2017

FY 2017 Annual Report

UNLV Foundation

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GIVING MATTERS. IMPACT MATTERS.

ANNUAL REPORT
NOVEMBER 2017
Donors, alumni, and friends like you are creating outstanding opportunities for our students and faculty through your support of UNLV. We are grateful for your generosity, and pleased to share the 2016-2017 UNLV Foundation Annual Impact Report.

As you’ll read in the pages that follow, private gifts to UNLV are improving the quality of education and research, and are positively impacting the lives of people across our campus and throughout our community.

In this year’s report, we’ve paired donors with recipients to show the personal relationship that can be created by giving. Our stories include an investment leader with a medical student, whereby a scholarship led to a profound mentoring relationship; a tech giant who created a scholarship to honor an artist but is also helping students; and a program that brings Rebel student-athletes into local elementary schools to teach children about kindness. These stories inspire us, and we hope that they will inspire you, for they are just a few of the thousands of success stories that you make possible by your generosity.

This year was a record setting year for fundraising, bringing in $93 million in new gifts and pledges from more than 10,000 donors. This record includes an anonymous $25 million gift for the UNLV School of Medicine, the largest single gift in the university’s history.

These are exciting times at UNLV, and we need your continued support to reach our goals. Thank you for giving to UNLV.

Sincerely,

Gregory T.H. Lee
Chairman
UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees
“I AM NOW A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON THAN I WAS FRESHMAN YEAR.”
—KAMERON JOYNER
BY THE NUMBERS

SOURCES OF GIVING FY17

Financial information for fiscal year 2017 including sources of gifts, endowment history, and giving trends

**$93,027,019** total giving

- **34%** ESTATE/TRUST
- **4%** ALUMNI
- **30%** CORPORATIONS
- **28%** FRIENDS
- **<1%** OTHER / SERVICE ORGS
- **3%** FOUNDATIONS

**10,100+** total donors gave **22,700** gifts and pledges

QUICK LOOK

UNLV FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT: FY 08-17

- **+$11.4%** return for all assets
- **+$202.6 million** Fair market value as of 6/30/17
- **+$10.2%** net change over past year

10 YEAR GIVING HISTORY: FY 08-17

- **+$25 million** Anonymous Gift for School of Medicine
- **+$22 million** Total gifts to Athletics
- **+$93 million** New gifts and pledges
1,000+ gifts to scholarship 37 new scholarships

$8.1 million private scholarship awards
$13.8 million new scholarship gifts & pledges

71% increase in scholarship disbursement past 5 years

30,471 total enrollment for 2017-2018
1,000+ faculty members
350+ degrees 146 academic programs
43% of 2016-2017 academic year graduates were first in their family to earn a college degree.
115,000+ alumni

#1 NATION’S MOST DIVERSE UNIVERSITY —U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

#1 HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT & LEISURE —QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

76% of UNLV students received some form of financial aid in 2016-2017

HOSPITALITY HALL
$1.4 million NEW GIFTS & PLEDGES FY17
$22.8 million TOTAL GIFTS & PLEDGES
JAN ‘18 EXPECTED OPENING

FOOTBALL COMPLEX
$10 million FROM FRANK AND LORENZO FERTITTA
$14.5 million NEW GIFTS & PLEDGES FY17
$18.8 million TOTAL GIFTS & PLEDGES

ADVANCED ENGINEERING STUDIES BLDG
$1 million FIRST LEAD GIFT COMMITMENT
“IF I DIDN’T GET THIS SCHOLARSHIP, I WOULDN’T BE IN SCHOOL.”
—DE’LIZA DULATRE-GALIMIDI
WHEN ARTURO MONTES WAS A CHILD, HIS FAMILY MOVED TO LAS VEGAS FROM EAST L.A. TO FIND JOBS.

“We were as poor as you can get in America before we moved here,” he says. “We really had no food.”

In Las Vegas, his parents got service industry jobs – in fact, his dad got two and worked 80 hours per week and his mother worked full time. “I thought my parents were superheroes,” he says. But when he was 18, his mom had a heart attack. “It was devastating,” Montes says. “I went to the hospital and she was flat-lining.”

He watched as the ER team went to work on her, and the cardiologist “brought her back to life.” “Right then, I thought, I want to be a doctor. It was amazing. I wanted to help people.”

Montes started community college while working as a porter at the Riviera. Two years in, he transferred to UNLV. “At UNLV, you become a part of a community; you meet people and you stay with them. I was loving school.”

