury Management, has a company called Freight Motion Inc. The company acts as a freight broker, arranging freight for clients in the United States and Canada. He says he enjoys any activity having to do with water and sports, particularly hockey, snow skiing, water skiing, snowboarding, and scuba diving. He lives in Austin, Texas.



**Lesley Pena**, '02 BS Business Administration, is a deputy public defender for the juvenile division of the Clark County public defender's office. She also is a competitive amateur Latin ballroom dancer.

## 2000s

**Robyn Campbell-Ouchida**, '00 MA Communication Studies, continues to work as editor of the UNLV William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration's alumni publication, *Premier*. She also is working on another issue of the *Black & Gold Annual* for Nevada State College. Her hobbies include reading, volunteering at her children's school, and doing volunteer work through her church. She lives in Henderson with her husband, Kurt Ouchida, and their two sons.

**Janel Sizemore Ortiz**, '00 BS Hotel Administration, is the manager of PF Chang's at The District. She also is an independent designer with Origami Owl, a company that creates personalized lockets. She and her husband, Adam, have a son, Gabriel.

**Joseph Wagner**, '00 BS Hotel Administration, is executive director of hotel operations, luxury, and guest services at The Venetian and The Palazzo resorts.

**Brad Weiss**, '00 MA Communication Studies, is director of branding/sports programming for Entercom-Memphis, 92.9 FM ESPN. He was featured in the ninth edition of *Keith's Radio Station: Broadcast, Internet, & Satellite* by John Hendricks and Bruce Mims. He and his wife, Stacy, live in Germantown, Tenn., with their 6-year-old son, Jake.

**Jarrod Lopiccolo**, '01 BS Architecture, along with his wife, **Season Elcome Lopiccolo**, '02 BA English, and their business partner, Michael Thomas, recently were named the Small Business Administration's Small Business Persons of the Year for Nevada. They have grown their digital agency, Noble Studios, from a single laptop computer into a company that made *Inc.* magazine's list of the fastest-growing private companies with a client roster of global brands. He enjoys photography, fly-fishing, scuba diving, drawing, traveling, golf, and family time. The couple lives in Reno.

**Dustin Mancil**, '01 BS Education, '05 M.Ed. Special Education, '11 PhD Special Education, '13 MA Urban Leadership, has been promoted to principal of Rowe Elementary School. He

has earned four degrees from UNLV during a 15-year period.

**Michele Lucero Villagran**, '01 BS Business Administration, married Rodolfo Villagran in May at Parador de Oropesa in Toledo, Spain.

**Karen Wall**, '01 MS Special Education, is a physical therapist with the Clark County School District where she works with children with disabilities. She also is the volunteer chair of the Las Vegas affiliate of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. Her hobbies include spending time with friends, shopping, reading, and walking with or without her dogs.

**Vickie Wilson**, '01 BA Sociology, '10 Master of Education, is a self-described "foodie" who launched Vegas Valley Food Tours in December. The company, which was years in the making, is devoted to helping visitors and locals enjoy authentic cultural and dining experiences away from the Strip. In addition to learning about food, customers hear about local history, architecture, and neighborhood entertainment options. Her hobbies include watching movies and taking tours of all sorts.





Gelbart, '92



Norcross, '94



Tolomeo '94



Lee, '95



Archuleta '99



Barry, '99



Lopiccolo, '01



Biernacinski, '05

**Jeffrey Dallas**, '02 BS Hotel Administration, is spending a year in Japan as part of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program. A captain and combat systems officer in the U.S. Air Force, he will spend seven weeks in a Japanese home in Ishikawa Prefecture and then 10 months in Tokyo where he will be assigned to a Japanese government agency. He also will receive intensive training in the Japanese language. The program was established in 1994 to build a corps of American government officials with substantial Japanese expertise. One of the goals is the development of relationships that will allow for more effective collaboration on shared security, humanitarian, and defense objectives.

