

I started at the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) in the Fall of 2010 and decided to pursue an Associates in Biological Science. Since then I have been affiliated with the Student Life and Leadership Development department, Student Government (ASCSN) as a senator and chair of the Health and Wellness committee, Phi Theta Kappa, AlphaXi Beta as Vice President, CSN Martial Arts as Club President, the CSN Libraries and several other extracurricular and departments. I plan on transferring to the University of New Mexico (UNM) in the spring of 2012 to finish a bachelors in biochemistry and advance my undergraduate research. Eventually, I would like to obtain a PhD in Biochemistry and pursue my own research on stem cells and their application to cellular respiration. Various opportunities have been presented to me during my time in college that has allowed me to challenge and expand my horizons.

When I arrived in Nevada back in 2010 all I had was a dollar and a dream. My father had just passed away with cancer and I had lost my mother in a car accident when I was an infant so I was feeling very alone. My father requested I pursue a higher education because he saw potential in me and didn't want me to waste it so I promised him I would do my best.

I decided to major in biology at CSN because I needed to learn more about why my father developed liver cancer since he did not have any vices that could have contributed to this disease. My decision to major in biology has not only allowed me to discover how my father developed liver cancer, which was due to carcinogenic chemicals that he was constantly exposed to at work, but has showed me the true potential in research for human advancement.

When I first started at CSN I was able to obtain a work study position at the Student Life and Leadership Development department which exposed me to many opportunities. During my first semester at CSN, I obtained an award for attending a Leadership Academy. I was also awarded the Outstanding Member award by the Sports Center. My position also exposed me to Student Government (ASCSN) which led me to run for office in the Spring of 2011.

I was elected as a Senator for the Cheyenne campus for the 2011-2012 year. That year I also established and chaired the Health and Wellness committee. I wanted to start a committee that would be dedicated to making event that would inform student about health and wellness and how it ties into academic success. With my position as senator and chair, I organized several events. My pride and joy was the Zavala Wellness challenge. My committee and I were able to help around one hundred students from all three campuses including the woman's softball team improve their health in four categories: cardiovascular endurance, strength, flexibility and body composition. This event was a big success and allot of people benefited from it.

Another memorable event that I organized while I was in student government was "Meet the Senate", an event that allowed our senators to hand out contact information to students in case any needs were to arise. With the support of Professor Tanaka, we held a viewing of the movie Forks Over Knives at all three campuses, which discussed making better food choice in order to live a long a healthy life. Food that catered to the movie was also given out to the students. One of my fellow senators and I organized the Sports Center Showdown in the Spring of 2012 in order to raise memberships for the Sports Center. That semester was the one of the busiest for the

Sports Center with a huge increase in member participation in intramural sports and other sports center related events. I was also able to secure \$10,000 in funding from ASCSN for the Sports Center in order to upgrade their equipment and \$20,000 in funding for the three CSN libraries for upgrades in books and anatomical models.

I have been as involved as time permits with clubs on campus. I was the President of the Martial Arts Club for three consecutive semesters starting in the Spring of 2012. Our club's mission is to provide students a safe environment to practice various form of martial arts. Some of our activities included guest speakers from local dojos, training sessions, sparring sessions and other martial arts related activities.

I am currently the Vice President of Leadership and Service for Phi Theta Kappa, AlphaXi Beta. Phi Theta Kappa is a nationally accredited honor society at the community college level. The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. To achieve this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa, AlphaXi Beta provides opportunities for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence. I am currently working on a project for our members with Clark County School District and CSN Serves called the PAYBAC Program. This program will allow AlphaXi Beta members to attend a K-12 school in Clark County as a guest speaker in order to share their success story as an honors' college student. The ultimate goal is to motivate children and youth to want to attend college.

All of my endeavors have played a huge role in my development but none has held a greater impact than my recent trip to UNM for the Undergraduate Pipeline

Network (UPN) summer research opportunity. Through the UPN program I was assigned a mentor, Pamela Hall, PhD and head researcher in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UNM. She is conducting cutting edge research in hope to generate vaccines for methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) which is a very common hospital acquired skin and soft tissue infections. My assignment was the prevention of alpha hemolysin activity in blood cells.

