

Fall 2015

## Giving Matters

UNLV Foundation

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## Switch Support Bolsters UNLV

Switch CEO and founder Rob Roy is making UNLV one of the most connected universities in the world. In recognition of Roy's transformational contributions to the university and to the state of Nevada, the UNLV Foundation honored him with its prestigious Palladium Award at the 2015 Annual Dinner on Oct. 12. UNLV President Len Jessup and Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval presented the award, which recognizes those who have reached the \$1 million mark in philanthropic giving to UNLV.

Roy and Switch, in partnership with Intel, provided UNLV with game-changing computing power via the Cherry Creek supercomputer. Cherry Creek can process in just one day data that would take a typical computer 20 years to process. Its capacity ranks UNLV among the likes of MIT, Stanford, Purdue, and the University of Texas.

Roy also donated an ultra-advanced private fiber connection between campus and the SUPERNAP data center that connects UNLV with Switch and its more than 1,000 global partners.



**PAGE 3: MORE PHOTOS FROM THE ANNUAL DINNER, INCLUDING KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANDERSON COOPER**

**VIEW THE VIDEO AT:**  
[UNLV.EDU/NEWS/2015DINNER](http://UNLV.EDU/NEWS/2015DINNER)

*UNLV President Len Jessup (left) presents Switch CEO Rob Roy with the UNLV Foundation Palladium Award.*

## Postdocs Embrace The PRACTICE's Mission

### New Scholars to Enhance On-Campus Mental Health Clinic's Reach

What would you say the "polio of our era" is?

Here's a hint: It's not a viral or bacterial affliction.

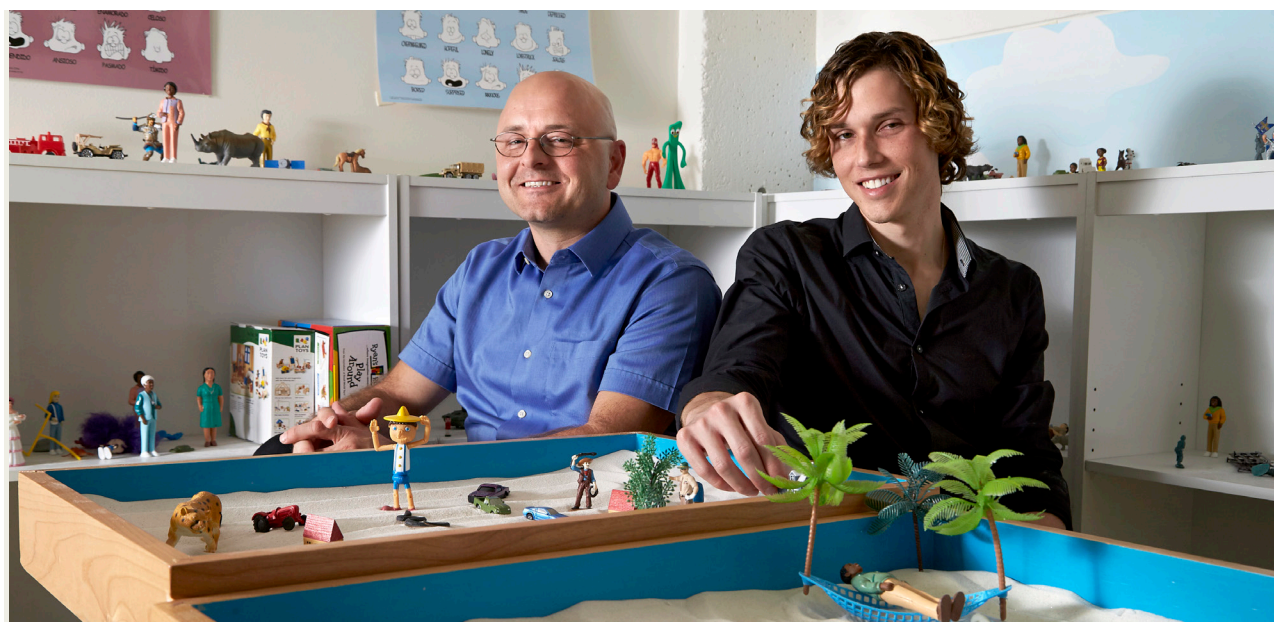
It's the looming crisis in children's mental health. That's the warning from Dr. Jay Fisher, head of pediatric ER at University Medical Center. Dr. Fisher expressed his concern in a May 2015 article in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

That's scary in a state ranked worst for providing access to mental health care for youth. In fact, Southern Nevada has been historically underserved when it comes to mental health across the board. The state currently ranks 50th for number of psychiatrists per capita, and 47th for psychologists per capita.

