

Carleen Saladino is currently a senior in high school at CSN High School and a sophomore at the College of Southern Nevada. The CSN High School program allows her to take high school classes and college classes simultaneously.

Carleen will graduate at the age of 17 with her Associate of Science Degree in May 2012, one month prior to her high school graduation. She has a weighted GPA of 4.4 and will have successfully completed 67 CSN credits by the end of this semester.

She is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Science and a minor in Secondary Education, eventually leading to a career of science education at the middle or high school level. Carleen has spent several years volunteer-teaching in many different situations, such as religious education classes and guest teaching at local elementary schools.

She is very involved in service to her school, as well as her community. Some of her accomplishments include being a team leader for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, an Assistant Coach for National Youth Sports, a CTK church vocalist, and Senior President of her high school's National Honor's Society.

Carleen is very passionate about science, as well as education, and continues to work hard toward all of her career goals and community service learning efforts.



## **Great Basin College 2012 Regents' Scholar**

Vivian Farnsworth was born in Lund, Nevada July 24, 1958 into a family with six siblings. Her father was a farmer, a miner, and then a mechanic later in life while her mother was a stay at home mom. Vivian learned the value of working hard from her father and learned the qualities of loving and caring for children from her mother. She has lived all but 15 years of her life in Lund; those 15 years were spent in Salt Lake City, Utah.

She graduated from Cyprus High School in Magna, Utah in June of 1976 and started college at South Utah University (SUSC at that time), but only completed one semester before she ran out of money and had to quit school to get a job since her *family* was not in a position to help with schooling.

She married at age 19, and they have five children. Her husband worked construction for most of his life while she stayed at home with the children. He became disabled seven years ago and so she returned to school. She worked at Lund School as a special education aide and loved what she did, so it made perfect sense to pursue her education in that field.

Vivian's life is busy and fulfilling to her. Along with going to college and working in the schools, she is also the student council advisor at Lund High and says that she learns as much from this group of students as she teaches! She is active in church where she teaches pre-school age children in Sunday school, and sings in the choir. When she is not working with other families' children, she loves to read and garden. She also spends as much time as possible with her children and grandchildren.

She has two more semesters until she has completed her education and earned a degree in elementary education with an emphasis in special education. She is looking forward to the future and the challenges and excitement that it holds for her as she completes her education and begins to teach in the school district.

## **Nevada State College 2012 Regents' Scholar**

Anam Qadir Biography (submitted by the student):

My family and I come from Chanki, a small village in Pakistan. Chanki is one of the poorest and least populated villages in the state of Punjab. We moved to America when I was nine years old with my mother and five siblings. In 2005, I enrolled in College of Southern Nevada High School Program which gave me the opportunity to partake in dual credit courses counting towards both high school and college completion. I was successfully working towards my dream of becoming a doctor by maintaining a high and stable GPA and developing leadership skills as treasurer of student council. However, in 2005 things began to change for the worse for my family: my father, who was the main provider for the family lost his business and had a heart attack shortly after. Without income from the business my family lost our car and soon we were on the verge of losing our house. I saw the emotional distress this caused in my family; the suffering and hardship they were experiencing emotionally was unbearable. I committed to myself that I would get my family out of this situation. I got my first job at the age of fourteen and have since been working multiple jobs to support my family. Slowly I started to skip classes in order to work and prioritizing providing for my family above my studies became a habit. By the age of sixteen, I was working 45 hours a weeks and rarely made it to class on time. My grades started to shift drastically and soon I began to fail most of my college classes. In 2008, I graduated high school with a GPA of 2.8 and college GPA of 1.4. I didn't attend my high school graduation, because I didn't feel like I accomplished anything. My dream to become a doctor was slowly fading away as I focused my efforts of helping support my brothers, sisters, and parents. I came to Nevada State College in the summer of 2008 to start with a clean slate. At NSC, I learned time management skills that helped me successfully maintain a high GPA despite my need to continue to work multiple jobs. With the help of my NSC family, I have learned to find balance in life and have had an enriched student experience participating in multiple organizations and activities around the school. I have participated in student government, in the Blue Marble biology club, gone to Ethiopia with other NSC students on a medical mission, and have participated in NSC's first summer and fall semesters of undergraduate biology research. Right now I am focused on getting my dual degree in Biology and Psychology and plan to graduate in May 2012. I am very proud and grateful for this second chance at college and a prosperous life for myself and my family.

**Truckee Meadows Community College**  
**2012 Regents' Scholar**

**BIOGRAPHY**

· Lisa Hoffman-Davis

I came from a small town in Cotton, Minnesota to Reno, Nevada in 1989. I worked as a waitress until the opportunity came along to learn how to deal Black Jack at the Clarion Hotel and Casino. I was a Black Jack dealer for fifteen years. I supported my disabled husband and three boys and most of the time I was working two full-time jobs. My will has led me through an abusive childhood, the death of my father and then my husband committing suicide, eleven months later, resulting in raising my three boys on my own. I know pain but I don't let that run my life. I have the will to continue on and see the light at the end of the tunnel.

**UNLV 2012 Regent Scholar, Graduate Nominee: Nicholas Thaler**

Nicholas Thaler holds an M.A. in Psychology from CSU-Northridge and an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from UNLV. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in UNLV's Clinical Psychology program where he is researching neuropsychology, brain injury, and attention deficit disorder. He has 13 peer-reviewed publications, eight of which are first author manuscripts, five additional that are under review and several others in preparation to be submitted over the coming year. He has 26 published abstracts and has delivered papers or posters at international, national, and local scientific conferences. Not only is the quantity of his research productivity remarkable but the quality as well especially remembering that his program requires 96 credits hours. His advisor states, "His research is characterized by a breadth of knowledge, sophisticated statistical analyses, and a clarity of thinking that is rare to find in one so early in his career." Nicholas also has a passion for mentorship. He holds weekly meetings for the undergraduate research assistants to discuss professional issues and recent research. He hosts a biweekly journal club aimed to educate and discuss issues of neuropsychological research and has conducted workshops on preparing for graduate school and all that entails. He also mentors for the outreach program that pairs mentors with undergraduate students from underrepresented populations. Nicholas' goal is to be a university researcher and mentor other upcoming scientists in the field. Nicholas is the well-rounded scholar that we hope all of our students become.