**Jake Fischer**, '02 MS Hotel Administration, has rejoined the hotel management investment management company The Hotel Group (THG) as vice president of development. He focuses on the growth and development of the hotel portfolio in the eastern half of the country. He will establish relationships with new and existing clients for acquisition, new development, and third-party management opportunities on behalf of THG funds and investors. Previously, he worked as senior manager of hospitality for MIG Real Estate, as senior manager of development planning & feasibility at Marriott International, and as assistant vice president/manager at HVS International.

**Tonia Holmes-Sutton**, '04 Master of Education, '12 EdD Educational Leadership, has worked for the Clark County School District and for charter schools for more than 14 years. Currently, she is the striving readers comprehensive literacy program curriculum and professional development project facilitator for early childhood. She is a governor-appointed member of the Nevada State Board of Education and vice president of the UNLV College of Education Alumni Association. This year her family is hosting exchange student Jeffrey Eromonsele from Germany. They brought Jeffrey to Premier UNLV as one of their first family activities. She and her husband, Walter, have a daughter, **Brittany Holmes-Sutton**, who is a freshman communication studies major.

**Shane Kawamura**, '03 BS Business Administration, is the marketing manager for Hershey's Chocolate World where he is in charge of all graphics, ads, social media, and promotions. He also is a professional stuntman and has performed in movies and television shows in addition to spending six years with the Tournament of Kings. His hobbies include mixed martial arts, muay thai kickboxing, drawing, and watching movies. He also coaches a fighter. He and his fiancé, Melissa Nava, are expecting a daughter in October.

**John Krikorian**, '04 MBA, was appointed vice president for learning and development for Marsh Private Client Services in Las Vegas. He lives in Henderson.

**Lauren Pena**, '04 BA Communication Studies, '07 JD, is an attorney who co-owns a Las Vegas matchmaking company called Project Duo. The company also provides date coaching programs. She utilized her skills while studying at UNLV and says several of the pairs she matched up are now married or still together. This year she was certified as an international matchmaker by the Matchmaking Institute.

**Michael Rossolo**, '04 BS Hotel Administration, '13 Master of Hotel Administration, recently was promoted to revenue management operations leader for the international revenue management office of the Chicago Marriott Downtown. In his new job he has



**Juan Villafuerte**, '00 BA Film Studies, is a videographer. He says his student loan is paid off, so he now owns the diploma. His hobbies include photography, snowboarding, and fútbol.

oversight responsibilities for two select service hotels as well as primary inventory, rate, and forecast responsibilities for the flagship hotel in the cluster.

**Jaime Wright**, '04 BS Hotel Administration, just started a boutique marketing firm, Embellish Marketing. The company provides marketing, branding, graphic design, web design and development, website hosting, social media management, and online marketing services for nonprofit organizations and small businesses.

**Marek Biernacinski**, '05 BA Communication Studies, is cofounder and president of Words by a Pro, a language services provider that furnishes white-label solutions for local, national,

and international website designers, marketing firms, and search engine optimization agencies. He manages day-to-day operations and the overall company vision for the future. He also is a member of the Board of Directors of the Las Vegas chapter of the American Advertising Federation. He is married to **Melissa Rothermel Biernacinski**, '06 BA Journalism & Media Studies.

**Monique Perez**, '05 BS Business Administration, is an administrative assistant for global alliances at the American Academy of Ophthalmology. She enjoys basketball, volleyball, attending sport events, and being active with Alpha Gamma Delta alumni. She lives in Daly City, Calif.

**Erik Pignata**, '05 BS Recreation and Leisure Studies, moved home to California this year to work as a realty specialist with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in its Sacramento office. Previously, he worked for the BLM in Carson City and for the U.S. Forest Service in the Bridgeport (Calif.) Ranger District. His hobbies include brewing beer, playing poker, playing music with friends, kayaking, hiking, and gardening. He and his wife live in Rancho Cordova.

