

Summer 2015

Giving Matters

UNLV Foundation

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Mindful Research

Chelcie Heaney will never forget how, when she was a child, her grandfather overcame a serious brain injury and beat the odds. It was a time when most medical authorities thought brain recovery was impossible.

“It made me realize how complex and how amazing the brain can be,” Heaney recalls. Now, with support from the Edward Lovinger Psychology Scholarship, the UNLV doctoral candidate is conducting critical brain research that explores the molecular basis of memory.

Heaney and other UNLV researchers in professor Jefferson W. Kinney’s behavioral neuroscience lab are looking for clues that will help them understand Alzheimer’s disease, schizophrenia, and depression. While focusing on a molecular scale, Heaney keeps the big picture in mind.

“It would be great if our research would contribute to a breakthrough treatment for these diseases,” she says. “Realistically, it’s one piece of a puzzle. But as it advances our understanding of how memory works, it is a step in the right direction.”

The scholarship was established in 2007 by Carol Lovinger in memory of her husband, Edward Lovinger, a pioneering professor of psychology at UNLV.

Healthy Outlook for New UNLV School of Medicine

SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE RAISES \$13.5 MILLION IN LESS THAN 60 DAYS

An unprecedented dose of community engagement — and donations — pushed the UNLV School of Medicine’s first fundraising campaign handily past its goal. Local community leaders, businesses, physician groups, and families committed \$13.5 million in gifts and pledges to fund scholarships. They raised more than twice the money originally targeted — and did it in less than two months. The campaign was bolstered by a \$10 million commitment from the Engelstad Family Foundation.

“The UNLV School of Medicine is one of the most important developments in the history of higher education for Southern Nevada,” says Kris Engelstad McGarry, Engelstad Family Foundation trustee.

Gifts from the medical school’s early supporters assure that the entire charter class of 60 students, as well as 25 students in each of the next three entering classes, will receive scholarships that cover their full tuition for four years. Each scholarship is estimated at \$100,000.

“The outpouring of support from the community is truly remarkable,” reflects Dr. Barbara Atkinson, planning dean of the UNLV School of Medicine. “It will help us recruit the best and the brightest students, which is critical for accreditation and for overall success.”

MORE AT: UNLV.EDU/MEDICALSCHOOL

“The outpouring of support from the community is truly remarkable”

Welcome from the Executive Director



Any time you need to be reassured that the future is in good hands, come to campus and spend time with a scholarship student. You'll see for yourself how, when given the opportunity, an eager mind — in combination with determination and a dream — can accomplish marvelous things.

Scholarships are catalysts for opportunity. It's often just a small financial boost that makes the difference between a student spending time focused on their studies, or working a night shift; between buying groceries, or textbooks; or between getting a diploma in four years, or seven. Scholarships can determine whether a student graduates in a sinkhole of debt, or starts a career on firm financial footing.

But as you'll read in these pages, scholarships add up to more than money. For students, they offer inspiration, recognition, and a personal challenge to work harder and aim higher. For UNLV, they provide the means to recruit brighter students, build academic capital, and even launch a medical school. Scholarships are a key component of UNLV's plan to become a top-ranked research university.

In the 2014-15 academic year, the UNLV Foundation received more than \$29.5 million in scholarship gifts and pledges from nearly 700 donors. This includes the outstanding sum of \$10 million from the Engelstad Family Foundation, and \$1 million each from the Bennett Family Foundation and Diana L. Bennett; as well as the largest contribution ever to the College of Education: a \$12.9 million gift from the estate of late philanthropist Kitty Rodman. It also includes an outpouring of donations of \$20.15 from graduating UNLV seniors. Large and small, scholarship gifts are making a difference to thousands of UNLV students, alumni, and families.

Thank you for supporting UNLV and for giving our students the opportunity to succeed.

Sincerely,

Nancy

Nancy H. Strouse
Executive Director, UNLV Foundation
Senior Associate Vice President for Development, UNLV

Made to Mentor

Freshmen in UNLV's Honors College will get a helping hand from upperclassmen, thanks to the recently created Bennett Honors Mentor Scholarship program. The unique program is just one component of a \$1 million gift from the Bennett Family Foundation that will enable the Honors College to recruit top academic talent and promote student success.

"The program will instantly deepen our sense of community, as mentors work to facilitate the success of entering students," says Honors College Dean Marta Meana. "There is a palpable excitement in juniors and seniors as they prepare to welcome the incoming class."

Over the next four years, the Bennett Honors Mentor Scholarship will be offered annually to 30 Honors College upperclassmen. Recipients of the \$5,000 scholarship will provide peer support to their first-year Honors College mentees.

In addition to the mentor program, The Bennett Family Honors Scholarship will provide a \$2,000 award to 12 deserving freshmen each year for the next four years.



Diana Bennett, President of the Bennett Family Foundation, at the 2015 UNLV Foundation Art of Scholarship Luncheon at the Barrick Museum

BY THE NUMBERS

UNLV Professor Emeritus Malcolm "Mac" Graham and his wife, Carolyn, know that education counts. Mac was one of 12 members, and the only mathematics professor, on the faculty of what in 1956 was called the Southern Regional Division of the University of Nevada, Reno — the predecessor of UNLV. Carolyn taught math in the Clark County School District for 28 years.

When the couple came to Las Vegas in the mid-1950's, Maryland Parkway was a dirt road; what would later become the UNLV campus was barren desert. Until Maude Frazier Hall opened in 1957, classes were held at a Baptist church and Las Vegas High School.

"It was a time of enthusiasm and optimism," Professor Graham reflects. "It was the first time Las Vegas had an institution of higher learning...and we felt like pioneers, going where no man had gone before."