He’d been a football player in high school, a volunteer youth flag football coach at his community center, and he joined the men’s rugby team at UNLV. “Sports have always played a central part in my life. I learned so much from sports that applies to the rest of life – accountability, working hard, and how to bounce back from a hard loss.”

Montes graduated with dual majors in kinesiology and biology and began applying to medical schools. Although he applied widely, the new UNLV School of Medicine was his first choice.

“I love this city more than I can put into words,” he says. “I want to give back to this community, and I want to help the most vulnerable people.”

It seemed like fate, then, that Montes received a full scholarship to UNLV School of Medicine paid for by longtime Las Vegas and community leader Randy Garcia ’77, who shares that pride in Las Vegas. “I try to help at-risk youth dream bigger than they probably believe they can,” says Garcia, founder of The Investment Counsel Company of Nevada. “I grew up in the old part of Las Vegas, and it was a little dicey. I think mentoring young people to rise beyond their circumstances is what puts the biggest smile on my face.”

Not long after Montes and Garcia met, Montes invited his new benefactor and mentor to a celebration at his parents’ home – complete with mariachis, all of his local relatives, and even his grandmother who traveled from Guadalajara.

“It was very moving,” Garcia says. “When Arturo’s mother hugged me, I almost cried. She would not let go. She was so happy that Arturo was going to medical school.”

Montes says, “I thank him not only for the scholarship, but for his mentorship… “We share the dream of making Las Vegas an even better place.”
"I grew up in a small community in Utah, where most everyone was white, and I am Native American. I was bullied because I was the only brown boy. There wasn't a lot of diversity," he says.

"Nowadays the divisiveness in our country is heightened, and it trickles down to our kids. And social media is another place kids can be bullied – there have been suicides by kids who could not take the bullying."

Frazier, a longtime UNLV supporter, took it upon himself to apply the social wellness goals of the Kish Foundation to create an anti-bullying program that connects UNLV athletes to kids at underprivileged schools. Frazier, who is a trustee of the Kish Foundation, funded UNLV's Rebel Acts of Kindness program last year.

"We had already been bringing kids to Rebel games, but I wanted to get the athletes into their schools. I wanted this to be an experience for the college athletes, too, to build mentoring relationships."

So the student-athletes first went to CT Sewell Elementary for a pep rally in which they brought UNLV band members, Hey Reb, and the Rebel cheerleaders, and then — after an upbeat program — they shared their stories of bullying.

"We just gave the student-athletes the floor, and they told the kids about times they'd been bullied, and how it's not cool to bully. It makes a big difference," Frazier says.

From there, kids were encouraged to do "acts of kindness" throughout the month. At the end of the program, a child from every grade who had completed the most acts of kindness received tickets for their families to attend a Rebel football game, and the kids went on field to be recognized at halftime.

"It's also a way to get families involved with UNLV who might not otherwise be thinking of college," Frazier says. "It's really a win-win. We're building healthy relationships, and that's what it is all about."

Rebels benefit from the program as much as local kids.

Volleyball star and civil engineering major Sadie Stutzman stands 6-foot-2 and is a four-time Mountain West Scholar-Athlete and a two-time Fall Academic All-Mountain West Team member. She knows what it feels like to excel. But, she told the group of elementary school students, she also knows what it's like to be bullied.

"We were sharing stories of being bullied with the kids, and I told them that sometimes I was my own bully," she says. "If I messed up in a game, I would get so down on myself and say mean things to myself. Then I realized, that's not okay. This is supposed to be fun – it's a game – and I shouldn't bully myself or anyone else."

The kids, she says, embraced her message.

"We brought joy to the school. We sang the UNLV fight song, we gave them swag bags with water bottles, and we talked about being positive. We said, "Do you like bullying?" and they all said together, "NO!"

"It was kindness in action," Stutzman says.

"We know that it's going to be good for the kids, but it's honestly good for us, too," Stutzman says. "You feed off of each other's positive energy."
AS KAMERON JOYNER LEARNED TO NAVIGATE HIS WAY AROUND THE 1.2 MILLION VOLUMES

and 300+ databases at UNLV University Libraries, he discovered the route to his future success. “I am now a completely different person than I was freshman year,” says Joyner, a senior at Lee Business School and a fourth-year participant in the Stuart and Flora Mason Undergraduate Peer Research Coach program at UNLV University Libraries. “I used to be introverted and had no idea where I was going. Now, I’m more confident and feel prepared to go out into the world.”

