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LINDY SCHUMACHER
Silver State Award

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At UNLV, we don’t settle. We always reach for more. We’re Rebels – Different. Daring. Diverse. And we’re on the rise.

For more than 40 years, the UNLV Alumni Association has recognized exceptional individuals who represent the ideals of higher learning and Rebel pride. Through the awards program, the Alumni Association recognizes alumni and community leaders for their outstanding achievements and leadership at the university as well as throughout our community. These recipients truly serve as inspiration for the generations of alumni who will follow.

ABOUT THE UNLV ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The UNLV Alumni Association was established in 1964 as a not-for-profit organization to promote and enhance alumni engagement on campus.

To date, the association has contributed more than $6.7 million to the university in student scholarships, endowments, and major capital improvements such as the Alumni Amphitheater, Alumni Grove, Alumni Park, and the $2.7 million Richard Tam Alumni Center.

The UNLV Alumni Association is a leader in:
• Connecting alumni for life to the resources of the university
• Communicating UNLV news and happenings to our alumni
• Providing a network for alumni to meet one another, students, and prospective students
Chip Johnson

Mr. Johnson has remained a loyal member of the UNLV alumni family after graduating with his business degree in the early 1970s. After graduation, he quickly established himself as a respected commercial real estate professional in the valley, eventually founding Real Estate Services Group in the early 1980s. He also received the Alumnus of the Year Award from the Lee Business School in 2003. He and his wife, Helen, commissioned the bronze “Hey Reb!” statue in the courtyard of the Richard Tam Alumni Center and also were instrumental in funding the Jerry Tarkanian statue in the Thomas & Mack Center plaza.

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

I remember vividly the first day I walked onto the university campus. At that time, it was called Nevada Southern University, which later became UNLV. There were basically only three buildings on this campus in the middle of the desert. And now, only one of those buildings remain, which is Wright Hall.

When I look around the campus today I am totally amazed at what my university, our university, has become. With that growth came many friendships. The friendships that are forged in your college years often become lifelong relationships. Some of these people even become colleagues and business associates. That has been very true in my life. I’m proud of those friendships, They have added meaning to my life.

My college friends are what kept me focused on graduation. I admired their vision, goals, and the tenacity to achieve their goals. That inspired me more than anything, as a businessman, student and proud member of the Las Vegas community.

My greatest lessons learned at UNLV were to crystallize my thinking, to not be afraid of the obstacles in your way, and to never lose sight of your goal. These skills, those life-long relationships, and the fact that I met my wife Helen here, are just a few of the many reasons I’m a proud graduate of UNLV.

Lindy Schumacher

Ms. Schumacher is the CEO of Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas, a nonprofit dedicated to achieving a long-term meaningful impact on college attendance and graduation rates for students growing up in economically under-resourced communities in greater Las Vegas.

Prior to leading the Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas, Ms. Schumacher was Director of Nevada Giving for the Dream Fund at UCLA as well as The Lincy Foundation, which supported education, health and social services initiatives. She also held roles as a CPA at Arthur Andersen and was CFO for The Las Vegas Monorail Company.

Why I proudly support UNLV

UNLV is my community’s university. I live here, raise my children here, and consider this my forever home. I was fortunate to attend a college in California, but realized this might have benefited me personally, but not necessarily my community. So, I came back!

I witnessed the community outreach, the concern and the belief that UNLV had toward the non-profit world, children, families, and social services. In time, the university showed me it was making a difference. A community cannot improve without strong institutions supporting them. UNLV is making Southern Nevada STRONG; for that I am eternally grateful.
Mr. Shonkwiler’s advertising agency specializes in, but is not limited to, gaming and resort/hospitality marketing. He has created award-winning campaigns for gaming properties in numerous gaming jurisdictions, including California, New Jersey, Nevada, Mississippi, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and other states. He was inducted into the Greater Las Vegas Advertising Federation Hall of Fame in 1997. He has been a long-time supporter of the university and has offered his marketing/advertising expertise and sponsorship support for numerous alumni functions and UNLV events.

Why I proudly support UNLV

Like many of you, I came to Las Vegas from another part of the country and soon adopted UNLV and the Rebels. Or maybe more accurately, the Rebels adopted me. As a struggling sports writer new to town, one of the first persons I was fortunate to meet was Fred Albrecht. Fred had also recently relocated to Las Vegas to become an assistant Rebel basketball coach, so we hit it off right from the start.

