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Our **2020**
VISION

ISSUE 6
WINTER
2020

2020
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 GALA

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7:00 PM DINNER AND PROGRAM

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KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
BRIAN SANDOVAL
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HONOREES




2020 TOURO GALA SPONSORS

Touro University Nevada gratefully acknowledges the businesses, foundations, individuals and families who have sponsored this year's Touro Gala. Through their generous sponsorship support, all proceeds from this evening's event will directly benefit the Touro Scholarship Fund.












































It is hard to believe that we are already in the year 2020. Our world is moving rapidly, especially with changes in healthcare and education.

At Touro University Nevada, we are always finding ways to strive for success both in and out of the classroom. As healthcare and education change, so must we. We are working together toward a brighter future and must never lose sight of what has made us successful. Touro has always been committed to improving our community as we educate the next generation of professionals.

Our donors and community partners have helped us forge a brighter future as medical education and healthcare transition to a more hands-on approach. You can see the impact our donors are making all around campus in places like the Michael Tang Regional Center for Clinical Simulation, the Stephen J. Cloobek Regional Center for Disaster Life Support, the OptumCare Ultrasound Training Room, and the Caesars Entertainment Park inside the Sharon Sigesmund Pierce and Stephen Pierce Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.

In addition to providing the funding for these wonderful locations across campus, donor support is helping to fund scholarships that assist our students on their Touro journeys. Thanks to invaluable partners like the Engelstad Foundation, City National Bank, the Molasky Family Foundation, and others, our students can dedicate more time to their studies and less on how they are going to pay for their education.

As we work together for a better future with highly educated medical, healthcare, and education professionals, we want you to be a part of our journey. The sky is the limit for Touro University Nevada, and we need your help as we work together to perfect our "2020 vision."

All my best,

Shelley Berkley
CEO and Senior Provost
Touro University Western Division

FUNDRAISING FOR TOMORROW



Touro's Donors Put University on Successful Path to Improving Healthcare and Education in Southern Nevada

Touro students and faculty use one of the university's two Anatomage tables during the opening of the Michael Tang Regional Center for Clinical Simulation and the Stephen J. Cloobek Regional Center for Disaster Life Support.

As medicine and technology continue to evolve, donors are leading the efforts to help Touro University Nevada prepare its students, faculty, and the community to provide a safer future for everyone.

Touro's focus on advancing medical education and disaster life support training has created more collaborative partnerships which have helped transform the university's fundraising vision for the future.

A perfect example of how these collaborations are benefiting the university and the Southern Nevada community is the gift from the Engelstad Foundation, which will be used to help better prepare law enforcement in the event of a mass casualty incident. This gift will work cohesively with the generous donations from Michael Tang and Stephen J. Cloobek, whose on-campus centers bear their names.

Collectively, these partnerships have already greatly benefited the university in the advancement of medical education and disaster training.

The Tang Regional Center for Clinical Simulation provides students with a more comprehensive educational experience into how the human body works. With state-of-the-art simulation equipment available whenever they need, the Tang Center has had a profound impact on how students learn and practice medicine.

Because of Tang's generous donation, students now know what an irregular heartbeat sounds like, what a breast mass feels like, and several other examples that will better prepare them before they see patients at a hospital or clinic.

"Our students are technology natives. They have no fear of learning new technology because they grew up with it," said Dr. Wolfgang Gilliar, Dean of Touro's College of Osteopathic Medicine. "What I love about today's students is that they are incredible consumers. They know very quickly what works for them. What we still need to do is help instill their critical thinking skills so they can find out why something does or doesn't work for them."

Located adjacent to the Tang Center, the Cloobek Regional Center for Disaster Life Support is the only certified center by the National Disaster Life Support Foundation in the state of Nevada. The Cloobek Center offers Touro students, faculty, staff, and members of the Southern Nevada community several courses, including Stop the Bleed Training, Basic Disaster Life Support and Advanced Disaster Life Support training.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Governor's Office of Economic Development which supports workforce innovations, Touro has been able to provide this life-saving training free of charge to students, first responders, teachers, and officers throughout the valley.

The Cloobek Center has also been used to train members of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and other local government agencies and first responders to keep them better prepared.

"Donors have helped us align our vision and get our centers moving in the right direction," said David Clegg, Touro's

Administrative Director of Clinical Simulation. "These partnerships have allowed for more collaboration between Touro's staff and faculty, who have also helped train these high-level government employees. These trainings continue to improve each time."

Gilliar said having the proper technology available will also provide more opportunities for interprofessional education (IPE) among Touro's healthcare programs. The integration of additional IPE opportunities is another critical component for the future of healthcare.

