

Spring 2012

Inspiring Achievements

UNLV Foundation

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'EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY' PHILIP J. COHEN SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS LAUNCHED

UNLV senior Cheryl Johnston has a big heart and high aspirations. The adoptive mother of eight children, seven of whom have special needs, received a degree in social sciences this spring thanks to a scholarship made possible through the estate of Philip J. Cohen. Mr. Cohen's gift will fund more than 40 full scholarships a year for students such as Cheryl, who prove themselves deserving of support but may not qualify based solely on need or grades.

"I can only describe this gift as a show of extravagant generosity," says Johnston, a member of the inaugural class of Philip J. Cohen Scholars at UNLV and an aspiring social worker who will be applying her skills and compassion toward helping the elderly. The Philip J. Cohen Scholars Program is funded through an endowment that currently sits at \$7 million. Over time, it has the potential to become one of the largest gifts for higher education scholarships in Nevada.

A gaming and real estate executive who passed away in 2010, Cohen embodied the spirit of Las Vegas, according to his niece Joan Rudick. Growing up poor in Baltimore, he left school after the 8th grade but never abandoned his love for education.



Philip J. Cohen's life was a "real American success story"



Philip J. Cohen Scholars Brian Unguren (seated) and Han Choi

After staking his success in Southern Nevada, Cohen took night courses at UNLV where he earned almost enough credits to receive an undergraduate degree. "He loved the Runnin' Rebels and he loved UNLV," Rudick recalls. "My uncle was a real American success story. And now that story will continue through the Philip J. Cohen Scholars. There will be many more successes."

One of those success stories is being realized by Cohen Scholar Han Choi, a student majoring in pre-professional biology. Describing himself as the son of traditional Korean parents who work long hours in their small business, Choi says the scholarship is both a great relief and an honor. The financial boost takes a lot of pressure off his family to pay for his education—and, he adds, it provides a level of prestige usually

associated with great athletes or geniuses. Choi is grateful for the vote of confidence. "Each of us in the Cohen Scholars Program has a different agenda," he says, "but each of our agendas includes giving back to the community."

Fellow Scholar Brian Unguren, a young father who graduated with a degree in English in May and will be entering law school this fall, also acknowledges the impact this gift will make on the community.

"Most people think that the greatest opportunities for Las Vegas are on the Strip," Unguren says. "Mr. Cohen recognized that the real opportunity is a few miles to the east—on the UNLV campus. That's where the future of Las Vegas is really being determined."

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,

Big ideas are being discussed around campus these days, and it is exciting to be refocusing on the big picture. Part of the impetus for taking the long view is the reimagining of the UNLV master plan, a strategic document that, according to NSHE Board of Regents policy, should be reevaluated and updated about every ten years. This presents a great opportunity to realize our vision of adding richness to student life, both in and outside of the classroom.

The master plan sets a blueprint for the university's growth, consistent with its academic mission and its vision for campus life. Implementation of UNLV's last master plan, initiated in 2002-2003 and finalized in 2004, has changed the face of campus. New facilities— Greenspun Hall, the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, Student Union, and Science and Engineering Building, have already become landmarks. The Mendenhall Center celebrated its opening early this year [see page 4 to discover how you can become part of its legacy]. And

looking forward, the opportunity to house a mega-event center on campus is being carefully explored to discover how this potentially game-changing facility might be incorporated into UNLV's new overall plan.

Two characteristics of any successful strategy are flexibility and consensus. In the months ahead, stay tuned for information about UNLV master planning open houses where we'll be sharing some of our new ideas and seeking your input. Thank you for helping to shape Nevada's future through your support of UNLV.