Fred served in a long list of positions at UNLV from tennis coach to interim Athletic Director. When Fred was announced as the first Executive Director of the newly formed Alumni Association, I was proud to be one of the first members. Over the years, I have had some of my greatest memories being a ‘Rebel’.

From going to the school’s first Final Four game in 1977 to cheering our big win over Duke in 1991. It has also been my privilege to speak to a number of marketing and advertising classes over the years. I also think I was the first person to ever see the creation of ‘Hey Reb!’. Mike Miller, his creator, showed me the drawings just before he gave away all rights to the character to the school for $1.

Most of all, I have met some of the finest people who work and support UNLV in all aspects of the school. Now, working with the UNLV Alumni Association, I have gained even more appreciation for the many hours and hard work these dedicated people give to make our school one of the best in the country. Yes, I am proud to be a Rebel. Las Vegas and my adopted university have been such a wonderful part of my life. For me it will always be: Once A Rebel .. Always A Rebel.
A UNLV faculty member since 1988, Dr. Schibrowsky has held a number of positions in and outside of the university, including president of the Marketing Educators’ Association (MEA) and president of the American Marketing Association’s Collegiate Council. He has authored more than 60 major marketing pieces and has made more than 150 intellectual contributions.

In 2012, MEA named Dr. Schibrowsky one of the three most prolific marketing education researchers in the past two decades. He was also honored with the Marketing EDGE national Distinguished Teaching Award in 2004. He was the MEA’s “Marketing Educator of the Year” in 2008, and The Marketing EDGE Robert B. Clarke “Outstanding Educator” honoree in 2009.

Why I’m a proud UNLV faculty member

I’ve dedicated the past 29 years of my career to UNLV as a faculty member, teacher, researcher and administrator. I am part of the university, and the university is part of me. I bleed Rebel red. I have witnessed the transformation of the university from a “Rising Star in Higher Education” in 1988 into the “Different, Daring, and Diverse” university it is today. I am proud to report that the rebel spirit is alive and well.

First and foremost, I am proud of the past and current UNLV students. They are some of the brightest and best anywhere. They are and will continue to be the leaders for the Las Vegas Valley and the state. They make Nevada the state it is today. I am never happier than when I am around our students, and it brings a proud smile to my face every time I hear of their successes.

I am proud of my colleagues at the university. UNLV’s faculty and staff are a highly-dedicated group that constantly amazes me with their willingness to give the extra effort to make our university better and our students more prepared for the future. They are the driving force to make the university better and better.

Finally, I am proud of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It provides educational opportunities for a diverse population of students and truly is “Educating Future Leaders.” We have become one of the most diverse campuses in the country, not because that was a goal, we accomplished this by providing educational opportunities to those who might not have been able to pursue a college education if it were not for UNLV. I am certainly the proudest to have been a small part of all that.
Ms. Barton is a member of the Mountain View Hospital physical therapy team. She has created numerous educational programs for families and employees and earned the hospital’s First Humanitarian Award. In 2014, VEGAS INC honored her with the Volunteer Healthcare Provider of the Year award. She also helps UNLV students gain educational experiences at Mountain View Hospital.

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

Some people ask me, “Do you like being a physical therapist?” However, more people ask me, “You love your job, don’t you?” I do love my job. Being a part of an interdisciplinary healthcare team means the world to me. It is extraordinary to make a difference in a patient’s life, as well as their families’ and friends’ lives.

I spent seven years at UNLV. Those seven years set me up for a lifetime of happiness. Any school can teach you how to “do”, but UNLV also teaches how to “be”: be kind, be considerate, and be human. Physical therapy is a science, but my education included warmth and compassion.

There are a lot of physical therapists out there. We all sit for the same national exam. But I am more than just that. My graduating class was more. UNLV gave me the tools to succeed in life and gave me lasting friendships and connections. Because of UNLV, I am a better healthcare provider.

UNLV is an amazing and often groundbreaking institution. What patients and peers don’t realize is that UNLV teaches humanity. I chose to attend UNLV and I am a better person because UNLV chose me.

Maria Barton
’00 BS Physical Therapy; ’04 MS Physical Therapy
SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES
ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Mr. Guedry joined Bank of Nevada in 2011 and currently serves as its CEO. He was previously CEO and President of Business Bank of Nevada and later served as a managing partner for CB Richard Ellis Commercial Real Estate Services. He is the immediate past chairman of the Las Vegas Metro Chamber Board of Trustees.