"We are poised to get to the next level of interactive IPE activities among all of our healthcare professionals if we have the appropriate technology available," he said. "That is where philanthropy can truly make a difference. Medicine is a people profession. As a future leader, it is imperative for every professional in any specialty to be educated and step up as a team leader in a smooth and seamless manner."

Schlyer Richards, Touro's Vice President of Advancement, said donors are shaping the future of the university because they understand the impact their gifts are making.

"These donors understand the importance of investing in us as a university, and we plan on returning that investment with quality healthcare providers and educators to make our world a better place to live," she said.

Stephen J. Cloobek's generous gift helped the university fund its on-campus Disaster Life Support Center.



Thanks to an increase in donor support, philanthropy efforts at Touro University Nevada have led to more naming opportunities, major gifts, and partnerships that demonstrate the impact when everyone comes together to set the vision for the campus and Southern Nevada community. Touro University Nevada has since partnered with many new organizations which have led to an increase in mobile outreach, on-campus learning, desperately needed medical services, and student scholarships.

In addition to their \$1 million contribution to enhance Touro's mobile outreach initiatives and the recent gift to help better prepare law enforcement during mass casualty incidents, the Engelstad Foundation provided Touro with a \$3 million gift to endow its first scholarship program.

The Engelstad Scholars Program will allow Touro to provide scholarship support for some of the nation's brightest students. Admission to medical school and other graduate healthcare programs is highly competitive, and the Engelstad Scholars Program will help provide the scholarship support that is often a deciding factor for students who can select from numerous admissions opportunities. The program will also help Touro attract a more diverse student body, specifically students from first-generation families or at-risk communities who want to pursue their academic studies at Touro.

"When donors make these types of gifts, you can tell that they truly see the value in what we are doing as a university," Richards said.



Michael Tang visits with one of the computerized manikins inside the Clinical Simulation Center that bears his name.

"The leadership shown by the Engelstad Foundation will not only transform our future, it will help us provide support for some of our community's most vulnerable populations."

With a solid foundation in place, Touro University Nevada is set to take its fundraising efforts to the next level in 2020. From advancing students' medical education to collaborations that help keep our community healthy, donors understand that their gifts are making an impact that exceeds far beyond the university.

"Donations are compounded several times over because of the students, staff, and community members who all benefit from them," Clegg said. "Donors have made all of this training possible. That's why their support is so important."

Gilliar credited donors with helping Touro's students be better prepared as medicine continues its transformation from the classroom to a more hands-on style of learning.

"We need to teach our students fundamental skills so they can apply the technology-supportive interventions that we dreamt about 20 years ago," he said. "An investment in our students is an investment in our own health. Donors are making a better tomorrow for all of us."

PROVIDING A BRIGHTER OUTLOOK FOR OUR VETERANS



Christy Molasky speaks during Touro University Nevada's Veterans Day Ceremony. The Molasky Family Foundation provided the university with a second \$25,000 gift to support student-veteran scholarships.

Molasky Family Foundation Scholarship Assists Student Veterans on Their Journeys

Christy Molasky has always held a deep passion for education and helping others. She has also held great regard for military veterans and supports their quest for higher education.

That is why she and her husband, Alan Molasky, continued their support with an additional \$25,000 gift in scholarship funds for Touro's student veterans.

"After all that our veterans have done for our country, they deserve the opportunity to further their education," she said. "We are so happy that we can contribute to help make their dreams come true."

The daughter of a musician, Molasky's father moved the family to Las Vegas when she was a child. Her father played with Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., and other members of The Rat Pack on the Las Vegas Strip in the 1960s.

After her family relocated to Oklahoma, Molasky returned to Las Vegas for college. Attending school as a full-time student, she worked two jobs and lived at home to save money.

Not only did her college experience give her strength as a person, it always reminded her how important it was to get an education. If she can make that journey easier for someone else, she wants to do it.

"Being able to provide someone with a scholarship is so important to me because education is a lifetime gift," she said.

One of the recipients of the Christy and Alan Molasky Family Foundation Scholarship is Kelsey Changsing, a second-year student in the Touro University Nevada School of Physical Therapy.

A U.S. Air Force veteran who served from 2014-18, Changsing was based in North Dakota and served as part of the first all-female nuclear alert team.

"I was in charge of operating the nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs)," she said. "They didn't let females work with ICBMs until the 1980s, and in 2015, I was lucky enough to be one of 90 females on the team across all three missile bases."

After five years in the military, Changsing wanted to attend physical therapy school as she started the next chapter of her life. During her first year at Touro in 2018, Changsing was awarded the Molasky Family Foundation scholarship.

She said the military pays for a lot of the expenses of daily living, including child care, healthcare, and housing, so each service member can dedicate more focus to their job instead of worrying about paying the bills.



