

Spring 2015

Giving Matters

UNLV Foundation

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Landmark \$12.9 Million Gift to Advance Special Education

If Kitty Rodman had her way, every single child in Clark County would have the opportunity to make the most of themselves through education. When the dynamic local philanthropist passed away last year at the age of 88, she left a \$12.9 million estate gift to UNLV's College of Education. While this landmark act of philanthropy can't guarantee that every student will get the very best education possible, it will give the most vulnerable among us at least a fighting chance.

Rodman's bequest — the largest scholarship donation UNLV has ever received — will be a gigantic boon to thousands of families who stand to benefit from special education programs in Las Vegas and beyond. The gift will fund scholarships and graduate fellowships for students preparing for careers in special education.

Rodman directed her philanthropy to the College of Education with the intention that, by supporting educators and researchers, her gift would have an exponential impact that would extend for generations into the future. The endowment is expected to generate more than \$400,000 for awards each year.

"Special education teachers are always among the most sought after in Clark County," says Thomas Pierce, chair of UNLV's department of educational and clinical studies. "There are hundreds of vacancies, and UNLV has simply not had the capacity to meet the need. Kitty's gift will give us the means to recruit students and researchers from around the country to study here, and stay here."

Rodman was among the first women to make a mark in the Las Vegas construction industry. As a partner in Sierra Construction Corporation, her clients included the Atomic Energy Commission, Clark County School District, Nellis Air Force Base, UNLV, and a host of hotels and casinos.

A UNLV Foundation trustee for 25 years, Rodman was named a Distinguished



Nevadan in 1991 and was a recipient of the 2005 Silver State Award. She was a founding member of the UNLV Jean Nidetch Women's Center and helped establish UNLV's physical therapy program. Her support funded residence halls on campus as well as numerous academic and athletics programs.

As her legacy gift attests, she was a passionate supporter of those with special needs.

"This commitment has incredible potential to advance special education at UNLV to exciting new levels," says Pierce. "It also is an incredible acknowledgment of the good work done by educators every day."

Filling Needs in Dental Care

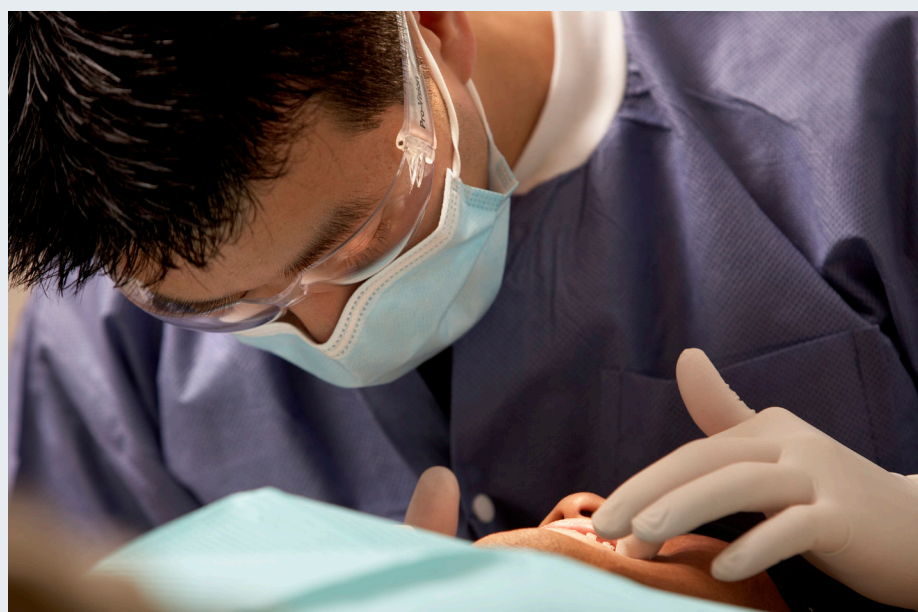
Serving those who have served our country ranks high on the list of how the UNLV School of Dental Medicine provides quality dental care to our community. The Sergeant Clint Ferrin Dental Clinic for Veterans offers free treatment to veterans in need. The all-volunteer clinic was started by alumnus John Ferrin, D.M.D., in memory of his brother, Sgt. Clint Ferrin, who was killed in action in Iraq in 2004.

The clinic has already touched nearly 900 vets. A recent award from Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship program of Las Vegas Sands Corporation, will ensure that an even greater number of veterans receive complete dental care at the hands of UNLV students and faculty. The gift will effectively eliminate the clinic's wait list.