Alpha hemolysin is a toxin that is secreted by MRSA that forms a pore on the membrane of blood cells and causing them to rupture. We were able to identify specific sites on the toxin responsible for the formation of the pore. With this information we were able to generate antibodies in rabbits that could potentially inhibit the pore formation preventing cell lysis.

The ultimate goal of the program was to present our research at a poster exhibition. Judges were assigned to review our presentation in various categories and vote on a winner. For my research I was able to secure first place, beating twenty two other participants from universities all around the country and bringing recognition to the College of Southern Nevada.

I love sharing my experience with my fellow CSN students because it shows that our school can be competitive as an institution of higher learning. The faculty and staff at CSN have taught me a great deal in my studies and about life. They have inspired me to reach for my goals. I hope that my experience will motivate others to pursue their dreams at CSN and beyond.

**Melissa Mahlberg Biography**

Ms. Mahlberg has received two associate's degrees from Great Basin College and is currently working on her Bachelor's of Arts Integrative Studies in Natural Resources. From the time that Ms. Mahlberg has entered this bachelor's degree program, she has become extremely engaged in her coursework. She has been asking the BIG questions and synthesizing information from her upper-division course work to form new ideas and gain new insight into the world of natural resources management. Faculty members greatly enjoy her participation in their courses and she excels in her academic life.

Ms. Mahlberg is not only a fabulous student, earning top grades in the science department courses; but she has also been committed to her acts of service at both GBC and the Elko Community. Ms. Mahlberg has served GBC as an SGA senator, helping build floats, planning programming board activities, stocking the Big Horn Pantry, and maintaining the marquee board. She has been a very active member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Ladies Auxiliary. She has volunteered hundreds of hours to various community service activities through this organization. Her greatest efforts of time have been in chairing the CASA Afternoon Tea Benefit where they raise money to help fund the Court Appointed Special Advocates in Northeastern Nevada. She organizes the event, directs the volunteers, prepares food, sells tickets and obtains prizes. It is a very successful event and Ms. Mahlberg's leadership has helped this event grow over the years.

Ms. Malberg balances student life, community service, family obligations, and work responsibilities like none other. She is a true asset to GBC and a shining star in the BAIS Natural Resources Program.

# Truckee Meadows Community College

## Nathan Hale Biography

I'm 26 years old. Originally from San Diego, CA, I moved to Reno with my parents when I was 15 and attended Robert McQueen High School. At McQueen, I was a leader in JROTC all four years, graduating at the rank of cadet/ Lieutenant Colonel and the position of Battalion S-3 Training and Operations Officer. I have always held Leadership and Service, along with Academic success, among my top values and volunteered with Church groups and School groups from a very young age. When I lived in San Diego, my Church had an ongoing service project with the local soup kitchen and I spent many hours helping feed the homeless. In High School JROTC we had an ongoing project volunteering at local senior citizens group homes and during my Junior year we spent our Christmas Eve singing carols and playing board games with the Seniors. In college my value of service has continued. With my church, I have volunteered numerous times with Family Promise, a local organization organized through a network of local churches which provides food and shelter for local homeless families with young children by allowing them to stay at the churches one week at a time. I have also continued to seek positions of leadership. As current Phi Theta Kappa Chapter Secretary, I have a huge impact on my community and on my school by promoting Academic Success, working to improve the student retention rate at TMCC, and participating in several local community service projects. Going forward, I am on track to graduate from TMCC in Spring 2013 with honors, having maintained a 3.9 GPA. Then, I plan to marry my beautiful Fiancée Penelope, who shares many of my values. Together we will move to Florida where I hope to attend Stetson University in DeLand, FL and dual major in American History and International Relations with a minor in Russian Studies. I believe the Cold War was the greatest period of change in World History and I hope to focus my career on the study of those changes and how they continue to effect the world today. I will not stop until I earn my Ph.D. and then I will become a Professor of History. As a Professor, I can give back to the field of Academia that I cherish so and have benefited greatly from. I believe one person can change the world, as evidenced by numerous examples throughout Human History, and I aim to be a person who changes the world for the better. This award will mean a great deal to me. Not only will I always honor the distinction of being a Regent's Scholar but the financial award could fund my move to Florida and begin my future wife's and my life together with some financial security. I do not come from a wealthy family by any stretch but I don't let that hold me back. I believe in the American Dream that someone with a lot of hard work and a reasonable amount of talent can overcome socio-economic obstacles and be anything they want to be.

