



Christine LoRusso '06



James "Jeff" Peterson '07MBA

positions including associate accountant and most recently, senior associate accountant. In her new role, she will manage individual, corporate, nonprofit and partnership tax, and audit clients, specializing in auditing within the gaming industry, employee benefit plans and homeowners' associations.

Christine LoRusso '06 (accounting), an agent from The New York Life Insurance Companies Reno general office, has qualified for the 2010 Million Dollar Round Table, the premier association of financial professionals.

Christine is the first woman in the Reno office to qualify for the prestigious Round Table.

James "Jeff" Peterson '07MBA has been promoted to global marketing leader for GE Energy's advanced sensors business. Jeff, his wife **Jamie (McKillop) Peterson '99, '03M. Ed.** (elementary education), and their two children will be relocating to the Boston area this spring. Jeff is currently serving as the vice president of public relations for the College of Business Alumni Association.

John Lilley '09 (nursing) continues to work as registered nurse for California Transplant Donor Network as a supervisor of clinical services.

Class Chat submissions are due May, 14, 2010. We edit all submissions for style, clarity and length.



Kickin' it with K-von | Growing up in Sin City

Like many of you, I was raised in southern Nevada. As I travel regularly for comedy shows, I tend to hear the same question repeatedly. Wide-eyed and exasperated, someone will inevitably say, "WOW, Nevada? I've never met anyone who is actually from there!" Then in a secretive tone and with a wink, they follow up with, "So, be honest, what was it like growing up in Vegas?!" These same people are very disappointed by my short, factual reply. "Just like any other town I guess . . . T-ball, soccer, Boy Scouts and school," I casually say. And with that answer, my interrogators are quite visibly let down. Their eyes glaze over with a look of dismay, as if I'm keeping something from them. They storm off, and with that I've often lost a chance at a new friend. I defensively shout, "Well, SORRRRRRY for having a normal childhood!" but it does no good.

It's frustrating encounters like these that have forced me to develop a much more satisfying story regarding what it's like growing up in Vegas. Bear in mind that this version is 100 percent false. But hey,

it makes for one hell of a better tale, and I'm giving people exactly what they want to hear. So please feel free to use my new reply as your answer, too. Make it your own, and be the highlight of the next cocktail party.

WHAT IT'S LIKE GROWING UP IN VEGAS: There are so many memories, I'm not sure where to begin . . . For starters, my entire family lived in a casino. We were very religious, and I was baptized in the Bellagio fountain shortly after my birth. The only clothes my family wore were sparkly Ed Hardy shirts. At the age of 7, I was expected to take my education seriously. Of course, it wasn't traditional. I was enrolled in bartending school, while being tutored in card-dealing at night.

My kid sister had courses of her own and was quite a natural when it came to pole dancing. In my humble opinion, she was by far the best in her kindergarten class. Lastly, my 2-year-old little brother got mixed up with the wrong crowd. He was heavily involved in drinking and actually died that year from partying. It was just a few days short of his third birthday—kid never really had a chance.

In Nevada, we had a different version of Cub Scouts called "Club Scouts." This is where we learned all the Las Vegas survival skills that would benefit us for the rest of our lives. Boy, did I love Club Scouts! I was taken to pawn shops, taught how to grease a door-

man correctly, and most importantly, the differences between techno, jungle, house and trance music. The most difficult time I had was earning my Prostitution Awareness merit badge, but finally I prevailed.

Like most kids, we were always given an allowance, which our parents then instructed us to take to the local gas station and feed directly into the video poker machine. Alas, soon it was time for me to make it on my own. My first job was selling nifty items in a nightclub bathroom. But by the age of 11, I felt it was time to quit due to my addiction to candy cigarettes and after coming to the conclusion that much of my money was going down the toilet . . . literally.

In high school I made friends with a kid named Brandon Flowers, and we started a band, but I quickly quit because I felt his voice just wasn't up to par. I told him it was *killing* me. I wish I had time to tell you more but I can say above all, my fondest memories involve the countless Christmas and Thanksgiving dinners that all the Las Vegas families would have together at the Rio Carnival World Buffet.

There's just nothing quite like growing up in Vegas!

K-von '03 (marketing) is a Nevada alum and comedian. Currently you can see his videos and tour schedule on www.K-vonComedy.com and Facebook.com/KvonComedy