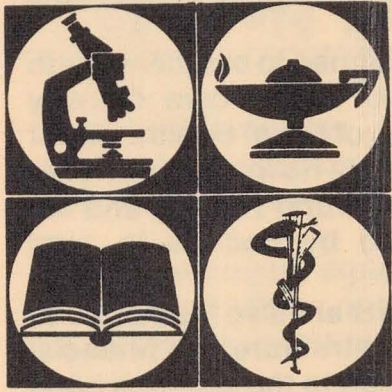


Fall '80 VI #1



# Health News

**School of Medicine  
University of Nevada, Reno**





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## From the Dean

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Dear Friends,

With your help, support and good wishes, we've done it! On May 15, we held a medical awards and academic hooding ceremony at the Pioneer Theatre Auditorium in Reno to celebrate the graduation of the first doctors trained completely in Nevada. Close to 1,200 friends, relatives and supporters turned out to honor Nevada's newest physicians. Governor Robert List, UNR President Joe Crowley, Board of Regents Chairman Bob Cashell, former deans Dr. George Smith and Dr. Thomas Scully, advisory board Chairman H. Edward Manville, Jr., and our founding father Dr. Fred Anderson added to the solemnity and joyousness of the occasion.

On May 16, our 36 doctors were graduated from the university amid the traditional pomp and circumstance of commencement ceremonies. They're now enrolled in postgraduate residency programs at accredited universities and hospitals throughout the country, establishing a national reputation for Nevada and its medical accomplishments.

More than half the class are studying in primary care areas—internal medicine, family practice or pediatrics. Five are fulfilling military commitments and another five are remaining in Nevada to complete their residencies.

We never would have had graduates this year without the wholehearted support of our friends, faculty and the community doctors who give so generously of their time. As an administrator, I am cognizant of our indebtedness to you and hope that your confidence in us is repaid when our graduated doctors return to Nevada to practice medicine.

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## Class of 1980

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Dr. Kay Adams - Loma Linda University Hospital, California - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Stanton Allen - USC Center, Los Angeles Co., California - Ob/Gyn  
Dr. Karen Arcotta - UNR Associated Program, Las Vegas - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Eleanor Banks - Cook Co. Hospital, Illinois - Ob/Gyn  
Dr. Thomas Blair - UNR Associated Program, Reno - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Julie Bowers - Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Massachusetts - Internal Medicine  
Dr. James Boyles - Ohio Valley General Hospital, West Virginia - General Surgery  
Dr. Gerald Bush - University of Louisville, Kentucky - General Surgery  
Dr. LeFran Ciofalo - VA Medical Center, Martinez, California - Pathology  
Dr. Henry Cryer - University of Louisville, Kentucky - General Surgery  
Dr. John Dietlein - San Pedro Peninsula Hospital, California - Family Practice  
Dr. Kevin Dinwiddie - University of Arizona, Tucson - Pediatrics  
Dr. Nancy Ferrel - Case Western Reserve University, Ohio - General Surgery  
Dr. William Forman - West Virginia University Hospital, Morgantown - Anesthesiology  
Dr. Steven Jackson - Richland Memorial Hospital, South Carolina - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Samuel Kaye - University of Oregon, Portland - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Michael Krowka - McGaw Medical Center, Illinois - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Patrick McCarthy - Providence Hospital, Oregon - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Frank McHugh - Sacred Heart Medical Center, Washington - Flexible  
Dr. Thomas McKechnie - Youngstown Hospital, Ohio - Flexible  
Dr. George McNeil - Blodgett Memorial Medical Center, Michigan - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Alan Manson - Portsmouth Naval Center, Virginia - Flexible Surgical  
Dr. Gerald Michaelson - UNR Associated Program, Las Vegas - Internal Medicine