Joyner could be a case study in how the Mason Undergraduate Peer Research Coach program lifts up at-risk students by building their skill sets and engaging them as educators. Peer coaches are mentored by libraries staff so that they have the expertise to help other students to access and analyze information. The program was started in 2006 by Flora and Stuart Mason to provide an opportunity for students to learn a variety of academic and life skills, including project management, networking, research, and presenting.

“I see the peer coach program as an instrument through which students can shape their entire lives,” says Flora Mason, a UNLV alumna, former member of UNLV’s English faculty, and a founding member of the Libraries’ Advisory Board. “When I think of the program’s future, I think about how its effects will endure.”

Flora and her late husband Stuart moved to Las Vegas in 1965, and always shared a belief in the value of the educational role of libraries to make a difference in students’ lives for generations to come. “The lessons I’m learning will always apply,” Joyner affirms. “I’ve learned how to be a critical thinker. I’ve developed relationships with students from different cultures and backgrounds. I’ve had a full college experience that will always be relevant.”
WHEN ENTERTAINER SCOTT LINKER’S DAUGHTER SABRINA WAS IN KINDERGARTEN, SHE WAS BRIGHT,

scored well on tests, and was accepted into a prestigious private school. But suddenly the precocious little girl who could already read and order from restaurant menus started having trouble in her new learning environment.

“It was just a big disparity for her. She tested high but she was having behavioral problems,” Linker says.

When she was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, Linker says, it clarified not only his understanding of his daughter’s challenges, but sparked an epiphany about himself.

“It was an aha! moment in my life. I had struggled in many ways and never felt like I fit in,” says Linker, who performed with Ringling Bros. for more than a decade and plays multiple musical instruments. Soon, he too was diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

“A lot of thinkers are lopsided — your strengths are big but your basics are weak. A lot of our greatest thinkers and performers didn’t really fit in the box – Einstein didn’t fit in; he took a civil service job and figured out E=mc^2 in his spare time,” Linker says.

As Linker began searching for more creative ways to educate his daughter, he wanted to share that knowledge with others.

Enter UNLV’s then-fledgling Project FOCUS, a specialized program for differently abled minds, led by professor Joshua Baker in the College of Education.

“Scott Linker was really the first donor that we ever got. If it weren’t for him, we might not be here,” Baker says. “He saw something worthwhile in us; he saw that everyone has strengths that may get lost if we don’t hone in on them, and he helped so much.”

Linker’s seed money created stability for a program that addresses a wide range of educational opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. “We started as a post-secondary program in 2014. We have 16 students right now whose diagnoses range from Down Syndrome to Asperger, and we have 25 more people on the waiting list,” Baker says. Project FOCUS provides a post-secondary experience leading to either a certificate or, in some cases, a degree.

“We provide the social skill development and work with them while they work on school,” Baker said. “These kids are used to being separated, and now they are able to have an inclusive experience, and for many, it’s life changing.”

One such student is John Ueda, who couldn’t have afforded the college experience without Linker’s sponsorship.

Twenty-year-old Ueda takes communications, math, and theater courses; he works as an office assistant at the CSUN preschool; and, he pursues something he never thought he could earn: a bachelor of arts degree.

Ueda also mentors his classmates in anything from science to how to find the right classroom.

“I like to get different opportunities,” Ueda says. “I’m doing so many things I didn’t know I could do.” Right now, he says, his acting and communications classes are helping him with his social skills. That’s a concept not lost on Scott and Sabrina Linker, as Sabrina, now 17, was recently accepted to a competitive performing arts school in Los Angeles.

“It’s often people who don’t fit in who end up making great contributions to the world,” Linker says.

“You have to nourish their passions while helping them get along in the world. I wanted to arm people to deal with these challenges, and I think Project FOCUS does that.”
art and computers. He enrolled at UNLV pursuing an MFA, while still studying computers.

“But the concept of combining a computer science degree with a fine arts degree just didn’t exist yet,” Castle, 52, says. “So I had computer science labs overlapping with art studio time, and my schedule was a mess.”

Still, he said, his interests were nourished: “At UNLV, the world was opened up to me. There was so much to learn. I had some great instructors that inspired me as an artist.” One, he says, gave him a maxim that inspires him to this day: “Art is the intentional creation of an emotional experience in an audience.” He realized that the concept applied not only to fine art, but also to computer game programming.