Another recent donation has upgraded the dental simulation lab, a teaching laboratory where students refine their skills on orally correct manikins. Bien-Air USA has equipped each of the lab's 85 workstations with advanced hand-held units. The new MX2 systems bring the sim lab's devices in sync with those used in clinics throughout the school.

Ferrin Clinic, the sim lab, and other free and reduced-cost treatment programs help students develop hands-on expertise. But practitioners today need skills in digital as well as in conventional techniques.

Now, students have the opportunity to become proficient in computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing technologies, thanks to a



contribution from Sirona Dental Systems valued at nearly \$500,000. The state-of-the-art CEREC CAD/CAM system improves the design and creation of restorations, such as crowns and dentures, by digitally modeling them on a computer. This replaces the practice of making a 3-D impression by inserting a rubber silicon compound into the patient's mouth.

Corporate partnerships like these are creating invaluable educational opportunities — and helping students integrate technology, technique, and compassion into more comprehensive dental care in Southern Nevada.

Welcome from the Chairman



Leadership is the key to achieving an organization’s vision, and UNLV is no exception. We are delighted to feature in this edition of *Giving Matters* UNLV’s new leader, President Len Jessup. (See Q & A, page 3.)

As the university’s chief advocate and administrator, President Jessup will be leading several new initiatives that will ultimately lead to UNLV being recognized as a top research institution. He plans to share this ambition throughout the state in order to make it clear how achieving this goal will benefit the entire state, not just Las Vegas.

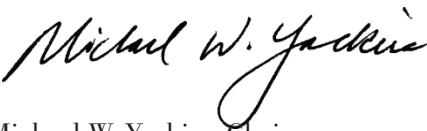
With a legislative session upon us, President Jessup and other university leaders will be seeking further support for higher education from public officials. In his State of the State address, Governor Brian Sandoval asked the Legislature to fund several priorities recommended by the Board of Regents of the Nevada System of Higher Education. This includes a School of Medicine at UNLV, which is imperative for achieving recognition as a top research university as well as for attracting and retaining additional health care professionals for our state.

We are also pleased to introduce six new trustees who will be adding their expertise to the UNLV Foundation Board. They join a cadre of influential business, cultural, and educational leaders who will work with President Jessup to focus on private funding opportunities for all sectors of campus.

As we look ahead to the leadership challenges of 2015 and beyond, we also take stock of those whose leadership in philanthropy has helped UNLV. UNLV Foundation founding trustee Michael J. Gaughan is profiled (below) in our “Masters of Philanthropy” column, which recognizes those with a rich history and more than 30 years of giving to UNLV.

Finally, I want to express our sincere thanks to Don Snyder, who worked tirelessly as acting president to ensure that UNLV continued to prosper while we searched for a new president. Don will work closely with President Jessup on the major initiatives of our school.

To all of you whose support of UNLV is creating opportunities today and helping educate the leaders of tomorrow, thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Yackira, Chairman
UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees

Masters of Philanthropy: Michael J. Gaughan

South Point Hotel and Casino owner Michael J. Gaughan is celebrated on campus as the force behind the National Finals Rodeo at the Thomas & Mack. But the Pro Rodeo Hall of Famer’s interest in UNLV predates even the first appearance of the NFR in Las Vegas in 1985.

Gaughan took his first college course in the 1960’s on a nascent campus then known as Nevada Southern University. (The name was changed to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1969.) He was a founding member of the UNLV Foundation board of trustees and has continually served on the board since 1981. He has also been a loyal donor to UNLV for more than 30 years.

His involvement with UNLV has been broad-based. It includes support for the UNLV rodeo team, Boyd School of Law, Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies, athletic scholarships, and more. Some of his fondest times on campus, he recollects, were the five semesters that he taught casino management.

“Experience is the best teacher. Students at UNLV’s hotel college have an opportunity to learn directly from the most experienced professionals in the



industry,” Gaughan reflects. “That type of interaction is very valuable. A hospitality degree from UNLV opens doors.”

Gaughan graduated from Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas in 1961, received a B.S.B.A. in accounting from Creighton University in 1965, and received an MBA from the University of Southern California in 1967. In 2007, he was inducted into UNLV’s Nevada Business Hall of Fame — the same year he was admitted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.

Asked who is easier to work with — horses or people — Gaughan pauses for just a second, then smiles and answers, “Horses are less dangerous.”