Dr. Cynthia Miley - Tucson Hospitals, Arizona - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Frances Minsky - Balboa Naval Hospital, California - General Surgery  
Dr. Warren Nelson - Case Western Reserve University, Ohio - General Surgery  
Dr. Richard Newbold - Youngstown Hospital, Ohio - Flexible  
Dr. Carl Sherwin - UNR Associated Program, Las Vegas - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Howard Singer - Wadsworth VA Medical Center, California - Anesthesiology  
Dr. Lee Snook - University of Wisconsin, Madison - Internal Medicine  
Dr. Robert True - Charity Hospital of Louisiana, New Orleans - Ob/Gyn  
Dr. Jeffrey Upton - Oakland Naval Medical Center, California - Surgery  
Dr. Frederick Vandeman - Letterman Army Hospital, California - Radiology  
Dr. Patrick Wagner - UC Davis Hospital, California - General Surgery  
Dr. Robin White - UNR Associated Program, Reno - Pediatrics  
Dr. Patrick Wenzinger - West Virginia University Hospital, Morgantown - Anesthesiology

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## KOH Radio Spots

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The School of Medicine recently initiated an educational outreach program in the form of informational radio spots featuring various fulltime faculty members and community physicians. Every Monday and Wednesday morning at 10 a.m., the school has a 10-minute spot on Kate MacKenzie's "On the Line" program on Reno's KOH Radio.

The topics of conversation are as varied as hayfever and aging, psychotherapy and health care costs, infectious diseases and the hazards of jogging. The public information office at the school schedules the spots and the volunteer doctors determine their own topic. The program was initiated in April and has proven to be informational and well received by KOH's wide listening audience.

Mrs. MacKenzie has also invited many medical school and community physicians and researchers to be guests on her daily, two-hour program. Judging from the number of questions each doctor receives from listeners, the program has a diverse and interested audience.

Anyone within listening range of KOH (540 on the AM dial)—which covers parts of northeastern California and northern Nevada east to Ely and Elko—can submit topics you'd like to hear discussed to:

Public Information Office  
UNR School of Medicine  
Manville Medical Sciences Building  
Reno, Nevada 89557



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## Health Careers for American Indians

The Health Careers for American Indians Program sponsored by the Office of Rural Health has received a three-year, \$219,422 renewal of its Public Health Service grant.

According to Dr. DeWitt C. Baldwin, assistant dean for rural health and director of the program, the purpose of the program is recruitment and retention of American Indian students into health careers.

"Historically," he said, "access to the health professions and occupations for American Indians has been limited by costs, geographic isolation and deficiencies in their early education. There also has been a lack of cultural support from the Indian community for such career choices by its youth."

### Summer Preceptorship Program

One innovative approach to Indian student recruitment pioneered by the program has gained both regional and national recognition. The Summer Preceptorship Program sends teams of medical and nursing students, medical residents and Indian health sciences students to Indian reservations and colonies throughout Nevada to conduct health screening.

Baldwin said, "The program allows medical and nursing students to learn about the health needs of this medically underserved population, as well as to gain a perspective on American Indian culture."

"At the same time," the director continued, "the Indian students learn to identify with professional role models, gain some health assessment skills, learn how to work as members of a health care team and deliver useful services within their own culture."

The students conduct daily pediatric screening clinics and also do blood pressure, diabetes, vision and hearing screening on adults. For some of the Indian communities, "the screening clinics are the only time during the year that health services are provided," Baldwin noted.

During a one-week orientation, the students learn the clinical skills and health care team skills they will need in the field. At the sites, the teams receive medical supervision from faculty and residents of the medical school's department of Family and Community Medicine and from Indian Health Service staff physicians.

The medical and nursing students do the actual medical screening and the Indian students—all of whom are undergraduates in the health sciences—observe the physical examination process and handle other tasks, including patient intake, interviewing and simple laboratory procedures.

The students live in community buildings or in homes on the reservations and spend their evenings socializing with the local people. "They take volleyball and baseball equipment and occasionally hold a party or a dance so they can capitalize on social interaction," Baldwin noted. "If the students and doctors take time to get to know the community, more people attend the screening clinics because they trust the medical personnel."

Approximately 75 students have participated in the program, which was featured recently as the cover article in *Public Health Reports*, the official journal of the U.S. Public Health Service.