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

As the middle son of a single mom who stressed the importance of education, completing my BS degree in business management confirmed for me, at a young age, that I could achieve any goal I set. My degree from UNLV’s business college instilled in me a confidence that I previously did not possess. It allowed me to begin a career in banking and finance that has led to many personal and professional successes in my 35-year career.

I have often wondered where I would be today had I not completed my undergraduate education at UNLV. I suspect my career as a banking executive would not have occurred, which means I would not have been able to work with my wife, Debbie, to address challenges related to public education. I also would not have been able to serve on many philanthropic boards. My UNLV degree prepared me for many opportunities in life and opened doors in Las Vegas that allowed me to make a difference in my home city. Education is that one asset no one can ever take from you. I’m thankful for the education the many fine UNLV professors provided me; I am proud to be a Rebel!

John Guedry
’82 BS Business Administration
LEE BUSINESS SCHOOL
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Ms. Lyman is currently the Director of the Barbara Greenspun Women’s Care Center of Excellence and Community Outreach. In the health field for 25 years, Ms. Lyman has designed and implemented numerous prevention, screening and disease management programs to help hundreds of thousands of Southern Nevadans. She also oversees nine community outreach departments receiving $2.1 million in grant funding.

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

The UNLV Masters in Public Health (MPH) program helped me find my calling in public health and gave me the skills to do the work I love. This gave me the opportunity to serve this community through Dignity Health’s healing ministry. I enjoy a dream job, especially since I get to work with our Adrian Dominican Sisters who have dedicated their lives to serving others.

I absolutely loved the MPH program at UNLV, had some amazing professors, networked with fellow students and currently collaborate with UNLV on grants and programs. As a part of my current role, I host 5-10 UNLV student interns from nutrition and Health Care Administration (HCA) each year. It is such a privilege mentoring these students to help them find their “callings” in healthcare.

My husband was transferred to Las Vegas almost 30 years ago and we came here “for a year” and never left. We raised two children in this community and now my daughter is a student at UNLV!

Holly Lyman
’14 MPH in Public Health
SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES
ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

The Metro Chamber

Congratulations

And all of the UNLV Alumni Honorees

Thank you for your contributions to our dynamic and growing community!

LVChamber.com | 702.641.5822
Originally from Mesquite, Nev., Dr. Hughes currently owns and operates a dental practice with offices in Mesquite, Logandale and Las Vegas. He has obtained Diplomat status with the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry and is now the Program Director of Pediatric Dentistry at the UNLV School of Dental Medicine.

**Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV**

There are a number of reasons why I’m a proud UNLV graduate. It started as a dental student, when I was able to learn from knowledgeable faculty who treated me more as a colleague than a student. I established relationships with my fellow students, faculty, and staff which I still treasure today. When I graduated from UNLV and began my pediatric dentistry residency program at another institution, it became apparent the quality of education and training UNLV had provided. I worked alongside residents from other dental schools and quickly realized I had been well taught and prepared.

It has since been an honor to be a faculty member at the School of Dental Medicine. It’s exciting to witness and be a part of the progress that has occurred since I first began as a dental student. The UNLV School of Dental Medicine continues to increase its standing and notoriety among the nation’s dental schools. I’m grateful for the opportunities afforded me as a dental student, and now as faculty. I look forward to what the future holds for UNLV School of Dental Medicine and embrace my role in helping it to become an even greater institution.

**Cody Hughes**  
’07 DMD  
SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Born and raised in Las Vegas, Tina Kunzer-Murphy has been a fixture in the Southern Nevada sports community for more than four decades. On July 1, 2013, she added another accomplishment to her long and varied career as she began serving as UNLV Interim Director of Athletics. The move marked two major milestones as Kunzer-Murphy became both the first woman and the first alumni to run the department. She was later named to the post on a permanent basis.

**Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV**

I’m proud to be a UNLV Rebel as my education has given me a gift that has served me well.

As an undergraduate student at UNLV, I worked nights at a drug store to pay for my education, as there were no athletic scholarships for women at the time. I had many wonderful mentors, one of whom was Alice Mason; she was our tennis coach, basketball coach, athletic director, and friend. She cared deeply for all the women student-athletes. I have fond memories of my days as a student, living in Cottage Grove Circle, studying all night, and then eating breakfast at the Aladdin Hotel for 29 cents with my fellow student-athletes. To this day, I believe that UNLV is one of the greatest places on earth.