However, UNLV is making big strides in addressing these needs through The PRACTICE, an accessible, on-campus mental health clinic. Short for Partnership for Research, Assessment, Counseling, Therapy and Innovative Clinical Education, The PRACTICE, which opened in 2012, is a collaboration between the Colleges of Education and Liberal Arts.

A community mental health training clinic, The PRACTICE offers affordable mental health services to anyone in the community. It also is a training and research center for faculty and students from both colleges.

The PRACTICE is addressing local mental health gaps by bringing in some of the best and brightest in the field, like postdoctoral scholars Jeremy Gallas and Jared Grant. The two came on board at The PRACTICE in August, thanks to fellowships funded by a gift from the Eleanor Kagi Foundation, a Lynn M. Bennett Legacy.



*Jeremy Gallas (left) and Jared Grant started their work at The PRACTICE this summer. The pictured play therapy room allows younger patients to express feelings through self-guided play with toys.*

Gallas, who works mainly with children's and women's services, as well as family therapy, was sold on UNLV because of its diversity — along with the diversity of needs The PRACTICE is serving.

"I liked working in a college counseling center, but I missed the diversity of a community counseling center, working with kids and family. I've also done group work. I see The PRACTICE as being a combination of all that," he says.

"I was unaware of how underserved the area is until I spoke with [The PRACTICE director] Dr. Michelle Paul. It's really an added benefit to do the work I love in a place where it's so needed."

Grant primarily works with groups dealing with depression and anxiety. He was compelled to come to

UNLV by The PRACTICE's scope in the community.

"What really stood out to me is how committed The PRACTICE is to reaching the community. They see a need and really want to make a difference," says Grant. "It really felt like something I needed to be a part of."

The impact of individuals like Grant and Gallas could help shape The PRACTICE — and Southern Nevada — for a long time.

"There are a lot of postdoctoral jobs where you go in and everything is already done and established. You just learn how they do what they do," Gallas says.

"What's unique about this fellowship is that we get to be part of building something up."



# Welcome from the Chairman



Dear Friends,

One of UNLV's major initiatives is to become one of the top public research universities in the nation. Momentum for our Top Tier initiative is building not only across campus, but throughout our region.

Where do we fit in? As supporters of the UNLV Foundation, we are essential to UNLV's Top Tier success. This edition of *Giving Matters* introduces you to students, researchers, and other pathfinders who are moving us forward. They are all propelled by donations from private individuals, such as you, as well as from private foundations and corporations.

From people like Mary Guinan, founding dean of the School of Community Health Sciences, who will be establishing a chair for epidemiology through her will. From Switch CEO and founder Rob Roy, who is making UNLV the most connected campus in the U.S.

And from every faculty and staff member whose contributions to the UNLV Holiday Card Scholarship have been supporting students for nearly 50 years.

Private foundations and companies also play a role in achieving Top Tier goals. The Eleanor Kagi Foundation, a Lynn M. Bennett Legacy, is funding two postdoctoral fellows at The PRACTICE. The Bernard Osher Foundation is providing sustaining support for OLLI at UNLV. And Southwest Airlines is allowing students to crisscross the globe in pursuit of their studies.

Volunteer leadership is another key factor in UNLV's success. I am pleased to welcome three new members to the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees: Matthew Frazier, John Guedry '82, and Joe Murphy. I would also like to extend our deep gratitude to Nancy Houssels, who has stepped down after more than three decades of service as a trustee. Nancy was a powerful and elegant presence on the board. We welcome her as a new trustee emerita, and we thank her for her extraordinary contributions to this university and community.

Thank you for your continued support of the UNLV Foundation. We all appreciate your generosity.

Michael W. Yackira  
Chairman, UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees



## TAKING THE NEXT STEP

For a lower-leg amputee, a prosthetic leg can make all the difference in the world in terms of mobility and accessibility. That part goes without saying.