The 1980 summer program, coordinated by John Jones and Karen Strong of the Health Careers for American Indians Office, took the students to Indian colonies and reservations in Winnemucca, South Fork, Wells, Goshute, Yomba, Stillwater, Yerington, Dresslerville and Woodfords.

Medical supervision was provided by UNR faculty and by family practice residents Dr. Judy Hilbish and Dr. Mike Stouder, as well as by Dr. John McBride of the staff of the Indian Health service in Schurz. (Both Dr. Hilbish and Dr. McBride participated in the program when they were UNR medical students.)

## Preceptorship Program in Rural Nevada

The practice of medicine is as diverse as the infinite number of patient problems and the settings in which they are treated. In Nevada, this diversity is compounded by geography and an uneven population distribution, making the education of capable and caring physicians a demanding challenge.

At the UNR School of Medicine, one specialized program designed to overcome both the insularity of graduate education and Nevada's peculiar health care delivery problems is the rural rotation program sponsored by the Office of Rural Health. Under the guidance of Dr. DeWitt "Bud" Baldwin and sociologist Beverly Rowley, fourth-year medical students are placed at different locations throughout rural Nevada and are exposed to the pleasures, problems and challenges faced by doctors in rural communities.

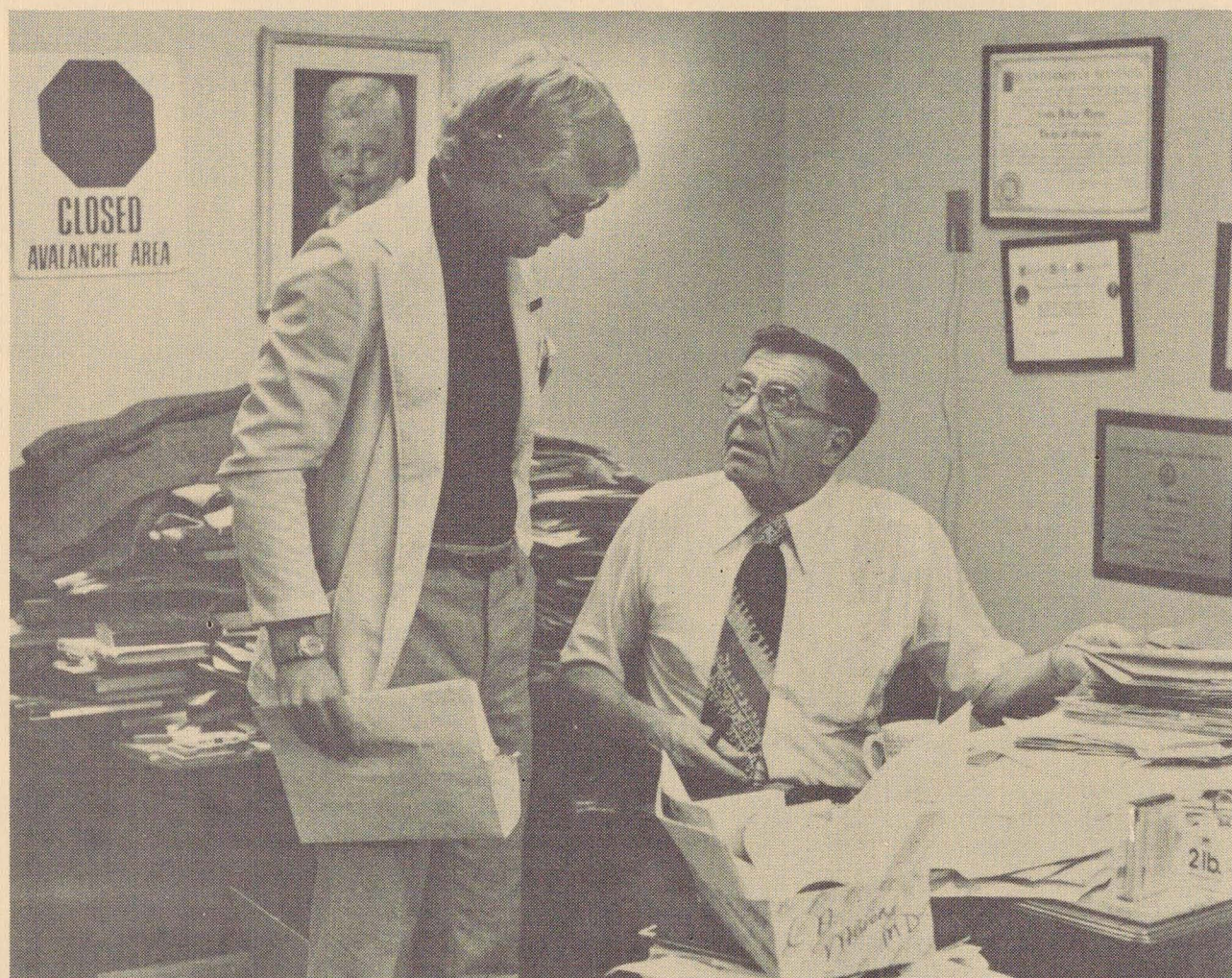
While expanding their medical knowledge and skills, students are also instructed to assess the community in which they are placed—the political structure, the financial base and the business atmosphere—and to pay special attention to the sociology and economics of medicine as well as the science itself.

