

Spring 2016

## Giving Matters

UNLV Foundation

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/giving\\_matters](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/giving_matters)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

UNLV Foundation (2016). Giving Matters. 1-4.

Available at: [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/giving\\_matters/1](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/giving_matters/1)

This Newsletter is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Newsletter in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Newsletter has been accepted for inclusion in Giving Matters by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact [digitalscholarship@unlv.edu](mailto:digitalscholarship@unlv.edu).

## Hospitality Hall Checks in to Campus

It's time to bid farewell to North Field and say hello to Hospitality Hall.

The William F. Harrah College of Administration broke ground on a new state-of-the-art building this spring. The 93,500-square-foot Hospitality Hall will provide students with the tools they'll need to make it in a rapidly changing hospitality industry.

The \$59 million project is made possible by private gifts, along with funding from the state of Nevada. Founder-level donors include Caesars Entertainment Foundation, Konami Gaming, Las Vegas Sands, MGM Resorts International, Boyd Gaming Corporation, Station Casinos, the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, and the Engelstad Family Foundation.

The cooperation among industry leaders — and competitors — is of particular interest to Melinda Stewart, a junior hospitality management major who spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony.

“New theories will be developed here; students are getting this unmatched experience — all because hospitality leaders are coming together to help us and help the hospitality workforce.”

Other donors include leaders Don and Dee Snyder, Southern Wine and Spirits of Nevada, and benefactors Robert L. Boughner and Cynthia Kiser Murphey.

Hospitality Hall will capture the essence of hospitality when it comes to design. With ample common areas, functions space, and study niches, the building will foster a spirit of collaboration among students and faculty. Classrooms and faculty offices will be located side by side to further encourage interaction.

In addition to modern, convertible classrooms, the new building will feature a first-rate executive kitchen, a student-run café, a PGA golf management learning center, and event space with a view of the Las Vegas Strip. All are designed to provide highly interactive learning opportunities.

The building is expected to be completed in 2018.

“I won't get to use it as a student, but I have sorority sisters that will,” Stewart says. “I'm a mentor in the Honors College, and I have mentees that will get to use it. I'm excited for them.”



Although hospitality major Melinda Stewart won't use Hospitality Hall as a student, she's excited by the possibilities afforded to the students she mentors. Here, Stewart stands in front of the future site of the new building.

*“Students are getting this unmatched experience — all because hospitality leaders are coming together ...”*

## UNLV School of Medicine Awarded \$3 Million

United Health Foundation grant will help improve access to care

According to the United Health Foundation's America's Health Rankings, Nevada ranks in the bottom-five states (47th) in the number of doctors per 100,000 people in nearly every medical specialty.

A new partnership between United Health Foundation and the UNLV School of Medicine will help shore up access to health care in Southern Nevada.

A \$3 million grant from the not-for-profit, private foundation, established by UnitedHealth Group in 1999, will support planning for three new community health clinics in high-Medicaid and underserved areas. The clinics will offer patients all basic specialties and also serve as training grounds for UNLV third-year medical students.

“We need to invest in fixing this physician shortage and help solve these pressing problems,” says Jack Larsen, executive vice president of OptumCare, a UnitedHealth Group platform.



School of Medicine founding dean Dr. Barbara Atkinson and OptumCare Executive Vice President Jack Larsen.

“This partnership with the UNLV School of Medicine underscores our commitment to increasing access to care in Southern Nevada through innovation, especially for Medicaid patients and the medically underserved,” adds Robert McBeath, M.D., president and CEO of Southwest Medical Associates, a part of OptumCare.

The grant will also support innovative educational

programs, including population health, bioethics, and hospitality in health care. These programs will be integrated into the medical school's Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships, a model under which third-year students spend an entire year taking care of patients in an outpatient clinic under the supervision of faculty physicians and other health professionals.

“We are very grateful to the entire UnitedHealth Group and United Health Foundation for their incredible support,” says UNLV School of Medicine founding dean Dr. Barbara Atkinson. “Our partnership will help advance clinical, education, and research solutions for Southern Nevada.”

The medical school is on track to begin accepting applications this fall and hopes to welcome its inaugural class in fall 2017, pending accreditation. The entire entering class will receive full four-year scholarships, thanks to private support from local businesses, physician groups, families, and community leaders.





Mary Healy publicity photo, 1939.

## Setting the Stage

\$1 million gift from late actress supports performing arts at UNLV

If Las Vegas is the Entertainment Capital of the World, then the late Mary Healy was entertainment royalty.