Christy Molasky from the Molasky Family Foundation presented Touro University Nevada with a \$25,000 check to help fund student-veteran scholarships during the university's Veterans Day Ceremony. Molasky Family Foundation scholarship recipient Kelsey Changsing is in the back row, second from the left.

Once a service member leaves the military to pursue higher education, she added, they have to take these additional costs into consideration in addition to readjusting to civilian life.

"Receiving the Molasky Family Foundation scholarship has helped with reducing the financial burden that comes with PT school since the GI Bill doesn't cover everything," she said. "Because of this gift, I've been able to focus more on my school work instead of worrying about how I'm going to pay for my education."

Both Molasky and Changsing's commitment to pursuing education makes the Molasky Family Foundation Scholarship a perfect fit.

"I've always felt that furthering one's education can be critical to enhancing one's future," Molasky said.

In November, Molasky, Changsing, and the Touro student-veteran community came together for a special Veterans Day ceremony on the Touro University Nevada campus. Molasky spoke to the guests about the importance of getting

an education, and why veterans deserve help in achieving their goals.

"That ceremony helped reassure me that our gift was going to the right place," she said about the special event.

Molasky said she gives to Touro because she's a big believer in the leadership, as well as its affiliation with the Jewish faith. She loves how the university is constantly working to give back to the community, whether through the education its students receive or the services they provide to those in need.

"Touro's foundation is strong in that it prides itself on giving back to the community. You see it every year when new students volunteer for their Day of Service before they start classes. It gets them introduced to the culture very early and working together for the common good. That really makes them feel like part of a family," she said.

Raising her family in Southern Nevada and understanding the desperate need for doctors and healthcare providers

drives her desire to give back to initiatives like Touro University Nevada.

"Not just anybody can get into Touro. It's very competitive, which speaks volume to the quality of the students who go here," she said. "The graduation and placement rates are incredible. That is the type of institution I want to support."

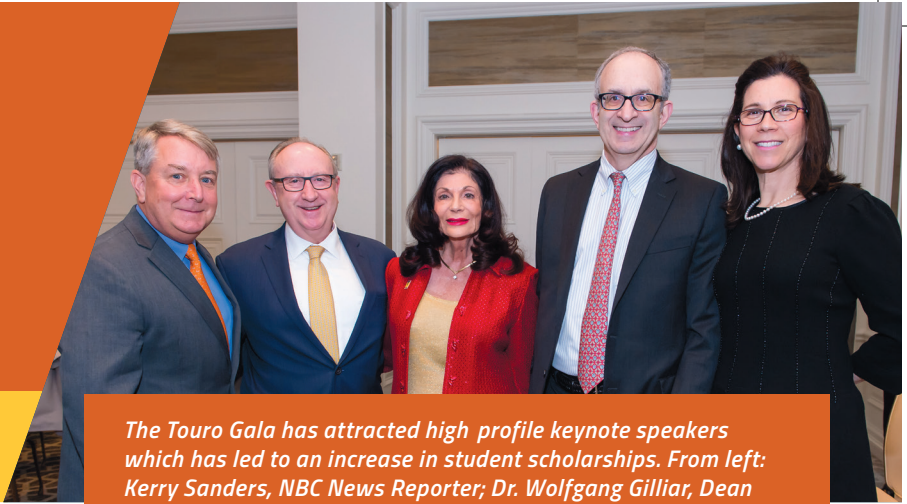
As Molasky continues to invest in students like Changsing, she feels blessed to know that she can help those who are trying to make the world a better place.

"Education is a lifelong gift. I was so fortunate to receive my education," she said. "More people should give to Touro so we can help improve the lives of our veterans, and ultimately, our community."

For more information on scholarship support, please visit tun.touro.edu/about-us/support-touro-nevada, or call the Office of Advancement at 702-777-3100.

DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL GALA FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Annual Event Has Helped Raised Millions for Students Since its Inception



The Touro Gala has attracted high profile keynote speakers which has led to an increase in student scholarships. From left: Kerry Sanders, NBC News Reporter; Dr. Wolfgang Gilliar, Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine; Shelley Berkley, CEO & Senior Provost; Dr. Alan Kadish, President of the Touro College and University System; and Connie Kadish during the 2019 Touro Gala.

As Touro University Nevada prepares for its 2020 Gala, raising money to help the future generation of healthcare and education professionals' student scholarships will remain the evening's primary focus.

The focus has been the same since CEO & Senior Provost Shelley Berkley implemented the university's first Gala in 2015. The Touro Gala has become one of the hottest tickets in town and continues to enhance the student experience for the university's scholarship recipients.

Since the Gala's inception, millions of dollars have been given to student scholarships.

"I thought having an annual Gala would be a wonderful opportunity to not only expand the footprint of Touro throughout the community, but to help raise money for our incredible students as well," she said.