Sincerely,

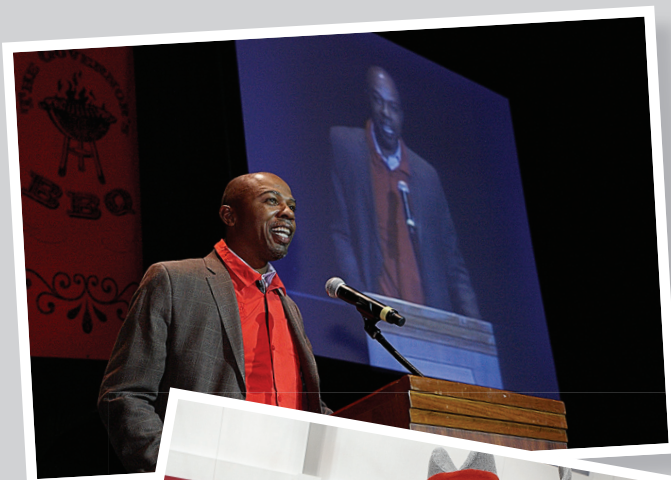
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy H. Strouse".

Nancy H. Strouse

Executive Director, UNLV Foundation

Senior Associate Vice President for Development

UNLV GOVERNOR'S BARBEQUE SERVES UP SUMMER FUNDS



While some of us are hitting the beaches and backyards this summer, a select group of Rebel athletes will be hitting the books. Thanks to the 500+ people who attended the UNLV Governor's Barbeque this past January, more than \$20,000 was raised for Rebel Athletics and is being used to fund summer scholarship programs for UNLV student-athletes. After dedicating the Mendenhall Center basketball practice facility in the afternoon, Governor Brian Sandoval greeted Hey Reb, UNLV Athletic Director Jim Livengood, and more than 500 Rebel fans at the barbeque. CBS Sportscaster (and Dave Rice's Runnin' Rebel teammate) Greg Anthony shared stories of his life on court and in front of the camera.



PRESIDENT OR PRINCESS?

Anything's Possible

Ann Marie Frappier's career is ready for blast off. A 2012 Outstanding Graduate of UNLV with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, Ann Marie is headed to the U.S. Naval Weapons Air Station at China Lake, CA. There she will join a team of engineers charged with designing and developing the next generation of naval artillery and unmanned aerial vehicles.

While at UNLV, Ann Marie exemplified the university's growing reputation for undergraduate research success. A mechanical engineering major, math minor, and member of the Honors College, she graduated in May with a 3.84 GPA. She interned in the Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium, and earned a host of scholarships: the nationally competitive Science, Mathematics & Research for Transformation scholarship, the Stan Fulton Honors Scholarship, and Phi Kappa Phi Emerging Scholar Award. She also was selected to be the guest student speaker at the UNLV Foundation Scholarship Recognition Luncheon this spring.

As she packs for the move to California, she took a few minutes to talk with us about herself and her UNLV experience.



When you look back on your UNLV experience 20 years from now, what will your most indelible memory be?

I am a sister of Alpha Xi Delta. Twenty years from now I still will be a sister of Alpha Xi Delta. This sorority has captured my heart.

Who are your heroes?

My heroes have always been my mom and two older sisters. From these women I have learned so much and am eternally grateful for their continual wisdom and support.

My hidden talent is:

....the right hemisphere of my brain. Most people don't expect an engineer to be artistic, musically talented, and overtly social but these qualities are actually a few of my best!

I never leave home without:

....my cell phone (I don't think anyone does nowadays) but second to that are my aviators (a.k.a. my stunna shades). One thing about me is that I absolutely love fashion!

What would your new neighbors in China Lake be surprised to learn about you?

(blush) Embarrassing as a mechanical engineer, but I have no clue how to hook up a full entertainment system for a living room. I've never had to do it before, so it should be an adventure!

When you were in kindergarten, how did you answer, "What do you want to be when you grow up"?

(laugh) I actually went through a couple variations of what I wanted to be. They were interior designer, journalist, banker, lawyer, pilot, and, well... President of the United States of America. (chuckles) I guess I have always been ambitious!

If you could live anywhere at any time in history, where and when would it be?

France. I am obsessed with that country and culture. Also, I would choose the medieval era. I still have this fantasy that I AM a princess!