But passive prosthetics can take an unexpected physical toll on the wearer's knees and spine. A person with a prosthetic leg finds the body compensating for subtle leg and foot motions, which can have a lasting harmful impact on the body.

Integrative physiology Ph.D. student Michael Isaacs hopes to get to the bottom of that dilemma by looking into the interplay of animal motion and bionics.

Isaacs was one of four students selected for Southwest Airlines' Student Travel Award. This new program, launched in the spring of 2015, offers students free air travel for academic or professional advancement in their field of study. It is funded by Southwest Airlines, a member of UNLV's Academic Corporate Council and a supporter of UNLV for more than 25 years.

Isaacs attended the 7th International Symposium on Adaptive Motion of Animals and Machines at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The six-day, interdisciplinary gathering of biologists, mathematicians, and engineers from around the world looks to advance the understanding of

animal movement and facilitate innovations in robotic design.

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity Southwest Airlines made possible," he says. "The scientific diversity made this event particularly valuable to me, because as a new Ph.D. student, it's important to explore the application potential of the studies I will design throughout my career."

At the conference, Isaacs presented a poster for his experiment that assesses the mechanical cost of bipedal walking with passive prosthetics.

On campus, he works in a former racquetball court that has been refitted into a gait lab equipped with instruments that record the metrics of a subject's movements. He will be using this data to compare the relative impacts of a leg, a standard prosthetic, and the Odyssey prosthetic device — an adaptive "wearable robot." Isaacs is among the first researchers to test the robotic-powered prosthesis.

The applications of Isaacs' research have the potential to improve the long-term quality of life for amputees. Once Isaacs has compiled and analyzed the data, his next step will be to present his findings at the 2017 AMAM conference in Japan.



### Faculty-Staff Holiday Card Scholarship

## Emma Glaze Mixes Art with Business

Emma Glaze is a passionate artist whose tastes run from the classical to kitsch. But in a rare collision of left- and right-brain sensibilities, the UNLV sophomore is discovering that she also possesses an ardent love of accounting.

Yes, *accounting*. Glaze, who has a BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art and is majoring in business at UNLV, is the 2015 recipient of the UNLV Faculty-Staff Holiday Card Scholarship. The fund was started by a nascent faculty club in 1967. UNLV faculty and staff have contributed more than \$100,000 to the scholarship since its inception.

Glaze, a self-supporting artist, could not be a more appreciative recipient. "It is an amazing honor to get a scholarship...especially knowing it's from staff and faculty.

"It makes me feel like the whole university is giving me a big hug."

## Numbers | Matter

# 75 million

Dollars in gifts made to the UNLV Foundation in Fiscal Year 2015

# 2500



Attendees at 2015 UNLV Creates who were offered free tickets to **Life Is Beautiful** by festival founder Rehan Choudry

# 250

First-year freshmen entering the Honors College at UNLV in Fall 2015

# 135

Privately funded 4-year scholarships created for the UNLV School of Medicine

# 20

Number of years it would take an average computer to process what UNLV's Cherry Creek supercomputer can process in 1 day



# 2015 Annual Dinner



Keynote Speaker Anderson Cooper

The UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner celebrates people and organizations whose philanthropy advances UNLV. We've selected a few of our favorite moments from this year's fête, held Oct. 12 at Bellagio Resort. The event, emceed by UNLV Foundation Chairman Michael Yackira, featured keynote speaker Anderson Cooper and guest Chef Julian Serrano.

**SEE RELATED STORY: PAGE 1**

**VIEW PHOTO GALLERY: [UNLV.EDU/NEWS-STORY/AD-PHOTOS](http://UNLV.EDU/NEWS-STORY/AD-PHOTOS)**

**Emmy-Award winning journalist** and CNN anchor Anderson Cooper commended UNLV's achievements and its position at the forefront of timely energy and environmental research. But the biggest "Wow!" of the evening came when he announced that he would donate his entire speaker's honorarium back to UNLV.

**President Len Jessup** recounted recent milestones to an excited audience of 800+, including a new research partnership with Tesla Motors and an additional \$500,000 gift to the Barrick Lecture Series. His biggest applause line? The announcement that UNLV will host the final Presidential Debate of 2016 at the renovated Thomas & Mack Center.

**Governor Brian Sandoval** was on hand to recognize Palladium Awardee Rob Roy and Switch, and the contributions that give him the bragging rights to say that Nevada is the most connected state in the nation.