**Melissa Rothermel Biernacinski**, '06 BA Journalism & Media Studies, has been inducted into the Women's Chamber of Commerce's 2014 Women's Hall of Fame in the young professional leadership category. She is director of media relations for Imagine Communications. A member of the American Copy Editors Society, she serves as the company's resident editor. A third-degree black belt in chun kuk do, she serves as editor-in-chief of CKD magazine. She also is an assistant instructor and a student at Cox & Gallagher Karate and a communications administrator of the United Fighting Arts Federation. Her hobbies include working out, photography, traveling, juicing, watching





## NOTES

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Biernacinski, '06



Taylor, '06



Brown, '07



Oviatt, '10



Tsolis, '10



Nutting, '12



Schumach, '12



Vail, '13

foreign films, and singing with the Community Lutheran Church praise team. She is married to **Marek Biernacinski**, '05 BA Communication Studies.

**Christine Boggy**, '06 BA Journalism & Media Studies, works for ESPN/SEC network. Her hobbies include golfing, shopping, reading, and traveling.

**Rob Taylor**, '06 MS Hotel Administration, recently changed career paths after more than 15 years in the hospitality and retail management fields. He accepted a management position in the property and inland marine division of Great America Insurance Group. He lives in Amelia, Ohio.

**Daniel Brown**, '07 BS Architecture, is a designer, trainer, and 3-D modeling specialist. He worked as a SketchUp and Google Earth trainer for Google before starting a company, db-3D. He has taught hundreds of people how to use SketchUp Pro and has taught throughout the nation. He volunteers with the Community Design Collaborative and serves as a professional adviser for Easton Area High School's technology education program. He lives in Philadelphia.

**William Devine II**, '07 JD/MBA, opened the Devine Law Firm in April with his wife **Courtney Devine**, '07 BA Interdisciplinary Social Science Studies, '11 JD. They have been married 17 years. He practices in the areas of civil litigation, debtor and creditor bankruptcy matters, business formation, asset protection, and real estate disputes. Hobbies include visiting the Strip and the beaches in Los Angeles and San Diego.

**Jasmine Ejan**, '07 Master of Education, is CEO and founder of CheekyChaCha.com, a company that promotes art, love, sex, fashion, and health. She is the creator of Blowpaste, an oral lubricant that is both vegan and gluten-free. She has created, manufactured, and directed all the commercials. She plans to launch the product in boutiques in Northern California and in Orange County, Calif., this winter. She also will be performing in *The King and I* at the Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire, Ill. Previously, she toured with Cathy Rigby in *Peter Pan* and has worked with Celine Dion and Elton John. Her hobbies include ballet, roller skating, and going to beaches, museums, and zoos. She lives in Oxnard, Calif.

**Albert Kim**, '07 BS Hotel Administration, works at Sugarfish.

**Stefanie Ramirez**, '07 BS Business Administration, became an assistant professor of economics at the University of Idaho in August. She received a doctoral degree in economics from the University of Arizona in May.

**Jeff Wilson**, '07 PhD Higher Education Leadership, received tenure and a promotion to associate professor in the College of Education at the University of Memphis. He also has assumed program coordinator duties for the higher & adult education program. He lives in Memphis, Tenn.



**Jared Goode**, '09 BA Film Studies, '12 MFA Film Studies, is a reality television associate producer. He recently completed *Jim Henson's Creature Shop Challenge* for the Syfy network. He also is the lead singer and songwriter for the band Goode Kids, which will be releasing a full-length album, "In These Dark Woods," next year. He lives in Los Angeles.

**Christopher Lujan**, '08 Master of Architecture, was selected as one of 10 people in the nation to receive the 2014 Jason Pettigrew Memorial ARE Scholarship given by the American Institute of Architects. He lives in Reno where he works for TSK Architects.

**Gil Salas**, '08 BS Kinesiology, is a regional account manager with Kawasumi Laboratories America. The company is involved with medical devices for oncology and infusion. His region includes Nevada, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington as well as British Columbia in Canada. His hobbies include playing golf, playing guitar in a jazz band, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. He lives in Madera, Calif.

**Adi Alsaid**, '09 BS Business Administration, is a writer who has published his first book of young adult fiction, *Let's Get Lost*. He also is the author of *Somewhere Over the Sun*. He coaches high school and elementary basketball and says he has perfected the art of making every dish he cooks as spicy as possible.