# Western Nevada College

Daren Kight  
Carson City, NV

I would like to nominate Mr. Daren Kight for the Regent's Student Award. Mr. Kight enrolled at Western Nevada College as a part-time student in the fall of 2009 while working full-time. The following semester he began taking a full-load. It was at that time that he set his goal of obtaining an Associate of Arts degree at WNC and then transferring to UNR to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Social Work.

To date, he has completed 48 credits with WNC, is currently enrolled in nine credits for the fall 2012 semester, and is on target to graduate at the end of the spring 2013 semester.

Mr. Kight has completed the 48 credits to this point with a 3.668 grade point average. In the fall semester of 2010 Phi Theta Kappa notified him that he was eligible to join the National Honor Society. He was inducted into PTK in the spring of 2011. He is currently an executive officer for WNC's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter.

In August of 2012, Daren became a School Ambassador for Western Nevada College. He works diligently in the Counseling office assisting students in enrolling in courses, making phone calls to show support to students, giving campus tours to new and prospective students, and easing the test anxiety of many students as he details and prepares them to take the necessary placement exams before registering.

Daren's attendance and work ethic are excellent. He is intelligent and not afraid to voice his opinion in support or opposition of a topic. He is soft-spoken and yet articulate and straightforward in his communication style. He consistently displays strong communication skills, both verbal and written. In addition, he has a great sense of humor.

Mr. Kight will succeed at any endeavor or challenge he may face. I consider his association as one of the most positive and refreshing experiences in my position at Western Nevada College.



### **Jenny Reategui Biography**

Jenny Reategui immigrated to America in 2005 after graduating from high school in Lima, Peru. Not surprisingly, Jenny struggled with college-level coursework as she was learning English at the same time, but she was not deterred and began attending local ESL classes to improve her language skills. Her grades immediately improved and she was able to absorb more and more from her courses. As her knowledge expanded, so did her aspirations. Her work as a pharmacy technician helped her realize that she wanted to be in a health care field, and she entered the Nursing Program at Nevada State College. With hard work and the help of our excellent faculty, she graduated from the Nursing program Magna Cum Laude. Since then, she has worked as a nurse while also volunteering as a nurse at a Las Vegas free clinic, serving those who cannot afford healthcare. Through her experiences with doctors in clinical rotations and at her job, Jenny realized that she desired to continue her education further and become a physician. She began taking pre-requisite classes for medical school and will graduate from NSC once again, this time with a B.S. in Biology. Jenny is currently applying to medical school, and looks forward to giving back to the Las Vegas community as a dedicated physician serving disadvantaged patients.



**UNLV 2013 Regent Scholar, Graduate Nominee: Erik Ringdahl**

Erik Ringdahl holds an M.A. in Clinical Psychology and a B.A. in Psychology from UNLV. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in UNLV's Clinical Psychology program where he is researching neuropsychological aspects of severe mental illness. He has six published articles, has one "in press," and four more in preparation. He has proposed a very challenging dissertation study involving persons diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. His advisor states, "Erik possesses a rare combination of attributes that not only make him a keen scientific thinker, allowing him to excel in research and classroom settings, but also motivate him to serve our profession and the community." Throughout his academic career at UNLV, Erik has engaged in many extracurricular activities; serving as President of the Psychology Club, of Psi Chi, (an international honor society), and established regular volunteer activities in the Las Vegas community. He actively mentors undergraduate students in the psychology program. In his clinical work in the community, he has been a practica student at the Veterans Affairs Hospital conducting psychotherapy. This year he endeavors to establish a research grant search committee for the VA Mental Health Clinic as a means to collaborate with existing professionals and promote research and funding for southern Nevada. Erik was recruited to UNLV as a student athlete and became captain of our nationally ranked men's swim team. He credits that experience and the mentorship he has received at UNLV for his success. Erik is true scholar that UNLV is proud to put forward for this recognition.