**Student speaker** and UNLV Honors College junior Tré Norman convincingly made the case that scholarships are "investments that yield dividends." Donors gave him a standing "O" and then invested soundly in the 2015 Fund-A-Scholar appeal.

## \$1 Million Gift Ensures Longevity of OLLI at UNLV

The nearly 1,500 retired and semi-retired students who attend classes at UNLV's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will benefit from a recent \$1 million grant from The Bernard Osher Foundation. OLLI at UNLV offers courses to mature learners aged 50+ in the Greater Las Vegas community. This gift is the second \$1 million endowment provided by the Osher Foundation to OLLI at UNLV. Its purpose is to promote sustainability and the long-term success of the program.

OLLI at UNLV offers more than 200 classes annually on UNLV's Paradise campus as well as seven satellite campus locations. Class coordinators are OLLI members who participate on a volunteer basis. Many are retired professors, professionals, and practitioners from a vast array of fields. OLLI members contribute to the overall vitality of UNLV by serving as ESL tutors, participating in research studies related to aging, and volunteering for the UNLV Office of Veteran Services.

"From *Classical Mythology* to *Science Fiction Films of the 1950s* to *Line Dancing*, we've got a course to cater to just about any interest imaginable," says Cathy Lowe, president of OLLI at UNLV board of directors. "Our offerings are as diverse as our membership."







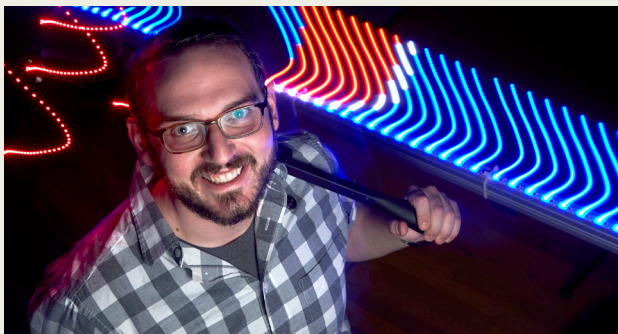
The 2015 Faculty-Staff holiday card, designed by scholarship recipient Emma Glaze. Read her story on page 2.

## Giving Matters

WINNER OF  
2014 Awards of Excellence  
GOLD



INSIDE:



- ▶ MOTION RESEARCH MOVES AHEAD
- ▶ SWITCH TRANSFORMS UNLV CONNECTIVITY
- ▶ THE PRACTICE FILLS AN URGENT NEED IN SOUTHERN NEVADA



- ▶ ANDERSON COOPER HEADLINES 2015 ANNUAL DINNER
- ▶ UNLV BY THE NUMBERS
- ▶ THE LEARNING NEVER STOPS AT OLLI AT UNLV

## DEAN EMERITA PLANS HER LEGACY

Dr. Mary Guinan's passion for public health has had a global impact, but her journey wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of others.

Not only was Guinan on the World Health Organization team that helped eradicate smallpox from Northern India, but she was also a key scientist working to identify emerging AIDS cases in the 1980s. She was both the first woman to serve as chief scientific advisor to the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the first woman to serve as Nevada's state health officer.

As the founding dean of UNLV's School of Community Health Sciences, Guinan created a strong foundation for meeting the state's future public health needs.

In order to jump-start her career, Guinan had to work through high school and college, and she had to make use of scholarships throughout her education at City University of New York, University of Texas, and Johns Hopkins University.

"I didn't come from a family of great resources. I was the middle of five children, my father died young, and I had two younger siblings to help take care of," she says.

"Scholarships allow people like me, those without resources, to get educated and move up."

As she moved up, Guinan made a habit of giving back. Her gifts to UNLV include funding an endowed scholarship and a paid internship stipend for the School of Community Health Sciences. And she recently established a legacy gift in her will that will endow a chair of epidemiology.

Now, Guinan keeps active. She's working on a memoir, *The Adventures of a Female Medical Detective*, which is due to be released in 2016. Despite travels, speaking engagements, and a prelaunch book tour, she continues to serve as a tireless advocate for UNLV and the school she founded in both action and the written word.

But even for busy individuals like Guinan, the gift-planning process couldn't be any simpler. "Setting up my will with the proper language was something I wanted to do when I retired," she says. "And UNLV helped take care of everything."

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