[Nominated by Dr. Daniel Allen, Professor, Department of Psychology]

## **UNLV 2012 Regent Scholar, Undergraduate Nominee: Emily Tamadonfar**

Ms. Emily Tamadonfar is a student in the Honors College pursuing a major in Biology with a goal of becoming a medical doctor. She will graduate in December 2011 with a 4.0 GPA and have earned university and department honors. She was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi as the junior with the highest GPA. She is well-known among the faculty as a student motivated, curious, and interested in learning. She conducts research with Dr. Martin Schiller in the UNLV School of Life Sciences on stem cells, anatomy and histology databases, and axonal outgrowth research. She is also a research assistant at the Amigenics Research Center working on a project titled "The Effects of Hyperbaric Treatment on Traumatic Brain Injury and Carbon Monoxide Poisoning," the results of which are in final manuscript preparation for publication. These projects cover the range of science from "wet" or lab bench science to the more conceptual or computational. Few students manage this range. One faculty wrote, "In my 20+year academic career, I have rarely come across individuals like Emily, whose academic accomplishments are the best of all one can only hope for." Her love of learning extends outward to the work in which she engages in the community; many times leading these efforts. She is President and founder of the Iranian Heritage Society, served as Student Vice President (2008-2011) of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, and served as a legislative intern with Congresswoman Dina Titus in summer of 2010. She has tutored other UNLV students in Biology and General and Organic Chemistry and volunteered in the Department of Oncology at St. Rose Dominican hospital for the last three years. No one doubts that Emily will become a successful physician and serve her community well.

[Nominated by Dr. Pradip Bhowmik, Professor, Department of Chemistry]

**University of Nevada, Reno  
Regents Scholar Award, Graduate Student**

**Crystal Colombini, Biography**

*Crystal Broch Colombini received her Bachelors of Arts in English from the University of Oregon in 2001. After leaving Oregon, Crystal chose to travel and teach English as a foreign language in various locations including Greece and China. This love of teaching brought her back to Nevada to pursue both a master's degree and doctoral degree in English from the University of Nevada, Reno. In 2007 Crystal completed her Masters of Arts in Writing and is expected to complete her Ph.D. in English, with a focus on Rhetoric and Composition, in May 2012. During her years at the University of Nevada, Reno she has co-authored six articles, presented fifteen conference topics/seminars, and has taught eighteen courses (and 42 sections) on the various topics of English, composition, and rhetoric. Crystal has also been recognized by her peers within the graduate school and English Department, as she is the 2009-2010 recipient of both the Graduate Student Associations Outstanding Graduate Student Award and the English Graduate Organization departmental Outstanding Graduate Student Award. She has maintained a consistently high GPA, and has maintained a 4.0 during her doctoral pursuits.*

**University of Nevada, Reno**  
***Regents Scholar Nominee, Undergraduate Student***

**Muir Morrison**

Mr. Muir Morrison is a senior at the University of Nevada, Reno double majoring in Physics and Mathematics maintaining a nearly perfect GPA. A National Merit scholar and Honors program student, Mr. Morrison was recently named as a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar. During his undergraduate career, he has worked as an undergraduate research assistant and has written, published, and given an invited presentation on his undergraduate research work at a national APS meeting. He is currently completing his Honors thesis on atomic clocks. In addition to his academic achievements, Mr. Morrison is a proficient tenor saxophonist playing with the Reno Pops Orchestra, Reno Jazz orchestra, and the UNR Jazz Ensemble.



**Western Nevada College**  
**2012 Regents' Scholar**

Maira Ibarra  
1415 N. Roop St.  
Carson City, NV 89706  
(775)443-8998

January 27, 2012

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to let you know a little about myself. My name is Maira Ibarra, a 19 year old Mexican-American born in West Covina, California. I am the first in my family to go to college for a Bachelor's degree. This does not only make me proud, but also my parents, since they only made it to grade school. Because they did not have a good education, they could not assist me in any of the transitions I had to make from high school to a college or even courses I was taking. Even with those challenges, I successfully graduated from Carson High School in Carson City, NV in 2010 because of my motivation towards completing school. I started my higher education at Western Nevada College that fall, and one of the things I recall the most is that I started in Calculus 2. Before I started attending college, I decided I wanted to become a French teacher. As I began my journey, I realize that I was very talented in Math, so I changed my major; I wanted to be a Civil Engineer. I will be graduating this spring of 2012 with an Associate of Science. Not only will I be finishing my last couple of classes at Western Nevada College, but I will also be attending the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) this spring. I plan on transferring completely to UNR this fall and graduating in 2014 with my Bachelor's degree. These are my hopes and dreams that brought me to college, yet I am not attending college just for an education, but to be involved as well. At Western Nevada College, I was secretary for the Latino Student Club, a tutor at the Academic Skill Center, a member of the Latino Cohort, and Vice-President of Phi Theta Kappa. I love being part of the college, because it keeps me more focused in my studies. I plan to do so as well at the University of Nevada, Reno and continue to be involved in my community after graduation. I will not only stop there after graduation because I also plan on getting my Masters, becoming a professional engineer, and retiring to become a math teacher. Thank you for taking the time to read this personal statement about me.

Sincerely,

Maira Ibarra