When the university hosted its inaugural Gala at The Lou Ruvo Center in 2015, 350 guests were in attendance. At the 2019 Touro Gala, a capacity crowd of more than 600 guests packed The Four Seasons for the evening's event.

High-profile keynote speakers have helped raise the Gala's image, including U.S. Congressman and Civil Rights icon John Lewis, former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi, Peabody award-winning NBC News reporter Kerry Sanders, and 2020's Gala speaker, former Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval.

Scholarship recipient Victoria Lorah, a third-year student in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, said student scholarships provided by donors benefit her both financially and mentally.

"Receiving a scholarship is an incredible gift that works two-fold," she said. "First, it lightens the heavy financial burden we carry. More significantly though, it's a statement that donors

believe in the goal we are working toward enough to donate. The confidence we develop as a result helps fuel the fire as we fight for our dreams to enter the medical profession."

Colton Cardon, a third-year student in the School of Physical Therapy, said scholarships have helped him balance his time and finances as a father pursuing his dream.

"Receiving scholarships not only validates the hard work I put in day in and day out, but allows me to put my focus into what is truly important: my family and my studies," he said.

"We are educating medical professionals who will greatly benefit our community and abroad, and the members of this community understand how important that is," Berkley said. "With their generous gifts, they've done a remarkable job helping our students succeed and will continue to do so for years to come."

The 2020 Touro Gala will be held on Sunday, March 22 at 5:30 p.m. at The Four Seasons Hotel. The university will honor Caesars Entertainment and MGM Resorts International during the evening's event. Tickets can be purchased at give.tun.touro.edu/2020-gala.



Physician Assistant Studies student and scholarship recipient Niyat Teweldebrhan speaks about the importance of student scholarships during the 2019 Touro Gala.

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Expanded Clinic at The Shade Tree Provides Patients and Students with Lasting Experiences



Touro University Nevada celebrates the opening of the newly expanded Stallman Touro Clinic inside The Shade Tree.

From left: Dr. Wolfgang Gilliar, Dr. Ray Alden, Chris Creasey of Tutor Perini Building Corp., Shelley Berkley, Linda Perez of The Shade Tree, Dr. Phil Tobin, Bonnie Patterson of The Shade Tree, and Dr. Rebecca Edgeworth.

For the last decade, Touro University Nevada’s physician assistant (PA) faculty and students have provided free healthcare to hundreds of abused women and children living at The Shade Tree.

Located on the third floor of The Shade Tree is the Stallman-Touro Clinic where Touro’s PA students, under the supervision of faculty, provide free primary care services for the women and children who are temporarily housed there.

While the clinic provides a much-needed space for patients to receive treatment, as well as an opportunity for Touro’s PA students to develop critical skills, conditions were not ideal. There were no individual rooms available as patient visits were performed inside a 350 sq. ft. room containing two hospital beds, partitioned by a blue curtain.

Taylor Scheller, a PA student who spent three days a week at The Shade Tree for her community medicine rotation, said the close-knit space made it difficult for patients to completely open up to them while they performed their examinations.

“Sometimes, patients chose not to discuss sensitive information with us because they didn’t want anyone else to hear,” she said. “We want them to feel comfortable, and the more open they are with us, the better the care we can provide for them.”

Thanks to Shade Tree’s effort under the leadership of Tutor-Perini Corp., a generous community-wide effort totaling \$500,000 helped completely transform the Stallman-Touro Clinic, which now includes three examination rooms, a laboratory, reception area, and nurse’s station housed inside 750 sq. ft. of space.

Scheller said the completely redesigned clinic allows them to provide more thorough examinations and develop a deeper trust with their patients. That openness, she added, will make it easier for her and her classmates to treat their patients with the quality and compassion they deserve.

“Hearing about the stories these women have gone through puts into perspective that I am going to have patients from all walks of life,” she said. “Being able to have those private conversations with them lets them know that they can trust me as a provider. The expanded clinic will allow me to do that.”

Scheller is still deciding on a career in either family medicine or emergency medicine after she graduates. Whichever career path she chooses to pursue, she said her Shade Tree experience has made her a more well-rounded and empathetic provider.

“Working with the patients at The Shade Tree prepared me for patients I will encounter long after I graduate,” she said.



Paul Stowell, Touro Advisory Board Member and Nevada Regional Executive for City National Bank

Photo courtesy of City National Bank

Investing in the Greater Good

Former Journalist Turned Banking Executive Helps Touro Forge New Community Partnerships

Paul Stowell never imagined he'd have a career in banking.