**Ivette Barajas**, '09 BS Business Administration, is vice president/SBA (Small Business Administration) business development officer for Nevada State Bank. She has more than 16 years of experience in business development, underwriting, and relationship management. She has served on business banking teams for

various banks in Southern Nevada. She is a member of the Latin Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting, and the Nevada Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals. She volunteers with Junior Achievement and with the mentoring program of the Boys & Girls Club.

## 2010s

**Jason Thorpe Buchanan**, '10 Master of Music, won the national competition for gifted Young Concert Music Composers awarded by the American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers Foundation. This prestigious juried competition receives more than 600 entries each year. In 2010, he was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study and do research at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg, Germany.

**Merietta Oviatt**, '10 Master of Music, just began a position as a viola/violin instructor at the Aber Suzuke Center at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. She previously completed her doctoral studies in music at the University of Oregon. She lives in Stevens Point.

**Panagiotis Tsolis**, '10 BS Business Administration, is the consolidated marketing manager

for MGM Resorts International. He currently is wrapping up his studies for his Executive MBA degree at UNLV.

**Gerardo Avalos**, '11 BS Culinary Management, has started a company, Mint Condition Nutrition, as a way to help people make healthy food choices and cook more nutritious food. Previously, he worked at restaurants including RM Seafood and Hakkasan. His hobbies include cooking, wine, traveling, nature, yoga, meditation, hiking, and playing with his dog.

**Amanda Ketzenberger Nutting**, '12 BS Business Administration, launched Nutting Insurance Agency in January. Her hobbies include snowboarding, wakeboarding, camping, and football. She married Jonathan Nutting on Sept. 14, 2013.

**Samuel Schumach**, '12 BA Political Science, is a special assistant for strategic communication in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. He also is pursuing a master's degree in global security studies at Johns Hopkins University. His hobbies include aviation, politics, and outdoor activities. He lives in Washington, D.C.

**Qian Ru "Joan" Lim**, '13 BS Hotel Administration, works at Regus Management as a customer service and sales representative. She lives in Singapore.

**David Livingston**, '13 BS Business Administration, has joined Cushman & Wakefield Commerce as a research specialist. He performs primary research for buildings that are built, under construction, proposed, or undergoing renovation. He also tracks leases and sales, tenant movements, and direct and sublet space. His research culminates in quarterly reports that are provided to brokers, the media, investors, and business leaders. Previously, he was a Realtor and residential property manager for Homestead Realty.

**Mary Leon Vail**, '13 MBA, is the author of *What's Your Philanthropic Footprint?* The book is a memoir of how she merged a passion with philanthropy with her career as a public relations professional guiding clients to be agents of action in their communities. In it she discusses the business and cultural trip that her executive MBA group made to South Africa. She also outlines a variety of opportunities for a person to become philanthropic by analyzing one's talents, skills, hobbies, interests, services, and products. She discusses her concept of a "philanthropic footprint" to show how readers can leave their unique marks on the world.

**Samantha Wallace**, '13 BA Sociology, is a graduate teaching assistant in the sociology department of the University of Oklahoma.

**Andrew Williams**, '14 BA Political Science, '14 BS Public Administration, found employment as a staff assistant with U.S. Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., in Washington, D.C., one month after graduation.





## OBITUARIES

**Clint Clausen**, '93 BS Hotel Administration, died of a heart attack Aug. 8. He was a reserve forward on Coach Jerry Tarkanian's final UNLV basketball team in 1992. In his two seasons with the Runnin' Rebels he appeared in 24 games. A veteran of the restaurant business, he managed Bertolini's restaurant and Michael Mina's restaurants at the Bellagio and MGM Grand before moving to California. In 2010 he opened his own restaurant, Four Daughters Kitchen, in Manhattan Beach.

**Gerald Higgins**, UNLV's team physician for four decades, died Aug. 10. The Wisconsin native was inducted into both the UNLV Athletics Hall of Fame and the Southern Nevada Sports Hall of Fame. He and his wife, Lucia, established an annual scholarship for student athletic trainers.

**W. Paul Jones**, professor of educational psychology and higher education, died July 26 after a five-month effort to overcome a devastating injury. He joined the UNLV faculty in 1987. Over the years he published more than 85 articles in refereed journals and textbooks in research methods, psychological diagnostics, enhancing clinical skills, and educational psychology. He had served as department chair and as College of Education faculty chair. He also was a founding member of the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Center Research Advisory Committee.