The longtime Las Vegas resident, who passed away in 2015, had a long-spanning Broadway and Hollywood career, much of which was spent performing with her husband and fellow entertainer Peter Lind Hayes. She appeared in musicals like *Around the World in 80 Days*, films such as *Miracle on 34th Street* and *Star Dust*, and TV shows like the revue series *Inside U.S.A. With Chevrolet*.

Another accomplishment to add to that impressive list: Healy created a million-dollar legacy at UNLV to support up-and-coming performers.

In 2006, Healy drafted a gift plan that included an outright \$500,000 gift to the College of Fine Arts for UNLV's Performing Arts Center and student development as well as an additional \$500,000 deferred gift through her estate. In recognition of her generosity, the gallery inside the Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall was named the Peter Lind Hayes and Mary Healy Gallery.

Being a major donor isn't the only leading role Healy has played at UNLV. In 2006, she was inducted into the university's Nevada Entertainer/Artist Hall of Fame. She was honored along with singer Wayne Newton and producer Fred Aparcar.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT LEAVING A LEGACY THROUGH A PLANNED GIFT TO UNLV:**  
**UNLV.EDU/FOUNDATION/PLANNEDGIVING**

## Charitable Giving Incentive Now Permanent

The IRA charitable rollover provision is now permanent. This allows people aged 70½ and over to donate up to \$100,000 to charities like the UNLV Foundation directly from their individual retirement accounts.

This distribution can satisfy all or part of minimum-distribution requirements. Even those who don't itemize tax deductions can realize a tax benefit.

Originally enacted in 2007 — but formerly subject to periodic renewal — the measure was signed into law in December 2015.

## Letter From the Executive Director

Dear friends,

Those of us in higher education have a special appreciation for the word “commencement.” It signifies the culmination of years of hard work and big expectations. It also carries the promise of more than a few toasts and celebrations. It's all of that ... but at its core, a commencement is truly, and literally, just the beginning.

I've been thinking about the complexities of commencements as I make my own major life transition. At the end of this academic year, as the class of 2016 leaves campus and begins life in the post-collegiate world, I'll also be leaving UNLV behind as I “commence” my life of retirement.

After 12 rewarding years at the UNLV Foundation, it's time for me to begin my next role as full-time grandmother to Gus, Marlow, Clyde, and Molly. As I reflect on my own childhood, memories of time spent under my grandmother's wing are my most precious. It's time for me to start creating those moments with my own grandchildren.

I leave you all in very capable, caring hands. My colleagues at UNLV and my “work family” at the Foundation are the most dedicated people I have ever known. And I take with me a huge sense of gratitude to all of you, our donors and volunteers.

Thank you for making an investment in the class of 2016 and in generations to follow. Because of you, I have every reason to believe that my grandchildren, and yours, will inhabit a brighter, more promising world.

*Nancy*

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

Strouse is pictured with Hixson-Lied Scholar Victoria Mitchell '16.  
Read her reflections: [unlv.edu/foundation/Strouse](http://unlv.edu/foundation/Strouse)



### 2016 UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner

## A Taste of History

Best-selling authors and presidential historians Michael Beschloss and Jon Meacham will be the keynote speakers of the 2016 UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner. Chef Sam Kass will design a menu inspired by his tenure as an assistant chef at the White House.

Beschloss is a historian specializing in American presidents and the author of nine books. Among his many readers are former Presidents Clinton and Bush. Meacham is the executive editor at Random House and author of the acclaimed *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* and his most recent release, *Destiny and Power: The American Odyssey of George Herbert Walker Bush*.

The UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner recognizes donors whose philanthropy has made a major impact on UNLV. This year's event will take place October 10 at Bellagio Resort.

**RESERVE YOUR TABLE: [UNLV.EDU/FOUNDATION/DINNER](http://UNLV.EDU/FOUNDATION/DINNER)**

POP QUIZ!

UNLV 101

Why are we proud of UNLV? Let us count the ways. **UNLV 101** is a publication that highlights 101 things you should know about the university. Take this quiz to test your UNLV knowledge. Then read about these and 96 other points of pride at [unlv.edu/about/101](http://unlv.edu/about/101).

- UNLV's Latin Jazz Ensemble won the \_\_\_\_\_top Student Music Award for Latin Group in a 2015 worldwide competition. The publication has honored UNLV student musicians eight times since 2010.
- UNLV was ranked second on the *US News & World Report* list for “best \_\_\_\_\_” on campus.
- UNLV has one of the top-five university supercomputing centers in the country, thanks to the generosity of Switch, Cisco, and Intel. The Cherry Creek supercomputer can process in one day what would take the average PC \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thanks to an outpouring of community support, including a \$10 million pledge from the Engelstad Family Foundation, the entire inaugural class of the UNLV School of Medicine will receive \_\_\_\_\_.
- A record-breaking 56 student athletes received the \_\_\_\_\_ Scholar-Athlete Award in 2015. Student athletes must maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher over two academic terms to be eligible.