New Trustees Join UNLV Foundation Board

Kirk V. Clausen
Kirk Clausen is the regional president for Nevada at Wells Fargo Bank, where he is responsible for managing the sales and service processes at more than 120 Wells Fargo locations statewide. He has been with Wells Fargo since 1975 and moved to Nevada in 1996.

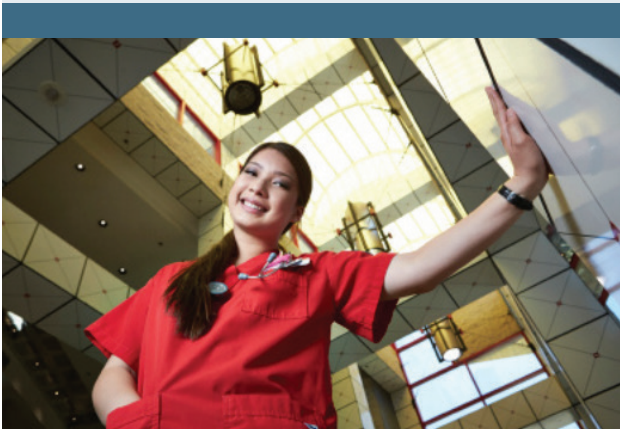
Thomas A. Jingoli ‘96
Tom Jingoli is senior vice president and chief compliance officer for Konami Gaming. He also is the president of the Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers and serves on the board of directors for the Nevada Council on Problem Gaming. He received a master’s in hotel administration from UNLV.

Gary M. Johnson ‘78
Gary Johnson is managing partner of Johnson Advisors, a business advisory and accounting firm in Las Vegas. He earned a B.S.B.A. in Accounting from UNLV and was the 2013 Lee Business School Accounting Department Alumnus of the Year.

Rob Roy
Rob Roy is CEO and founder of Switch, developer of SUPERNAP data centers. In 2012 he created the Rob Roy InNEVation Center, a public/private economic diversification effort that serves as a hub for technology leadership and Las Vegas’s startup community.

Tony F. Sanchez III ‘88
Since 2007, Tony Sanchez has served as the senior vice president, government and community strategy for NV Energy. The UNLV alumnus formerly served as executive assistant to former Nevada Governor Bob Miller and assistant general counsel for the Nevada Public Utilities Commission, among holding other positions.

Rajesh C. Shrotriya, M.D.
Dr. Rajesh Shrotriya is the president, chairman, and CEO of Henderson-based Spectrum Pharmaceuticals. He has held leadership positions at Spectrum since 2000. The company moved its headquarters from California to Southern Nevada in 2011.



School of Nursing Turns 50

As it celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, the UNLV School of Nursing is looking to the future through its Nurse Leaders of Tomorrow campaign. Get engaged and learn about how the School of Nursing is involved in your community at unlv.edu/nursing/50th.

On Jan. 5, Len Jessup became the 10th president of UNLV. He previously served as dean of the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona, where he helped create a program for moving technology and ideas from the lab to the marketplace. He also led the college to become financially self-sustaining and helped rebuild the university’s academic medical center.

Prior to that, he worked at Washington State University (WSU) as dean of its business college and vice president of development and president of the WSU Foundation.

A former baseball player, he received his bachelor’s and MBA degrees from California State University, Chico and his Ph.D. in organizational behavior and management information systems from the University of Arizona.

You’re coming to UNLV as the university begins its initiative to achieve Tier One university status. This is a very tall order. Where do you start?

Tier One seems really big — because certainly the impact of it will be phenomenal — but it is also doable. One thing that struck me during the interview process is that I don’t think people realize how good the people at UNLV already are. I also could tell there were misperceptions about Tier One.

Undergraduates have a sense that it’s just about research. Some people think it only affects the hard sciences. That’s just not the case on both counts. You can’t build a research program without a solid foundation for teaching. And Tier One universities also have strong fine arts and humanities programs. Tier One helps to elevate all of the conversations, it challenges the status quo, and it helps to bring beauty and creativity to every area of a community.

So a big part of my job will be helping people to see their role in Tier One — both how they will benefit from it and how they can help.

How will we benefit from Tier One?

We will become bigger and rank better as a result, but that’s not all that Tier One is about. The real value is the impact on this state. This will create spinout businesses. This will generate jobs and bring in new revenues to Nevada, which will then improve our schools and roads. It will expand opportunities so our talented young people stay here. And it will strengthen the national and global reach of UNLV alumni.

There has been a groundswell of support from many in this community for a new medical school at UNLV. Why is this a top initiative for UNLV?