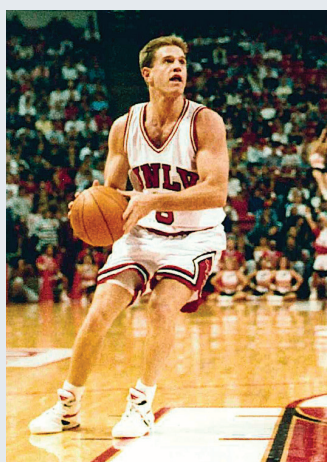
**Dennis Lindle**, Distinguished Professor of chemistry, died Oct. 5. He came to UNLV in 1991, twice served as department chair, and earned the College of Sciences Distinguished Researcher Award. Last year he was named a Distinguished Professor, the highest honor UNLV bestows upon faculty. His research was in X-ray spectroscopy and the fundamental properties of matter.

**Mike Miller**, who created the Hey Reb! mascot, died Oct. 2 of colon cancer. In 1982, Miller was a partner in a local advertising firm when UNLV wanted to replace its mascot. His mountain man was meant to embody the spirit of a Rebel while reflecting community history. He began his career as an artist for Disney, contributed illustrations to the Las Vegas Review-Journal for many years, and authored the "Tomás, The Tortoise" children's book series.

**James Rogers**, chancellor emeritus of the Nevada System of Higher Education, UNLV donor, and businessman, died June 14 after a long battle with cancer. "Jim Rogers was passionate about education because he knew an investment in education was an investment in the future," said UNLV President Donald D. Snyder. "The university and higher education have lost a friend and an advocate." Rogers and his wife, Beverly, recently committed \$10 million to support the expansion of literary programming within



The Randall Stout-designed Art Gallery of Alberta in Canada



Clausen



Rogers



Miller

UNLV's Black Mountain Institute, which has been renamed the Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute.

**Randall Stout**, professor of architecture, died July 11. A member of the UNLV faculty since 2011, he served as the School of Architecture's graduate coordinator for the master of architecture degree program. Described in an obituary in the New York

Times as "an environmentally sensitive architect who earned a national reputation for designing dynamically shaped regional museums, mostly in his native South," Stout died of renal cell cancer. Among his museum projects were the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga, Tenn.; the Taubman Museum of Art in Roanoke, Va.; and the Abrams-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts in Birmingham, Ala.



Lindle



Higgins

**Verdun Trione**, emeritus professor of educational psychology, died July 4 in Atlanta. A member of the UNLV faculty for more than 30 years, he taught in the School of Counseling and Guidance. He also was a practicing psychologist specializing in chemical dependency and the author of works of both nonfiction and fiction.

**Mary Jane Palmer Watson**, emerita associate professor of nursing, died July 29. The Iowa native taught at UNLV from 1972 to 1997. She was interim director of the nursing department in 1976-77 and was named Outstanding Teacher in the College of Health Sciences in 1987.





## Time Warp

One day in 2058, when UNLV celebrates its century mark, students will break into the little vault embedded in a concrete bench outside the Student Union. They'll probably run the equivalent of today's Google search for things like "Blackberry" and "Carol Harter." Then hopefully they'll gather up their own iconic items and stash them in the cubby for future Rebels to puzzle over.

The time capsule is marked by a bronze plaque under the union's outdoor staircase. It was dedicated April 23, 2008, the same year UNLV celebrated its 50th anniversary. It holds letters from former notable graduates and past student body presidents, copies of *The Rebel Yell* student paper, and construction project plans. The time capsule also holds a some photos salvaged from a cornerstone in the old Donald C. Moyer Student Union. Unfortunately, most of the documents from that effort had decayed. This time, special airtight compartments will preserve the contents.

The vault also holds what in 2008 was a must-have tool: a Blackberry phone, which already seems antiquated next to today's sleek iPhones and oversized Samsungs. We can only imagine what will be ubiquitous to Rebels 50 years hence.

—Brian Sodoma



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