Born in Livermore, Calif., his father worked as a corporate pilot for Kaiser Industries, and later, as chief pilot for an oil company. His job required him to constantly relocate his family, with Stowell living in California, London, Miami, New Jersey, and Arkansas throughout his youth.

Stowell said the constant moving shaped his cultural upbringing that has helped define the person he is today. One of those experiences included attending Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas, the first school to be desegregated in the South after the famous Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case.

Attending Little Rock Central, home of the "Little Rock Nine," helped open Stowell's eyes to the fact that access to education was not the same for everyone.

After graduating from BYU with his broadcast journalism degree in the early 1980s, Stowell first worked as an on-air reporter in New York City and later returned to Arkansas at a local CBS-affiliate before moving to Southern Nevada in 1986.

During an interview with Peter Thomas, then President at Valley Bank of Nevada, Thomas asked Stowell if he would be interested in working for their marketing team.

"I went to school for journalism and knew nothing about banking," Stowell recalled with a laugh.

Less than a year later in 1987, Stowell decided to leave his broadcast journalism career for good and take a chance on this new opportunity after learning more about the banking industry.

Since then, he's grown with several different banks in Nevada. In 2000, he went into management with a community bank called Business Bank of Nevada. City National Bank acquired Business Bank of Nevada in 2007 where Stowell has been ever since.

While the industry has changed tremendously throughout the last 30 years, Stowell has always managed the marketing, advertising, public, and investor relations. For the last year, Stowell has handled those duties and the marketing and public relations

efforts for the Orange County and San Diego regions.

Although his job responsibilities have taken more of his time, his commitment to education has remained at the forefront. It's why he is so deeply passionate about Touro University Nevada and its effort to help educate the next generation of healthcare and education professionals.

His personal passions align perfectly with City National Banks', he added, making it an easy decision to stay involved with Touro.

Education has always been something dear to Stowell's heart. As the Nevada Regional Executive for City National Bank, he's worked tirelessly to keep a successful partnership with Touro.

"Education is at the forefront of City National Bank's community outreach, and healthcare is at the forefront of our business model," he said. "We pride ourselves on servicing the medical industry and the healthcare professionals who make it great. That's why Touro is the perfect fit for us."

Stowell said he views his role as a business development officer and makes it a personal mission to give back to the university. He was adamant on leading the charge to make City National Bank one of the Vegas Golden Knight's biggest corporate partners when the team was

still in its infancy stages, and through the partnership, has successfully brought Touro into the fold.

As an Advisory Board Member, he already knew about the great work Touro was doing in healthcare and education. He wanted the Golden Knights to know too.

With Stowell's help, the Vegas Golden Knights Foundation has committed more than \$75,000 to Touro University Nevada with gifts providing funding for the Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities and the university's third mobile healthcare clinic for Southern Nevada's low-income seniors.

"Touro is a quality university that deserves our time and support," he said. "It's literally our future in terms of educating the healthcare providers who will take care of us. It's ensuring that we will have a good quality of life."

New partners have continued to invest in Touro, which has helped the university remain one of the highest-quality institutions in the United States. For the last four years, Stowell has been there

every step of the way. His passion for education and healthcare drives him to help improve the Southern Nevada community.

As he works to develop collaborative partnerships that make Nevada a better place to live, he encourages others to do the same. Touro University Nevada, he said, is helping to provide us with better futures.

We pride ourselves on servicing the medical industry and the healthcare professionals who make it great. Touro is the perfect fit for us.

"We are talking about the future of our community and our state here. It warrants everybody's support," he said. "We all suffer from ailments and challenges, and Touro is educating those who can help us enjoy a better quality of life. If you don't have doctors and healthcare providers, what do you have?"