My UNLV education has given me so many opportunities and I am eternally thankful to all of the professors, family, and friends who helped me get my degrees. UNLV always told me “yes” when many said “no”. What a gift it has been - thank you!

**Tina Kunzer-Murphy**  
’75 BS Physical Education, ’77 M.Ed.  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

_for UNLV Athletics, STUDENT has always come before ATHLETE_  
It’s no wonder, when your Director of Athletics is the UNLV College of Education Alumna of the Year.

From the Student-Athletes, Coaches, and Staff of UNLV Athletics,  
CONGRATULATIONS TO  
TINA KUNZER-MURPHY  
on being selected as the College of Education Alumna of the Year.

Thank you for never letting us lose sight of the life-changing gift that is a college education!
Suresh Vishnubhatla is Executive Vice President, Long Term Care Operations for PharMerica Corp. In this role, he oversees client, pharmacy, clinical and customer services, product development, information technology, and revenue cycle management. He began his career at Emerson Corp. and has served as Senior Vice President at BodyMedia and Millennium Pharmacy Systems. He owns several US and international patents.

Why I'm a proud graduate of UNLV

When I arrived to a very warm welcome on UNLV campus (Fall of 1990), it was the first time I left the country of my birth, India. I was the first in my family to pursue higher education in a foreign country and it was the first time I ever got on an airplane. With a sense of excitement, I made three stops in three different countries, and flew for two days to reach Las Vegas.

Along with the warm welcome and friendly environment, I am forever grateful to the School of Engineering for easing my financial concerns with a graduate assistantship. I was given the chance to teach and research for the first time and the invaluable opportunity to interact and work with diverse ideas.

I left the campus with more than a Master’s degree. I left with a sense of achievement, pride and the confidence to find my own way. Twenty-five years after all those firsts at UNLV, whenever I reflect at my family, my career and my own growth, I feel an immense amount of gratitude and pride that I have made good use of the opportunities UNLV gave me. Thank you. I’m a Rebel Forever!!!

Suresh Vishnubhatla
'92 MSE Electrical Engineering

Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering Alumnus of the Year

Mr. Bavington was born in England and came to the U.S. in 1984. His work can be found in collections at the Portland Art Museum, Museum of Modern Art in New York City and several other museums. He created a major commission titled “Pipe Dream” for Symphony Park at the Smith Center for Performing Arts. Each pipe in the sculpture represents a note in the classical masterpiece, “Fanfare for the Common Man,” by Aaron Copland.

Why I'm a proud graduate of UNLV

Having been an undergraduate student in the 80’s and a graduate student in the 90’s, I feel very fortunate to have witnessed the growth of Las Vegas and UNLV. Any success in the Arts is made with a deeper sense of accomplishment when it has come from a place people might consider unexpected. I’ve never felt this more than the time I was invited to the Museum of Modern Art in New York to discuss my work before its acquisition for the permanent collection.

Speaking with the curators of painting and drawing, I can only recall discussing the merits of the work itself. For me, this eliminated any reservations I may have had about seriously making art in a place others don’t take seriously. I am proud to be part of an increasing number of alumni that are continually defying expectations about the Arts and Las Vegas. As a professor in the Art department, it is extremely rewarding to give students the benefit of my professional experience as an example of someone who received their education at UNLV.

Tim Bavington
'00 MFA
College of Fine Arts Alumnus of the Year

Dr. Danielson works for Jacobs Technology at NASA Johnson Space Center. She is Manager of Basic and Applied Research for the Johnson Space Center Engineering, Technology and Science contract, or JETS. She is developing a unique experimental facility unique called CETUS (Community Extreme Tonnage User Service). She also travels to universities and scholarly meetings to recruit students for internships within her division.

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

My UNLV education marks the start and foundation of my professional science career, because the things I learned, and the activities carried out in the department, were both practical and imaginative.

My mentors encouraged me to pursue topics of interest, even in planetary science which was outside of the normal department curriculum. I learned all the basics of running a laboratory safely and with proper procedures, which directly led to my first full-time job as a lab manager. I practiced writing proposals and defending my work which made me more well-prepared for a Ph.D. than many of my fellow incoming students.

I'm especially proud to see planetary science growing in recent times to the extent that I can now promote UNLV as a graduate school for planetary science studies to our undergraduate interns, as well as recruit UNLV students for internships within my department and division.