Lee Snook, a member of the medical school's first graduating class, worked in Elko with Dr. Les Moren. He felt the program was valuable because of its flexibility and for the opportunity to be "self-originating."

"What I've done is apply and expand what I learned in my earlier medical (basic sciences) training," he explained. He had the opportunity to observe pathologists, visit patients with interesting problems, go on rounds and review charts, work in the emergency room and spend time in surgery.

Snook also attended Rotary luncheons to meet Elko's business leaders. "Elko has shown me," he said, "that if you assess the population base and the community, you know what you're up against (when considering a rural practice). Before, I said 'no way' on a rural practice. Now, I'm seriously considering the possibility. There are a lot of plusses in a rural area."

Dr. Moren, a grandfather of medicine in Elko who identifies himself as a "Swede from Minnesota," purposely leaves the rotation unstructured "to let the students do what's interesting to them without forcing them into a drudgery situation."



"Over a period of time, the students will run into everything from A to Z. I try to allow them flexibility to work on their deficiencies and emphasize their interests," he said.

Dr. Moren noted that the rotations are also a learning experience for practicing doctors. "We learn by listening and by answering questions. You know, it may sound corny and old-fashioned, but the Hippocratic Oath is still valid—and part of the function of being a physician is to teach other physicians. Without exception, I've been pleased with the caliber of students who have come to us from the medical school; we interest them and they interest us."

Dr. Moren also encourages students not to decide about a specialty before experiencing all aspects of medicine. "That way, they don't lock themselves into something they don't really enjoy," he noted.