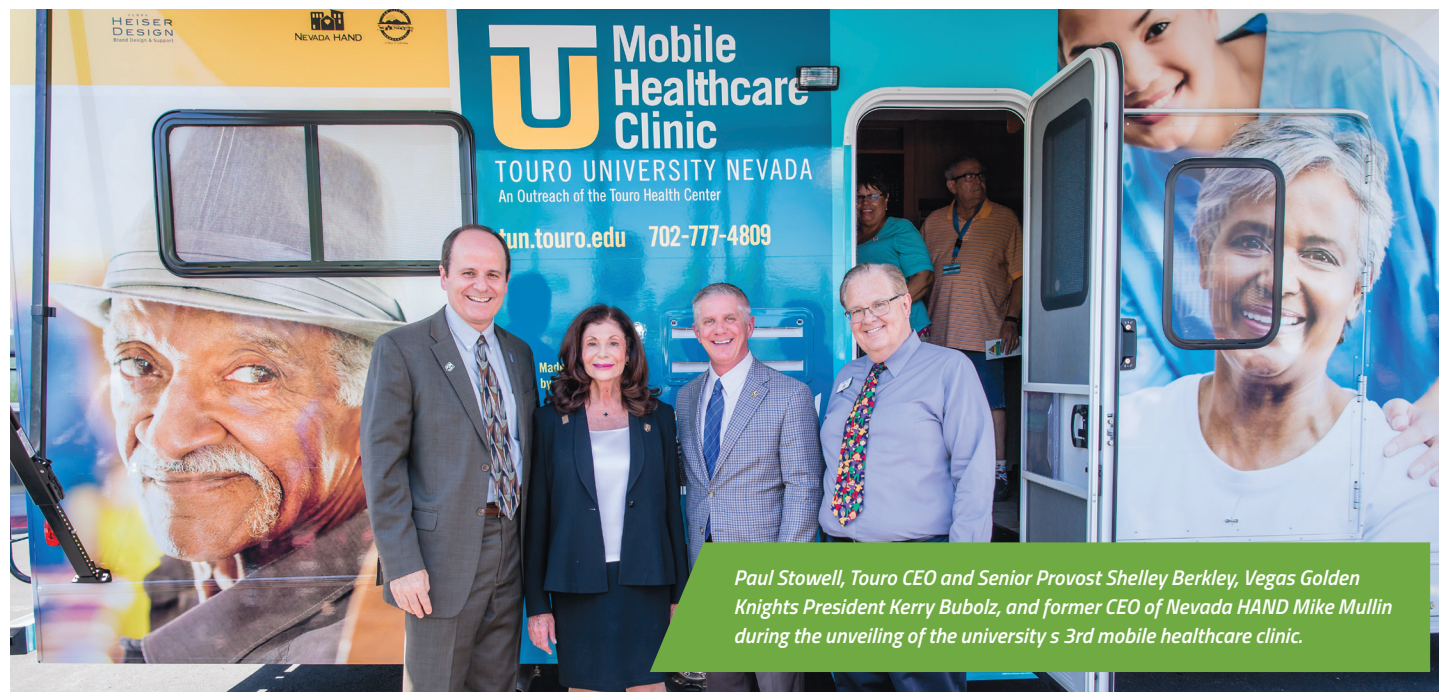
Under Stowell's leadership, City National Bank has demonstrated time and again their commitment to this

partnership. Not only are they Touro's banking partner, they manage the university's endowment fund, and have provided leadership support for Touro's scholarship programs and mobile healthcare outreach initiatives.

Stowell said he is more than excited for Touro's future. Collaborations in business and education have helped the university make an impact throughout Southern Nevada and beyond, and it will take more of the same to keep it thriving, he added.

Stowell will continue to help find more business leaders and community members to give back to Touro. He never imagined he would leave journalism for banking, but he always knew he'd do his part to improve the place he's called home for the last 33 years.

"We give to Touro because we are investing in the future of our healthcare system, whether it's educating future physicians or delivering healthcare to those who don't have access through the mobile healthcare units," he said. "We have forged a very special relationship with Touro and we are proud of that relationship."



FORGING A NEW PATH IN MEDICINE

Physician Assistant Student Finds Second Calling After Career in Law Enforcement



Five years ago, Heather Rhoden was working as an enforcement division agent for the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

Her background in law enforcement was rooted while growing up in St. Louis, where her stepfather worked as a police officer. After graduating with a psychology degree from the University of Missouri, Rhoden began her professional life working for the St. Louis Police Department.

"I was intrigued by law enforcement because I always wanted to help people, and I wanted my career to be community focused," Rhoden, 41, said.

In 2006, she relocated to the Las Vegas Valley where she took a job with the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

"I saw pretty much everything working for the Gaming Control Board. I handled patron disputes on slot machines; made sure convenience store employees had their gaming licenses displayed; checked video cameras to make sure customers weren't trying to cheat on their bets," she said. "But the one thing I loved most about my job was that I was able to interact with people on a daily basis."

While working for the Gaming Control Board, she and her husband had serious talks about what her future held after a career in law enforcement. Rhoden also had a friend who worked as a physician assistant (PA) and she relished the thought of working in healthcare.

In 2014, while working fulltime for the Gaming Control Board, Rhoden also took biology and organic chemistry classes at UNLV. When her professors told her that she needed to dedicate 100% of her attention to school, she left her job and immersed herself in healthcare.

Rhoden said quitting was bittersweet, because she possessed a deep love for the job and the people she worked with.

As she readied herself for a new career in healthcare, Rhoden took every job available to gain as much experience as possible.

"I worked as a certified nursing assistant to get patient experience, and worked as a scribe at Desert View Hospital in Pahrump," she said. "I knew it's what I needed to do in order to better prepare myself for a career in medicine."