Mac and Carolyn, now both long retired, are paving the way for others to forge new territory through higher education. They recently established the Malcolm and Carolyn L. Graham Scholarship to help students in UNLV's College of Sciences who otherwise would not have had the means to attend college. They also named the UNLV Foundation as a beneficiary of their estate, adding value to their gift — and multiplying the impact of their legacy.

READ MORE ABOUT THE GRAHAMS AT: [UNLV.EDU/NEWS-STORY/IT-ALL-ADDS](http://unlv.edu/news-story/it-all-adds)

New Scholarships 2014-15 Academic Year

- Alton and Mildred Willard Scholarship
- Andrée Reed Chemistry Scholarship
- Aramark Scholarship
- Back Bar USA Scholarship
- Benjamin William Sung Keun Misch Memorial Scholarship
- Bennett Family Honors Scholarship
- Carla F. Parker Scholarship
- Carol E. Martin Nursing Scholarship
- Children's Heart Center Nevada Scholarship
- Chris McNamee Memorial Scholarship
- Comprehensive Cancer Centers of Nevada Scholarship
- Diana L. Bennett Scholarship
- Don and Dee Snyder Scholarship
- Dr. John S. Werth Memorial Scholarship
- Edward and Shauna Smith Nursing Scholarship
- Edward J. and Maria Quirk Scholarship
- Engelstad Medical Scholars Scholarship
- Frank G. Jameson Scholarship
- Fred Cox Scholarship
- Fred D. "Pete" Gibson III Memorial Scholarship
- Gerald L. Higgins Scholarship
- Gregory T. and Dana Lee Scholarship
- Irene and Duncan R. Lee Scholarship
- Jerald and Deborah Dick Scholarship
- Jeri and Richard Crawford Scholarship
- Jessup Family Scholarship
- John C. Kish Scholarship
- John H. Midby Scholarship
- Joseph and Julie Murphy Scholarship
- Kathryn S. Priseler Memorial Nursing Scholarship
- Kay Dwyer Scholarship
- Kitty Rodman Special Education Scholarship
- Lee Business School Alumni Chapter Scholarship
- Malcolm and Carolyn L. Graham Scholarship
- Mark L. Fine Scholarship
- MGM Resorts International Academic Excellence Scholarship
- Michael and Renee Yackira Scholarship
- Petroni Family Scholarship
- Ralph S. Dippner Scholarship
- Robert and Paula Mendenhall Scholarship
- School of Medicine Community Scholarship
- The Investment Counsel Company Scholarship
- Thomas E. and Mary K. Gallagher Foundation Scholarship
- Tish M. Smyer Nursing Scholarship
- Tony and Renee Marlon Scholarship
- William G. and Genene Boldt Scholarship
- Women's Health Associates of Nevada Scholarship



Gifts to scholarship may be made online at: unlv.edu/foundation/give-online

Janeth Vasquez '15, Business – Marketing

CSUN Study Abroad Scholarship

CSUN Tom Weisner Academic Scholarship

“I am a soon-to-be UNLV graduate student, and I was able to see part of the world when I was studying abroad. The funds from my scholarship allowed me to accomplish that. I am now a more diverse and knowledgeable individual with a lot of opportunities at my door. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your financial help is absolutely invaluable.”



“Thank you”

Sharon Nakama '16

Music Education and Music Performance

Morelli Music Scholarship

“Thanks to my scholarship, I have been able to take more classes per semester, allowing me to graduate in four years instead of five.

I am also able to participate in many musical activities like the UNLV Wind Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Opera, Women's Chorus, and Marching Band. I am very grateful, and will do my best in school and in the future.”



Bradley Klemetson '17

Physical Therapy

UNLVPT Scholarship

“The scholarship took away a lot of the stress of being a new dad, and helped me to focus more on school. I really don't know how to express how grateful I am. I want to be a great physical therapist, so that I can make a difference in other people's lives.”

Caleb Green '15 Computer Science

Multicultural Engineering Scholarship

Phillip J. Cohen Scholarship

“Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! You don't know how much it means to me to have someone invest in me academically. I hope I can reciprocate one day by providing scholarships for future students.”



Collin Jayne '15 Law

Law School Scholarship

“I am a full-time law student with a family and an active community presence; my wife is in medical school. If we were both relying on student loans, we would be well over six figures in debt upon graduation. I probably wouldn't have been able to go to law school without this scholarship.”



Angelica Bustos '16 Biology

Station Casinos Family Scholarship

“Thank you so much for providing me with the tools to pursue my dream of becoming a pediatric dentist. I am a first-generation Filipino American and work hard to make my family proud. I truly can say I would not be in school without your help.”



SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOLARSHIPS EDITION

INSIDE

► FUNDRAISING RX

\$13.5 million in private gifts for School of Medicine scholarships includes a \$10 million pledge from the Engelstad Family Foundation - PAGE 1

► MADE TO MENTOR

UNLV's best and brightest (like the Honors College mentors pictured above) will benefit from a \$1 million gift scholarship gift from the Bennett Family Foundation – PAGE 2

Giving Matters

WINNER OF
2014 Awards of Excellence
GOLD



Ready, Set ...Smile

Fast-forward five years, and film major Garrett Wilson can't be sure that films, as we know them, will still exist. But that doesn't dissuade the Hixson-Lied Success Scholar and aspiring comedic screenwriter from pursuing his studies with passion.

"First and foremost, I want to tell stories," Wilson says. "Whether or not there are cineplexes around in my future doesn't matter — technology is certain to change, but there will always be an audience for good stories."

Wilson finds inspiration in philosophy, poetry, and classic literature. He also has been influenced by his participation in the Hixson-Lied Success Scholarship program, in which service to others is a core tenet — and where he serves as a peer mentor. He also hopes to give back to others through his writing.

"The world is a tough place to live," Wilson says. "A good laugh makes it easier."