Answers: 1) *DownBeat* magazine, 2) ethnic diversity, 3) 20 years, 4) four-year scholarships, 5) Mountain West Conference



# New Baseball Clubhouse’s Amenities Swing for the Fences



Clubhouse namesake Anthony Marnell (in red polo) with UNLV Baseball’s Dean Kremer, Andrew Encinas, and DJ Myers.

Being in Las Vegas, it’s only fitting for UNLV Baseball’s new clubhouse to be a five-star affair.

The \$2.75 million Anthony and Lyndy Marnell III Baseball Clubhouse packs a lot into its two stories and 10,000 square feet. Amenities like study and rest areas, the Dennis and Carol Troesh Players’ Locker Room, and the Dan and Leta Orr Viewing Terrace are not only great resources for players but are also valuable assets for recruitment.

“Baseball is part of Las Vegas culture,” said clubhouse namesake Anthony Marnell III, who played baseball at the collegiate level himself and spoke at the facility’s ribbon-cutting ceremony in March.

“For hundreds — maybe thousands — of local kids, getting to play baseball is their way into getting an education.”

The building will aid players in their academic and athletic pursuits alike. In addition to the spacious locker room, which was designed by Marnell Architecture, the team has access to a players’ lounge and study room. The lounge-style second-floor viewing terrace offers a great view of the field and the Las Vegas Strip beyond.

“Having this facility makes us all work hard every day,” says pitcher D.J. Myers.

Fellow pitcher Andrew Encinas adds: “It’s already become our home. It brings us closer together.”

The clubhouse’s offerings will be enhanced in the coming months with the addition of a weight room and batting cage. Former player Ace Bedich, ’99 provided the landscaping, sprinkler lines, and a custom “UNLV” sidewalk.

With Anthony and Lyndy Marnell III taking the lead, the new clubhouse will be funded entirely through private gifts, pending approval by the NSHE Board of Regents. Other founding donors include Jay Brown, Greg Herlean, Dennis and Carol Troesh, and Mel Wolzinger.

“Protect it — take care of it,” Anthony told the players. “Use it to bring the team together.”

# A New Era for Iconic Thomas & Mack Center



This rendering highlights the Thomas & Mack Center’s Las Vegas Strip-facing addition.

The story goes that a cabbie, driving past the Thomas & Mack Center some years back, explained to his riders that the venue was named for two of UNLV’s star basketball players. But his passengers that day knew better. They happened to be Parry Thomas and Jerry Mack.

Arena namesakes E. Parry Thomas and Jerome D. Mack made their mark in business, not on the court. As bankers and business partners in the 1960s, they spearheaded an effort that added 400 acres to UNLV’s original campus. And in the 1980s, they jump-started funding for a new home for Runnin’ Rebels basketball.

When it opened in 1983, the multipurpose entertainment venue was named in their honor. The Thomas & Mack Center has been a Las Vegas icon ever since.

“Our fathers were pretty smart guys,” says Tom Thomas, managing director of the Thomas & Mack Company and Parry Thomas’ son. “I grew up hearing over and over that the success of Las Vegas depended as much on UNLV as it did on the success of gaming, real estate, and banking. They knew the impact that a new arena would have — not only on the university but also on the economy.”

“Our fathers were pretty smart guys.”

“Today, everyone who grows up in this community has personal memories of events that took place in the Thomas & Mack,” adds Joyce Mack, who moved to Las Vegas with her husband Jerry more than 65 years ago. Jerry passed away in 1998. “Jerry knew that regardless of his other contributions to this community — and there were many — his and Parry’s legacy would be the Thomas & Mack.”

Like the campus surrounding it, the Thomas & Mack Center is changing with the times.

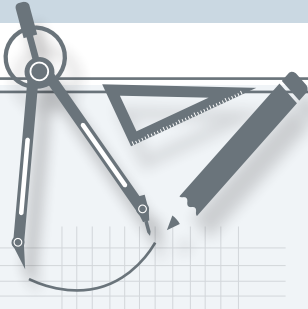
The arena is currently undergoing a \$72.5 million renovation. It is supported by the Thomas and Mack families and funded by a mix of private and state funds.