Rhoden eventually applied to Touro University Nevada's School of Physician Assistant Studies in early 2018 but was not selected for the class. She admitted that her grades from her undergraduate years were not strong, but her determination to work in medicine never wavered.

She attended the spring open house at Touro in March 2018 where she learned about the Masters of Science in Medical Health Sciences (MHS) program.

Three weeks after completing her application, Rhoden was accepted into the MHS program.

"Luckily, I finished an immunology class at UNLV before taking immunology at Touro, so I had some familiarity with the material when I first started," she said. Rhoden found the MHS program very rigorous, but with the help of campus tutors and her classmates, she excelled in the classroom.

"Having classmates who were extremely knowledgeable and in the same boat as myself really helped me get through MHS," she said. "The camaraderie we built was phenomenal."

Dr. Steven Prinster, Director of Touro's MHS program, said Rhoden is a prime example of how the MHS program benefits students who pursue PA school or medical school after finishing the challenging curriculum.

"Heather was a phenomenal student who understood that while MHS was tough, it was there to help her on her journey to becoming a physician assistant," he said. "Students who complete our MHS program before taking that next step to PA or medical school have a more thorough understanding of the material which benefits them in the future."

In December 2018, after six months of learning new concepts, Rhoden was accepted into Touro's PA program and started in July 2019.

"My husband couldn't come to the White Coat ceremony in September 2019, and I was afraid nobody was going to cheer for me when I walked across the stage," she admitted. "But when they called my name, the student section erupted because my classmates wanted me to know that I wasn't alone. It was incredible."

Rhoden is excelling in her first year of PA school, thanks to a solid foundation laid by the MHS program and the friendships she's cultivated along the way.

"The MHS program made PA school much more manageable," she said. "It provided me with a well-rounded introduction to the material and has helped me with my study routines as well."

Dr. Phil Tobin, Director of Touro's PA program, said Rhoden's understanding of the material from her time in MHS has benefited her greatly during her first six months of PA school.

"We have a rigorous curriculum in our PA program, but having the background of the MHS program has helped Heather tremendously," he said. "Her foundation for the material is there, and her connection with the community will make her a fine physician assistant."

Since the relationships she built during her year in MHS were so beneficial to her success, Rhoden and her MHS classmates in PA school are paying it forward to others by holding study groups to help their new classmates better understand the material.

"That's one of the great things about Touro is that help is available whenever you need it," she said. "The closeness we built in MHS has carried over into PA school, and everyone else is benefitting from it during these study sessions."

“

Having classmates who were extremely knowledgeable and in the same boat as myself really helped me get through MHS. The camaraderie we built was phenomenal.

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Although she won't graduate until November 2021, Rhoden is already looking forward to her next step after PA school.

She wants to stay in Southern Nevada and pursue a career in either emergency medicine or urgent care. Her affinity for working with the community will never leave her, as she also hopes to volunteer with the National Disaster Medical System, an organization of healthcare professionals who volunteer to help people affected by natural disasters.

Like she did as a police officer for 20 years, Rhoden looks forward to continuing to help others.

“

I was intrigued by law enforcement because I always wanted to help people, and I wanted my career to be community focused.

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Above Left: Heather Rhoden during September's White Coat Ceremony on her journey to becoming a physician assistant. Right: Heather Rhoden during Spring Commencement 2019 after she graduated from the Masters of Science in Medical Health Sciences Program (MHS).



THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH WITH PATIENT CARE

Touro Students and Faculty Completing Important Research As Healthcare Evolves



Paulina Awuah, a student in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, discusses her project with Dr. Ray Alden, Provost, during 2019's Research Day.

Touro University Nevada's students and faculty are leading the charge as the institution emphasizes research on its focus on education and patient care.

Students across all programs are presenting well-researched projects on their journey to becoming highly-qualified physicians and healthcare professionals. By presenting their research, some of which takes years to complete, both Touro and the medical community are becoming more informed as modern medicine advances.

"The most important part of research is helping the students understand the correct questions to ask their patients," said Dr. Mindy Renfro, Associate Professor in the School of Physical Therapy. "Students need to be involved with research so they can better treat their patients."

Students from the schools of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy recently displayed their research projects to the campus community for students, faculty and staff to learn about their types of research, including the effectiveness of certain exams, depression, quality of healthcare for marginalized populations, and more.

After several months of research, occupational therapy students Denise St. Peter and Christina Carmichael presented their poster, titled "More Than Just A Pet..." which discussed how service dogs can be utilized to improve the occupational performance of veterans.

"We were able to see that there is a significant correlation between how service dogs can be used to improve self-compassion, their physiological and psychological symptoms, and community participation," St. Peter said. "With further research and larger studies with greater sample sizes, we are hopeful that this will be a treatment that will be incorporated to improve our veterans' lives."