Lisa Danielson
'98 MS Geoscience
Graduate College Alumna of the Year

The UNLV Alumni Association is over 50 years old and serves more than 100,000 alumni. Roughly 56% of all alumna are Women and 49% are under the age of 40. UNLV Alumni have contributed more than $43 million to the university. The Alumni Association supports over a dozen scholarships each year. More than 60% of all alumni live in Clark County.

You can become a UNLVIP. Membership is only $50 per year and has a value of over $1,000 in special events, entertainment, and much, much more.

GET MORE OUT OF BEING A REBEL. Become a UNLVIP Today! Join at www.unlvalumni.org

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Mr. Smylie is president of Capriottis’s Sandwich Shop, a 105-unit restaurant chain. In the past nine years, he has more than doubled the number of restaurants in the enterprise. He is also active philanthropically. Capriottis has partnered with the Las Vegas Rescue Mission and the No Kid Hungry campaign to provide food for families in need, among other efforts.

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

I moved to Las Vegas in 1990 when I was 8 years old, at the start of the Runnin’ Rebels undefeated season. While the run ended in a traumatic Final Four loss, those childhood tears spilled over that game made me a Rebel for life. Years later, while most of my high school friends left Las Vegas for colleges elsewhere, I decided to stay home. I earned enough scholarship money to pay my tuition and I knew I would make the most out of going to school in the city where I ultimately wanted to plant my roots.

During my four years as an undergraduate and three as a graduate student at UNLV, I’m proudest of the relationships I made and preserved, thanks to being highly involved on campus. All of the great memories from Greek life, student government, and the dark-side of campus are precious, but it’s the friendships that have endured. These relationships are what have led me down my professional path and to my beautiful wife. I couldn’t imagine my life having not been a proud graduate of UNLV. Nearly everything I hold dear has come from that choice to stay home and be a Rebel.

Ms. Dyke worked in hotel sales for the Tropicana and Orleans Hotel and Casino, then later was catering director for Cili Restaurant at Bali Hai Golf Course. Since 2012, she has served as an event designer for By Dzign, a local décor company. She earned “Caterer of the Year” honors in 2007 and 2011, as well as the “Event Professional of the Year” award in 2013 from the National Association of Catering and Events (NACE).

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

I moved to Las Vegas to attend UNLV in the fall of 1989, a year that would thrust the Runnin’ Rebels into the national spotlight with a star-studded basketball team that won the NCAA Tournament. This made me a lifelong fan of March Madness and of course the Rebels! I knew for a long time I wanted to go into hospitality and when I started doing my research (at the library, this was long before the internet), I found UNLV had one of the best Hotel Management programs in the country.

Many things from UNLV helped me become the professional I am today; from the classes I took to the internships and work experiences this hospitality city provides just minutes away from the campus. I cherish the people I have met along the way who have become lifelong friends and colleagues. I’m thrilled to now be in a position to give back to UNLV by serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, contributing to Athletics, the Foundation and helping the Hotel College with events. I am excited for the future of UNLV and I look forward to seeing it as a Top Tier university.
Mr. Dorsey is currently General Counsel for the Americas at Ainsworth Game Technology. He was part of the first Boyd School of Law graduating class and started his career in private practice, locally, focusing on commercial, regulatory and administrative law. Currently, he also serves as an Officer and Co-General Counsel for the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers (AGEM).

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

Opportunity is the single greatest gift someone can receive from a university. Whether that opportunity is a great education, a job, a lifelong personal or professional connection, the chance to transition into the next phase of one’s life or some combination thereof, it is then up to each person to take that opportunity and do something with it.

Opportunity has been the constant for my entire UNLV experience, starting when I met Coach (Dwaine) Knight when he and JT (then-Assistant Coach JT Higgins) recruited me to play golf at UNLV. They believed in me and told me that if I became a Rebel, I had an opportunity to do something with each UNLV opportunity. I will be forever indebted to those at UNLV who believed in me throughout the years, whether they were my coaches, teammates, classmates, professors, administrators, colleagues or fellow alumni.

That is why I am a proud graduate of UNLV.

Daron Dorsey
‘01 JD
WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Since 1999, Dr. Walker has worked with patients battling diabetes and endocrine issues. In 2006, he was introduced to a medical device that monitors a person’s blood sugar every five minutes. Since then, he has been actively involved in more than 30 clinical studies proving the technology. He is now Director of Clinical Projects for Dexcom – the device’s manufacturer - helping to develop the next generation of continuous glucose monitors.