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

## **UNLV 2013 Regent Scholar, Undergraduate Nominee: Emylia Terry**

Ms. Emylia Terry is a student in the Honors College pursuing triple majors in History, Psychology, and Women's Studies. She plans to pursue a J.D. and a Ph.D., probably in history, and then either a career in civil rights law or a professorship. She will graduate in May 2014 having earned university and department honors. She is well-known among the faculty as a motivated student, curious, and interested in learning. She conducts research with Dr. Erin Hannon in the Auditory Cognition and Development Lab and has written a capstone History paper on the media's coverage of the Christine Jorgensen case. That paper won her the Lance and Elena Calvert Undergraduate Research Award in 2012. She has a long list of awards and recognitions, too numerous to list here. In Summer 2012 she was an intern in the Office of Public Affairs Government Relations at Easter Seals National Headquarters where she conducted research on autism services in each state, preparing reports on legislation and public policy. One faculty wrote, Emylia "demonstrates a level of organizational skill and intellectual sophistication that I rarely encounter even in my Ph.D. peers." After all of that she still finds time to volunteer with the American Cancer Society, Catholic Charities, and C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation. No one doubts that Emylia will succeed no matter what path she chooses. UNLV is proud to put forward her name to be recognized for this award.

[Nominated by Dr. Marta Meana, Professor, Department of Psychology, Dean of the Honors College]

University of Nevada, Reno  
Graduate Student

**Richard Kelley**  
**Short Biography**

Richard Kelley is a doctoral student in the Computer Science and Engineering Department at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he specializes in human-robot interaction and artificial intelligence. Richard's research aims to improve the social intelligence of machines, allowing them to assist humans in a wider variety of situations. He has also worked on artificial intelligence to support training and decision-making in scenarios of interest to the U.S. Navy. He presented this work to the National Science Foundation and to members of the United States Senate in 2009. He has numerous publications in his field, including 3 journal articles, 2 book chapters and 11 conference publications.

In 2011, Richard was a co-organizer and Program Committee Chair of the prestigious Human-Robot Interaction Pioneers Workshop. In addition to his research work, Richard engages in outreach aimed at promoting computer science to middle and high school students. In the summer of 2009 he created the College of Engineering Computer Science Summer Camp, which he has taught every year after that. In addition, he has advised numerous undergraduate students on senior projects and research topics in the Robotics Lab and he also recruited interns for the lab from local high schools. Additionally, Richard has taught multiple lower- and upper-division courses in the Computer Science Department, on such topics as algorithm design, databases and data mining, and computational physics. Outside the University, Richard was also involved with the McQueen High School Speech and Debate Team, for which he was assistant coach in 2006-2007 and then became head coach between 2008-2010.

Richard plans to complete his Ph.D. in May of 2013.

## University of Nevada, Reno Undergraduate Student

### Keehn Biography:

Jade Keehn is a Wildlife Ecology and Conservation major at the University of Nevada, Reno. If you were to spend one day by her side, it would not take long for you to recognize that Jade is an extraordinarily dedicated individual, both in achieving her personal goals and in doing her best to support and protect what she is passionate about: Wildlife.

Jade grew up in Truckee, California where she developed her love for wildlife and the outdoors while spending time fishing and hiking with her father. In college, Jade gave up her summer vacations to work full time for local land management agencies, gaining valuable research experience and adding to our knowledge of areas such as the Great Basin National Park and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Not that she's all work and no play; Jade loves to get creative, spending free time fiddling with her digital camera, knitting and crafting with friends, or helping with children's recycled arts and crafts projects. Her creative spirit will certainly be a useful trait as Jade pursues a future master's degree, where she will be challenged with designing a project to help us understand local Nevada wildlife. Jade still finds time to get outdoors, fishing local lakes or volunteering for Bighorn sheep guzzler builds, river cleanup days, or running technical workshops as a leader of the UNR Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society. By working with local professionals and planning technical and professional development trainings, Jade goes out of her way to show other students how they can make a difference in the community.

For Ms. Keehn, dedication and drive are not recently acquired traits. As a Nevada High School Scholar, she has worked hard to give herself a strong academic background, later joining the University's Honors Program and participating in undergraduate research. Her parents never graduated from college, and couldn't help pay for her tuition, so Jade has had to create her own pathway to college, and has worked part time since arriving at Nevada. In truth, Jade's keep-on-trucking attitude, combined with her peppy personality are perhaps her most valuable assets, and one can't help but to wish her the best of luck as she strives to become a professional wildlife biologist, where she'll surely do her best to make a difference.