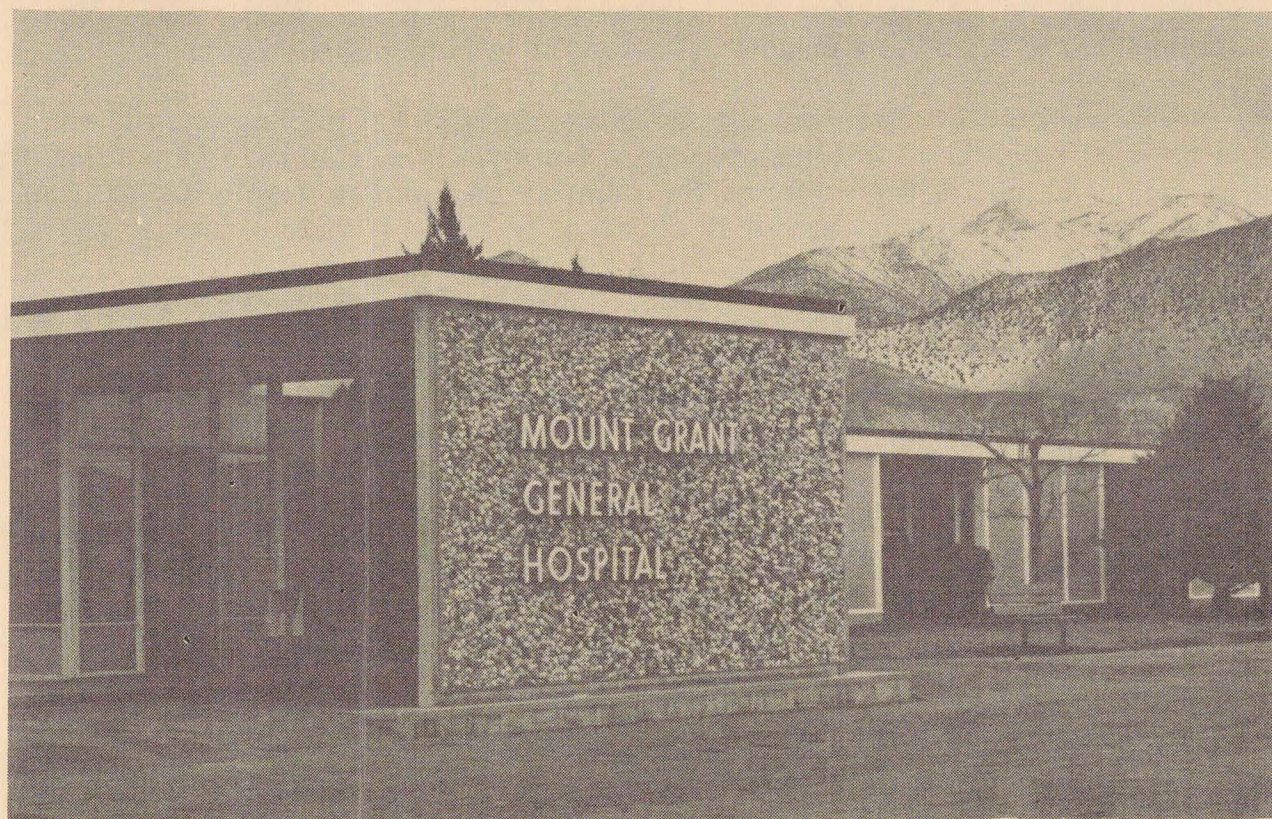
He said he sees the mission of the medical school as threefold: teaching, research and patient care. "And it takes savoir faire, humility, gentility, sensitivity and sympathy to get good programs going. So, I'm happy to help," he smiled.

Elko, which serves as a referral center for a 150-mile radius, has a three-floor, 64-bed hospital with laboratory facilities, surgical suites, neonatal intensive care monitoring, a trauma center, a well-equipped intensive care unit, a radiology department, emergency room and facilities for respiratory and physical therapy.

Most of the doctors are members of a clinic, formed in 1948, which houses such specialties as pediatrics, family medicine, internal medicine, nuclear medicine, pathology and general surgery. The doctors provide consultation and referral services for one another, keeping costs down and efficiency high.

"None of us is going to get rich," Moren laughingly explained, "but none of us starve either. We're not competing with one another and we all benefit from the give-and-take with our peers."

The main problem Dr. Moren sees with rural care is the responsibility for providing quality care equal to that offered in urban centers—a responsibility that puts a big burden on a rural doctor. He cited another disadvantage: "You get to know a lot of people and they become your friends. When they die, they're not just numbers on the wall."



Recent graduate Jim Boyles, a classmate of Snook's, was assigned to Hawthorne for his rural rotation. Whereas the population of Elko County is nearly 28,000 persons, Hawthorne is home for fewer than 4,000 Nevadans.

According to Mineral County commissioner Max Chilcott, Hawthorne had been desperate for a doctor, employing almost 27 "rent-a-docs" in four years. Now, a private practitioner has settled in the town and a physician and a physician's assistant have been assigned to the area by the Public Health Service (PHS). The situation is "such an improvement over what we had in the last four or five years that we think it's a miracle," Chilcott said.

The Mineral County Hospital in Hawthorne has 20 acute care beds, a labor/delivery room and nursery, room for 16 elderly patients and an active emergency room. It also houses a surgery suite used by surgeons who periodically fly in from Reno, Mammoth and Lake Tahoe.

Dr. John Lee, a Yale graduate who attended medical school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and who also has a Ph.D. in biochemistry, is the PHS doctor to whom Chilcott referred in glowing terms.