He and colleague Brett Sperry started Westwood Studios game programming company while he was still a student. They hired Las Vegas artist Rick Parks, who was known worldwide for his mural and landscape paintings, some of which were displayed in Las Vegas businesses. (Parks was also commissioned by Steve Wynn, Siegfried and Roy, and Donald Trump to paint portraits.) Like Castle, Parks had a knack for translating his art into computer games.

Soon, Westwood Studios took off with a series of successful games that ultimately led Virgin Interactive to buy the company. Castle continued his work as a game designer and now works as the head of Amazon Game Studios.

But when his friend Parks died from leukemia, Castle decided to honor him in a way that reflected the key moments of their careers.

“I thought of UNLV, and I thought what a great opportunity to create a scholarship for people interested in marrying the arts and technology. So we designed this interdisciplinary scholarship [The Rick Parks Scholarship] specifically to remember Rick and to encourage people with curious minds to marry technology and arts.”

“You hear people say they are either right-brained or left-brained,” Castle says. “But really, you should use your whole brain. It’s not like you only use half.”

In that same way, student Sydney Mendoza has a love for hand-drawn illustration, but after starting UNLV, he took a shine to graphic arts.

“I actually started to love it,” Mendoza, 21, says. As a student who kept his GPA high, he qualified for the Rick Parks scholarship. “Because of that, I was able to fully focus my attention on growing as an artist and designer for a year without stressing about my financial situation.”

Today, Mendoza works part time as a graphic artist while completing his senior year. Like the generous donor who funded his scholarship, Mendoza plans to combine art and technology as a graphic artist who specializes in illustrations for book covers.

“I’m especially fond of modernizing the classics,” he says. “I love calligraphy, and I love modernizing the look with graphic arts.”

Like Castle, Mendoza says, “I love to combine the old and the new.”
CREATING FUTURE PHILANTHROPISTS

DAWN LABONTE AND EMERLINDA CASTILLEJO GET UP EVERY MORNING EXCITED TO SERVE.

LaBonte, SVP community relations senior manager and Castillejo, VP community relations consultant, have each been sharing their commitment and passion around community service as part of the Wells Fargo Social Responsibility Group for more than 20 years. Part of their roles, says LaBonte, is “to help students, team members, and volunteers find their inner philanthropist.”

“We help people connect with empathy and provide them opportunities to see the world through another lens,” she says.

“Once that lens expands, each of us sees our place in humanity differently and with a deeper compassion. It enables us to more fully serve our customers, our nonprofits, our communities, and ideally, the world.”

“And if we’re doing our jobs right, we’re helping to create the next generation of philanthropists,” adds Castillejo.

At UNLV, this vision is being realized through the Wells Fargo First Generation Scholarship program, started nearly two decades ago to promote academic achievement for low- and moderate-income students and families. The scholarship requires that recipients perform 40 hours of community service each semester.

“Everyone should do it,” Wells Fargo Scholar Nicole Trujillo reflects.

“Volunteering at Three Square and the Shade Tree women’s shelter made me realize that my needs are very different from other people’s needs. It gives me a much different perspective.”

Trujillo was born in Las Vegas and raised by a mom who works in housekeeping at a Strip resort. After graduating with AP honors from East Career Technical Academy, she enrolled at UNLV unsure of where her educational journey would lead, but with a conviction that she wanted to help people.

She thought that meant a career in social services, but getting a job as an usher at Caesars Colosseum led her down another path.

“I realized that helping others is central to hospitality,” she says. “I never would have realized that had it not been for UNLV.”

She is now a junior in the Harrah College of Hospitality.

“People spend their hard earned money to come to Las Vegas. I feel that my job is to help exceed their expectations. I want to give back to the community.”

“Because of the Wells Fargo Scholarship, I can see graduation in my future. I’ll have a degree from one of the best hospitality programs in the nation. It is so rewarding for me, and a big deal for my family.”
“IF I DIDN’T GET THIS SCHOLARSHIP, I WOULDN’T BE IN SCHOOL,” SAYS
DE’LIZA DULATRE-GALIMIDI,
a senior journalism and media studies major at the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. She was working on campus and going to school full time, but having trouble making ends meet.

Her father and brother-in-law had recently died, and she suddenly became the only one in the household who had a job.

“So many things were happening in my life. I was working so hard to support my mom and sister and her kids, and we were recovering from the losses,” she says.

“But I was fiercely determined to stay in school.”

Her supervisor at the office of student engagement and diversity, where she worked as a program assistant, was able to help her get an emergency grant, and the next semester she applied for the Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship.