Occupational therapy students Shaylee Ewing and Jessica Marx presented their research on the "Effects of Living Skills Interventions with Homeless Youth Population."

"We wanted to see what occupational therapy could do to help these populations, and we found that family-coping interventions, community-based resource education, and vocational training will help decrease alcohol use and increase quality of life," Ewing said.

“ *The most important part of research is helping the students understand the correct questions to ask their patients.* **”**

As healthcare progresses, Dr. Renfro said it's important for Touro's students to be informed of how their fields are advancing. Staying updated on, and participating in research, will make students more well-rounded clinicians, she added.

"Our students need to be able to keep up with the changes in their field and give the treatments they need to give," she said. "If our students were taught the way I was taught 45 years ago, we'd be in trouble. But we are lifelong learners, and our students are showing us that."

Touro University Nevada will host its 14th annual Research Day on March 12 at 4 p.m. on the Touro campus.

CLASS NOTES

Do you have **NEWS TO SHARE?**

Did you receive a **NEW PROMOTION?**

Move to a New **CITY?**

Get **MARRIED?**

OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE GRADUATES

SUZANNE ROOZENDAAL, DO09

Dr. Suzanne Roozendaal works in Las Vegas as an emergency medicine physician.

ORI DEVERA, DO15

Dr. Ori DeVera was named one of MyVegas Magazine's "Top 40 Under 40" professionals in November 2019.

NURSE PRACTITIONER GRADUATES

SANDY OLGUIN, DNP15

Dr. Sandy Olguin works as an Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Reno. In addition to working as a nursing faculty, Dr. Olguin is President and CEO of the non-profit Nevada Nurses Foundation (NNF), which provides scholarships and professional development opportunities for nurses across the state.

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT GRADUATES

CRISTINA BELANGER, PA08

Dr. Cristina Belanger is now an Assistant Professor in the Touro University Nevada School of Physician Assistant Studies. Before rejoining Touro, Dr. Belanger spent 11 years as both a hospitalist and internal medicine PA at a North Las Vegas clinic.

PHYSICAL THERAPY GRADUATES

MICHELLE REYES, DPT13 & IAN GILKISON, DPT13

Dr. Michelle Reyes and Dr. Ian Gilkison, both 2013 graduates of the School of Physical Therapy, were married on Sept. 22.

AARON HARWARD, DPT14

Dr. Aaron Harward has worked for FIT Physical Therapy for the last six years. He has served as director of the FIT Summit location in St. George, Utah for the past three years. He and his wife Jessica have been married for 12 years. They have two children; seven-year-old Gramm and three-year-old Ivy.

ZAKI AZFAL, DPT15

Dr. Zaki Azfal had his case report, titled "Return to Advanced Strength Training and Weightlifting in an Athlete Post-lumbar Discectomy Utilizing Pain Neuroscience Education and Proper Progression: Resident's Case Report," published in The International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy in October, 2019.

NICKY GIOVINE, DPT17 & SAM LONGO, DPT17

Dr. Nicky Giovine and Dr. Sam Longo, both 2017 graduates of the School of Physical Therapy, were recently married.

ZAIVY MATTA, DPT17 & LOGAN BRETNEY, DPT17

Dr. Zaiivy Matta and Dr. Logan Bretney, both 2017 graduates from the School of Physical Therapy, were married on Dec. 6.

KYLE WARNER, DPT18

Dr. Kyle Warner and his wife Madison welcomed their second child, Brooks, on Oct. 3.

MATTHEW HOBBS, DPT18

Dr. Matthew Hobbs and his wife Amber welcomed their second daughter, Haddisyn, on Nov. 23. Dr. Hobbs was also promoted to the Director of Registered Physical Therapists rehabilitation and sports clinic in Saratoga Springs, Utah.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY GRADUATES

RYAN MCGIVEN, OT09

Ryan McGiven works as a certified hand therapist at a private, outpatient clinic in Layton, Utah. He and his wife have four sons: 12-year-old twins, a nine-year old, and a seven-year old.

We'd love to hear from you and your fellow alumni!

Please send your class notes to Steven Slivka, Communications Manager at steven.slivka@tun.touro.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS tun.touro.edu/about-us/calendar

3/5

The Big Game
SLAM Academy
Henderson

3/12

Research Day
Touro University
Nevada

3/18

PreM.E.D.S. Day
Touro University
Nevada

3/22

Touro Gala
Four Seasons

4/6-7

A.Y.M.E. Academy
Touro University
Nevada

4/30

Spring Open House
Touro University
Nevada

5/18

**Spring
Commencement –
DO & MHS**
The Smith Center

6/22

**Spring
Commencement –
PT, OT, and Nursing**
Congregation Ner Tamid

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