Dr. John, as he is called by his constituency, said, "Rural medicine is a different type of medicine; it's not high-powered, state-of-the-art medicine. It is exposure to the whole breadth of medicine—and not just medical care, but health advising, too."

Boyles, who is a native Nevadan, enthusiastically said he could keep busy for years in a rural area because he likes the outdoors, yet he has come to realize that a rural community "is a risky place to practice."

"Although you don't see the unusual cases that you do at big university centers, you see the way medicine really is. It's a super place to learn about general things. The problem is that there are no other physicians with whom to consult and no sophisticated lab facilities. You need to have good clinical judgment and to be lucky. You have to know—immediately—what patients you can handle and which problems you'll have to transport to a larger medical center."

Dr. Lee agreed. "In the United States," he said, "there's little incentive to practice rural medicine. It makes you more anxious. You can't know everything about a lot of things and it makes you wonder how effective you can be. It's not a question of intelligence—it's one of temperament."

The physician described Boyles as an excellent student who fit well into the community. "And that's probably the most important aspect of how effective you are going to be," he commented. "The doctor is an authority figure in a small town, and there's a lot of responsibility involved in that. People will know what car you own, your dog's name, your comings and goings; you have to be discreet and be able to contend with rumors."

Dr. Lee echoed Dr. Moren in his wholehearted endorsement of the medical school's rural rotation and commented that he especially enjoys the opportunity to teach. "It's a good way of keeping current. You're continually reviewing and organizing concepts. You learn best when you have to teach someone else," he noted.

Rural practice *can* cause "fantastic" problems in a physician's private life, Dr. Lee mentioned. His wife is a college professor and lives in Los Angeles, where she can pursue her career.

"A doctor's spouse is usually well-trained and may not be able to find a job in a rural area. There may be no opportunity for him or her to develop in a chosen field, and that can cause problems," he emphasized.

Both Chilcott, who was one of the founders of the Central Nevada Rural Health Consortium, and Dr. Lee emphasized how important it is for their community to have access to medical school programs and to physician input from urban areas.

"There's too much to know," Dr. Lee said. "Consequently, you end up making a lot of decisions where you're flying by the seat of your pants. I have a list of physicians I can call to discuss the management of a problem and refer a patient if it's necessary. The doctors give me advice on an unofficial basis."

Dr. Lee said he is grateful that he can use the medical school's resources as an additional information backup. He has no library at his immediate disposal, but can refer questions to the Savitt Medical Library at the university. (Anyone in Nevada can call the library at 784-4625 for help in researching a medical question.) He expressed a further interest in the development of continuing medical education programs for rural physicians.



Chilcott echoed Dr. Lee.

"Rural Nevada supports the concept of getting these students out here. We'll aid and abet anything that will help alleviate our physician shortage. Relief doctors and residents in our area would be nice, too," he added.

Of his stay in Elko, Snook said, "This rural rotation taught me a lot about myself - what I'm capable of doing and what I'm not capable of. I've learned that medical education is what you make of it. You learn by doing, not by watching."

*Editor's Note:* Since the time of these interviews, Snook and Boyles have been graduated from medical school and are enrolled in post-graduate residency programs. Dr. Snook is in internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and Dr. Boyles is in general surgery at the Ohio Valley General Hospital in Wheeling, W. Va.

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## Former UNR School of Medicine Students Now Practicing in Rural Nevada

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Dr. Connie Antone-Knoll, class of 1978 - Fallon/Fernley

Dr. Judy Hilbish, class of 1978 - will move to Yerington in 1981

Dr. John McBride, class of 1979 - Schurz

Dr. Ed Pierzynski, class of 1975 - Carson City

Dr. Michael Scott, class of 1977 - Fernley

Dr. Warren Smith, class of 1977 - Boulder City

Dr. Brian Sonderegger, class of 1976 - Carson City

Dr. Gary Walker, class of 1977 - Winnemucca

Dr. Bruce Wilkin, class of 1976 - Ely

Dr. Joe Wilkin, class of 1978 - Pioche

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