Dulatre-Galimidi earned the competitive award, and it changed more than just her financial picture.

“It was amazing. Suddenly I had a mentor, an academic success coach, and a support system with my peers in the program,” she says. “It’s so awesome to have a team. I know that other people are rooting for me, and you do the same for them.

“The essence of being a Hixson-Lied scholar is that you get to give, because you received,” Dulatre-Galimidi says, echoing the guiding principle of the scholarship’s namesake, Christina M. Hixson.

“I strongly believe that extraordinary things can be done by ordinary people,” Hixson explains. “You just have to give them the opportunity.” That opportunity is being realized through the Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship program. Funded in perpetuity through a $2 million gift from the Lied Foundation Trust and launched in 2012, it was named in honor of Hixson and Ernst F. Lied.

The program provides economically and academically challenged Nevada students with the chance to excel.

“A support system is so important,” Hixson says. “If a student’s parents didn’t go to college, the experience can be discouraging.” The Academic Success Center, where the program is housed, provides support to help students stay engaged and on track.

Hixson-Lied Success scholars not only receive help earning their degree, but are also expected to serve others as peer mentors and volunteers.

That’s no problem for Dulatre-Galimidi, who overflows with the giving spirit — ready to help anyone she can. She is especially grateful to Hixson.

“I always tear up a little bit when I talk about Ms. Hixson. She’s helped me so much. She’s so personable and down to earth. She is a person who understands hard work, and when someone gives you something like this, you want to make them super proud. It’s super important to me.

“So when I achieve things like being on the dean’s list, it’s not just for me. It’s for the people who support me.”
WHEN MAYRA SALINAS-MENJIVAR SEES CHILDREN AT THE UNLV IMMIGRATION CLINIC, SHE HAS A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR PLAGHT.

Salinas-Menjivar emigrated from El Salvador when she was seven years old, and last May, earned her juris doctor from the UNLV Boyd School of Law. While in law school, she was involved in the immigration clinic as a student worker, and now, she is a full-time fellow. “When I came to UNLV and started working in the clinic, it just took over,” says Salinas-Menjivar. “Part of it is that I am an immigrant so I have a different perspective. Also, it’s such a complicated area of law, and if you are a person with no legal training, and don’t speak English as your first language, it’s so hard to navigate that system.

“So it is rewarding to help people do that.” It is rewarding, too, for the donors who enabled the clinic’s attorneys to continue taking cases despite a recent loss of federal funding for the AmeriCorps initiative that provided lawyers for unaccompanied immigrant children.

Las Vegas attorney Ed Bernstein and his law firm donated $250,000 last spring to fund the Edward M. Bernstein & Associates Immigration Clinic Children’s Rights Program, a move he says was inspired partly because his wife, Claudia, is an immigrant. He also is drawn to efforts that help children — particularly unaccompanied minors seeking asylum.

“My wife is Peruvian; she came here 25 year ago. So immigration issues are near and dear to my heart, as is anything having to do with civil liberties and law-related issues. It was a natural combination for me since it involved children.” Bernstein’s generosity will keep the Children’s Rights Program operating for five more years.

Salinas-Menjivar works alongside attorneys Michael Kagan and Laura Berrera to represent the underrepresented in the legal system. Often, their clients are children fleeing violence in other nations.

The clinic displays framed handprints of the children they’ve worked with in their office — many of whom were unaccompanied by adults as they immigrated.

“The kids are definitely hard cases — it can be extremely emotional work,” Salinas-Menjivar says. “But you stay focused on how important it is. And you stay grateful that donors like Bernstein see how important it is, too.”
“WHEN I THINK OF THE PROGRAM’S FUTURE, I THINK ABOUT HOW ITS EFFECTS WILL ENDURE.”

—FLORA MASON
There are many different ways to contribute. A few are listed below.

**ONLINE**

To give online, visit unlv.edu/foundation/give-online

**MAIL**

Checks may be made out to:

UNLV Foundation
4505 S. Maryland Parkway
Box 451006
Las Vegas, NV 89154-1006

**FUND TRANSFER**

To make a gift by electronic fund transfer, please call us at (702) 895-3641.

**TO LEARN MORE**

For more information about us, and about ways you can stay involved, please call us at (702) 895-3641 or visit us at unlv.edu/foundation.

**OUR MISSION**

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation is a nonprofit organization that raises and manages private funds for the benefit of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. These funds enhance the quality of the University and strengthen its missions of teaching, research, and public service.
THANK YOU