The first phase of construction was completed late last year and includes usability upgrades, like new escalators and elevators, ADA improvements, new concession stands, 18,000 brand-new seats, and an improved sound system.

By the time it hosts the final presidential debate of the 2016 election season on October 19, the Thomas & Mack Center will have a 35,000-square-foot addition with meeting space and a balcony view of the Las Vegas Strip. In addition, a new antenna system will improve cellphone reception in the arena. Better connectivity means that all those epic basketball plays and only-in-Vegas concert moments will be shared with the world faster than ever.

One thing that isn’t changing: the Thomas and Mack families’ continued support of the Rebels, the venue, and UNLV.

## On the Drawing Board



- Work on UNLV’s **U District** is under way. The Midby Companies project will bring new and renovated student housing to the north end of campus, with renovated units (dubbed Legacy IV) available for occupancy as early as fall 2016 and new units (The Degree) in fall 2017. Amenities will include a fitness center, study rooms, as well as media and social lounges.
- UNLV’s entry in the Department of Energys 2017 **Solar Decathlon** contest will be an accessible “age in place” concept. UNLV placed first among U.S. universities in 2013 with DesertSol, an innovative solar-powered home.

Read more: [unlv.edu/engineering/solar-decathlon](http://unlv.edu/engineering/solar-decathlon)





**UNLV** | FOUNDATION  
4505 S. Maryland Parkway • Box 451006 • Las Vegas, NV 89154-1006

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LAS VEGAS, NV  
PERMIT NO. 1622

▲ **Dylan and Dakota Gonzales**  
are stars on the court and on the web. The twin Lady Rebs have more than 1.5 million followers on Instagram, attracting new fans to the team, like rapper Drake, who attended their season opener.

Learn even more Rebel trivia while testing your knowledge with our UNLV 101 pop quiz inside.

## Giving Matters

WINNER OF  
2014 Awards of Excellence  
GOLD



## INSIDE:

- A "HOSPITABLE" WELCOME
- \$3M GRANT BOLSTERS MED SCHOOL
- UNLV CONSTRUCTS ITS FUTURE
- 2016 ANNUAL DINNER: A TASTE OF HISTORY

## RAISING HOPE

Like most high school students preparing for college, Matthew Perry and Theresa Butler (pictured) have a lot on their plates: Studying. Extracurricular activities. Applications. Financial aid.

But Butler and Perry have another pressing concern ahead of going to college: Both are living on their own — and homeless.

“Ever since the day my grandmother left, I’ve been sleeping at random friends’ houses, just trying to find a place to stay,” says Perry, whose mother left him when he was in 10th grade, followed by his grandmother a year later. “I go to work until late at night, I try to hurry up and get home to do homework, and try to get the best grades I can.”

Unfortunately, there are many stories like theirs in Clark County. There are approximately 12,000 unaccompanied or homeless youth in the area, about 700 of whom are high school seniors. Even when students graduate and are eligible to attend college in the fall, the interim summer can be uncertain, as these students have no place to live and no way to prepare for college.

The UNLV HOPE Scholars Program is helping. A partnership between Clark County School District and UNLV, the program assists unaccompanied homeless students like Perry and Butler secure housing and academic and financial support. The program allows students to move to campus in June after high school graduation. It then assists students with employment and provides academic support so that students are ready for fall classes.

To help continue that support, the program is counting on RebelRaiser, an online crowdfunding site recently launched by the UNLV Foundation. Using a model made popular by sites like Kickstarter and GoFundMe, RebelRaiser is designed to harness the power of large numbers of people to support worthy projects through many individual gifts. Donors make small or large contributions toward a project’s goal and are encouraged to share the project through email and social media. The idea is that multiple donations can have a larger but more targeted impact than one larger donation.

RebelRaiser has already helped UNLV Dance students attend the 28th annual International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference in Denver, funded a digital storytelling collection at UNLV Libraries, and more. Now the UNLV HOPE Scholars Program is using the site to rally support for homeless students. Its immediate goal is to fund room and board for one or more scholars for one year.

“I got help getting into UNLV, getting my FAFSA done without worrying about where I’m going to live and if I’m going to get kicked out of my house the next day,” says Butler, who added that she moved in with friends while her mother faced addiction issues. “HOPE relieved that stress so I could focus on my dreams — and focus on the things that matter.”

**MAKE A GIFT TO THE HOPE SCHOLARS PROGRAM AND VIEW OTHER PROJECTS: [REBELRAISER.UNLV.EDU](https://rebelraiser.unlv.edu)**



Theresa Butler appears in a video explaining the HOPE Scholars Program on RebelRaiser.