The medical school is a key part of becoming a Tier One university. It’s one of the best investments we can make in our own community. It will bring direct economic impact in terms of fostering a biotech economy and keeping our health care dollars local. And beyond that, it will help make this a healthier place to live.

What are the greatest challenges of starting up the medical school?

Initially, the challenge is finding the fuel — seed money from the state — to breathe life into our ambitions. Then we will need to attract private philanthropy and develop research partnerships to keep the fire stoked. But I am very optimistic. The market need is clearly there and UNLV really does offer the best way to fulfill it.

Las Vegas Weekly described you as a fundraising “rock star.” What does it take to make fundraising work?

I don’t know about that “rock star” part. Fundraising takes a lot of people to make it work — not just any one person at one point in time. A donor’s relationship is with the institution over a long time and with many people.

They may encounter a number of different fundraisers — and presidents — as that relationship evolves. That’s particularly true for alumni, whose experience as a student shaped how they feel about the university today.

So again, my job as president is to help donors see their role and how their own interests align with the university’s. It’s about how their generosity will impact the lives of not only people on campus but also their neighbors or their employees or the greater community.

What do you like about fundraising?

It really is a great privilege. When I was at WSU, I met Scott Carson, former CEO of Boeing (Commercial Airplanes). He’d been involved in WSU for some time and had decided to make a much more substantial gift. (WSU’s business college is now named for him.) He told me that there are a very small handful of things that stand out in his life — getting married, the birth of his children, and one or two big wins at work — and then there was the day he made that first really substantial philanthropic commitment to WSU. It’s really an honor to be part of what many philanthropists describe as one of the best moments of his or her life.

You’re a former student-athlete. How do you balance a university’s commitment to athletics and academics?

Some people make the mistake of pitting one side against the other; they make it athletics versus academics.

Nearly every major public research university has a strong athletics program, and for good reason. Fundamentally, athletics is a great learning and leadership development opportunity for the athletes. Athletics is also often one of the primary ways that other people both on campus and off experience the university, and like other engagement activities — arts performances, public lectures, even summer camps for kids — athletics enriches the student experience and engages the general community in the life of the university. I’ve also often said that athletics is the window through which many people see and form opinions of the university, and so the window needs to be clean and clear.

Is there any one experience that you can recall that shaped your philosophy on higher education?

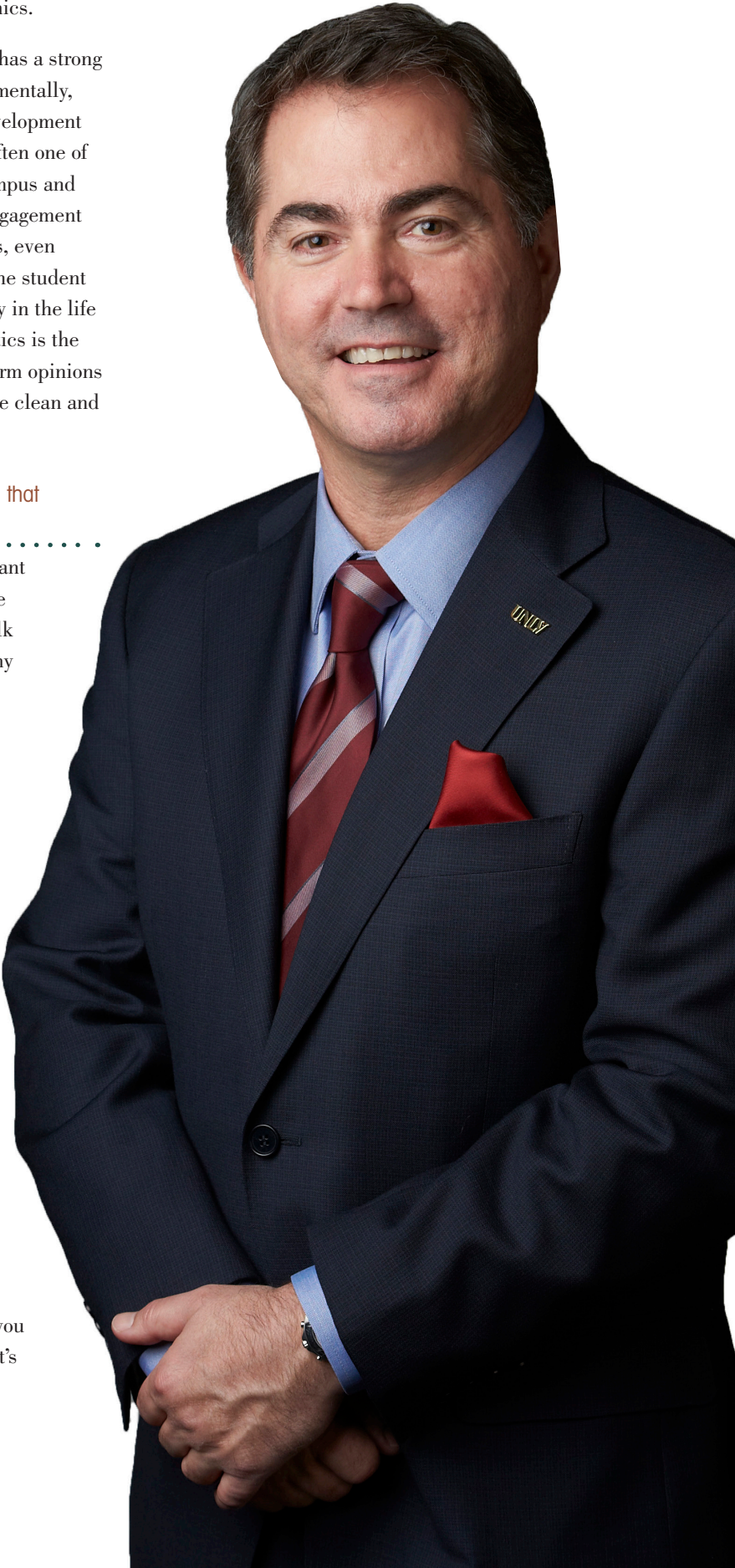
My family history is like that of a lot of immigrant families — and like the first-generation college students at UNLV now. There wasn’t a lot of talk about college around my house. I don’t think my dad stepped foot on a college campus until my graduation. To him, I was going off to junior college to play baseball. I thought the same thing, actually.