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

I have been a full-time Nevada resident since 1995, making my home and raising my children here. I am a proud graduate of UNLV’s 2012 charter Doctorate of Nursing Practice class.

This rigorous preparation expanded my professional career and allowed me to pursue my passion of integrating technology with clinical care to improve the lives of people with diabetes. UNLV provided me the opportunity, education and credentials I needed to transition from clinical care to research and study development. The education I received was synergistic with my own clinical background, and has allowed me to represent clinical trials works before the FDA, as we petition for changes to care standards to bring innovation into the hands of people living with chronic disease.

The graduate faculty I was fortunate enough to work with encouraged me to take those extra steps. They provided guidance and support to facilitate success, while maintaining the challenge. I am a proud UNLV graduate – it changed my life and has enabled me to change the lives of others.

Tomas Walker
‘12 DNP Nursing
SCHOOL OF NURSING ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

After graduation, Mr. Santos worked as a social worker serving homeless families, then later earned his law degree. As an attorney, he has earned the AV peer review rating by Martindale Hubbell, the highest rating possible. He has served as President of the Nevada Justice Association (NJA) and in 2014 was appointed by Gov. Brian Sandoval to sit on the Nevada State Tourism Commission.

Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV

I still remember standing on the floor of the Thomas and Mack Center, in my cap and gown, reflecting on the past and dreaming of the future. I stood there thinking fondly of my various study groups, working full time, cramming for finals, stressing over statistics, weekend parties, friends and Runnin' Rebels basketball.

That was 32 years ago and today I can say, without reservation, that my years at UNLV simply prepared me for life. UNLV was where I learned that in order to make informed “life” decisions, I needed to consider and evaluate as much information as possible. The Liberal Arts program provided me a venue where I would be exposed to a variety of courses. This in turn broadened my exposure to the world and resulted in teaching me how to think independently and analytically.

UNLV provided me with the opportunity to grow and develop as a person. I developed the confidence that I could pursue a career in law and knowledge that there are no limits to what I could accomplish. So yes, I am a proud graduate of UNLV. Proud of what the school stood for in 1985, proud of what it is today, and proud and excited for its future. GO REBELS!!!

Herb J. Santos Jr.
‘85 BA Sociology
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
After completing his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at UNLV, Dr. Garland earned a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from University of California-Irvine. He has lectured and taught extensively, having made appearances at the Smithsonian Institute, University of Sao Paulo, in Brazil, Duke University, and many other institutions. He is currently a Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of California, Riverside.

**Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV**

While in high school, I planned to attend UNLV. When I started my academic career, I quickly learned it was a great decision. When I declared my major in Zoology, I was surprised to learn that I could take a course in that subject during the first semester of my freshman year. Often students don’t start their major classes until after the first year of college. I immediately encountered professors who were engaged with their students and who really seemed to care.

After completing my bachelor’s degree, I decided to stay at UNLV to pursue a Master’s degree in Biological Sciences. During the two years I worked towards that degree, I was heavily influenced by new faculty, and decided on a Ph.D. program. Once there, I quickly realized that my years at UNLV had given me excellent training and put me on equal footing with other graduate students, which helped give me the confidence to succeed in a very competitive career.

In the past 30 years, I have had the privilege of lecturing and teaching science seminars and courses all over the world. UNLV served as a foundation for that success.

Ted Garland  
’78 BS Zoology; ’80 MS Biology

Ms. Leoni has 20-plus years of strategic marketing and management experience in Silicon Valley technology companies. She served as CEO of Rafter, saving students over half a billion dollars on course material expense. She also held a leadership position with CafePress, helping the company grow revenues to more than $100 million, with a clear path to IPO.

**Why I’m a proud graduate of UNLV**

My experience at UNLV was greatly shaped by my role as a student-athlete. I was incredibly blessed to have been recruited by the UNLV softball program, one of the best in the nation. The entire community at UNLV who supported my journey was amazing; from the committed coaching staff who led our success on the field, to the educational support team who ensured we flourished in the classroom.

My studies at the College of Urban Affairs were not only challenging, but equally inspiring – in particular I was drawn to the curriculum around gender and interpersonal communications. This has become a passion and focus of mine, especially in the business community where I’m actively managing opportunities to increase diversity and strive for equality.

My Rebel experience laid the foundation for who I am today – an ambitious CEO, well-respected leader, and personally fulfilled wife and mother of five boys. I will continue to share my passion for UNLV with anyone who will listen. GO REBS!

Sara Leoni  
’96 BS Communication Studies

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