Once I figured out I wasn’t going to play professionally, I told my coach that I was going to get a business certificate. He told me no, I should go on for a bachelor’s degree. It was the first time anyone had counseled me to pursue my education. He saw something in me I didn’t see.

That same scenario played out again and again as I went on for a bachelor’s degree, and then an MBA, and then a Ph.D. I feel a responsibility not only to my family but also to everyone else who helped me along the way to now work in higher education and help this generation of students see the opportunities. I know what it’s like for higher education to lift you up from a place with limited options to one that’s wide open.

Read more about Len Jessup at: news.unlv.edu/article/qa-president-len-jessup.

“I know what it’s like for higher education to lift you up from a place with limited options to one that’s wide open.”





Support of UNLV makes an impact where it matters most — in the minds and hearts of students. Secondary education and math major Shelby McNeely is the first in her family to attend college. She is just one of dozens of students who will benefit from gifts to UNLV’s Fund-a-Scholar appeal, a new initiative of the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner.

View the 2014 Annual Dinner Photo Gallery at unlv.edu/foundation.

Giving Matters
WINNER OF
2014 Awards of Excellence
GOLD




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- ▶ Master of Philanthropy: Michael J. Gaughan. Profile, page 2
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Life Changing Design

What if you could use your mind to move physical objects through space?

This might be handy for illusionists and magicians, but a team of UNLV engineering students has successfully mastered thought control with a higher purpose in mind: giving non-ambulatory people who cannot use their hands the ability to start, stop, and navigate their wheelchairs.

The prototype electroencephalography (EEG) controlled wheelchair, conceived and designed by David Nguyen, Edgar Solorio, and Adam Wolverton, has the potential to change the life course of someone with disabilities. It was just one of 37 notable entries in the recent Fred and Harriet Cox Senior Design Competition. The program requires seniors in the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering to find real-life solutions to real-world challenges.

Since namesakes Fred and Harriet Cox began supporting the competition in 2002, hundreds of innovative products have been showcased — and thousands of engineering students have had the invaluable opportunity to put academic principles into practice.

Fred Cox, engineer, entrepreneur, and dedicated advocate for UNLV, passed away in August 2014. One of his last wishes was to ensure that the design competition would have the resources to continue in perpetuity. A \$3 million commitment from Fred and his wife recently created the Fred and Harriet Cox Endowed Senior Design Fund, allowing students to bring innovative ideas to life far into the future.

What mind-bending inventions the future holds may be unimaginable to many of us — but chances are, students at the College of Engineering are already working on it.