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS 2011-12

Endowed Scholarships

Karsten T. Bronken Memorial Scholarship
Barbara Cloud Memorial Scholarship
David W. Emerson Scholarship
Richard E. Flaherty and Jim Swayze Scholarship
Mary Guinan & Shawn Gerstenberger

Public Health Scholarship
Milton Glick Memorial Scholarship
Samuel A. & Jean V. Gullo Scholarship
Hank Kovell Scholarship
Lee Scholars Fund

Barbara Williams-Rollings & Willard Rollings Scholarship-Law
Willard Rollings & Barbara Williams-Rollings Scholarship-History
St. Rose Dominican Hospitals Scholarship

Annual Named Scholarships

Aristocrat Technologies Scholarship
Cecilia Avila Scholarship
Dr. Bea Babbitt Scholarship in Education
Hilary Haines Bockstanz Scholarship
Philip J. Cohen Scholars Program
Tony Ferri Memorial Scholarship

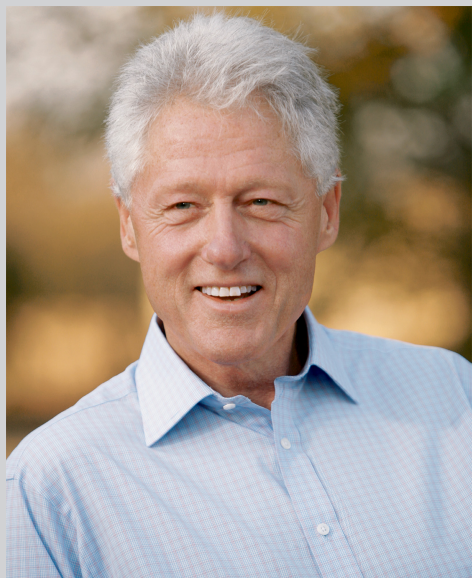
Gilman and Bartlett Engineering Scholarship
Professor M N. Jan, Chemistry Scholarship
Dr. Christopher & Wendy Kelly Scholarship in Education
Konami Gaming, Inc. Scholarship for Computer Science
Lewis Family Honors Scholarship

Alice A. Merrill Scholarship
NSTec Engineering Fellowship
Leta M. Orr Scholarship
Dennis Waibel Memorial Scholarship
Wells Fargo Advisors Summerlin Music Scholarship

Giving Across Campus

Save the Date

UNLV Foundation
Annual Dinner
October 9, 2012



President Bill Clinton
Keynote Speaker

Embracing Our Common Humanity

President Bill Clinton will be the keynote speaker at the UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 at Bellagio Resort. President Clinton served the United States for eight years during a time of unprecedented prosperity and change. Now, President Clinton is a powerful voice for progress around the world as he shares his unique insights and observations. President Clinton's public speeches describe the challenge of globalization, emphasize our growing interdependence, and point the way toward a common future based on shared goals and values.

The UNLV Foundation Annual Dinner honors philanthropists whose contributions have made significant impacts on UNLV. This year's honorees include Bob Boughner; Caesars Foundation and Caesars Entertainment; and the Lee family: Theodore, Doris, Greg, Dana and Ernest. Guest chef Alex Stratta will host the VIP reception. Information about reservations may be found at:

foundation.unlv.edu/dinner2012 or 702-895-0999

TILE TIME:

Leave Your Runnin' Rebel Legacy

If you've ever wondered about how to leave a legacy in stone, here's a chance you won't want to miss: seeing your name engraved on the outside wall of UNLV's new Mendenhall Center basketball practice facility. While space remains, you can personalize a Legacy Tile and have the added satisfaction of knowing that 100% of your donation supports the Rebel Athletic Fund. And, why order just one? Rebel loyalist Russ Dorn has dibs on ten tiles, honoring fellow fans including his parents, friends, and community mentors. Tiles, priced at \$500 and \$1,000, can be ordered online at http://unlvraf.com/campaigns_legacy_tile.php or by calling Derek Gossler at 702-895-1223.

Reaching out to Ed Outreach



UNLV Alumni Relations is reaching out to the thousands of students who have participated in UNLV Educational Outreach and Continuing Education programs, inviting them to become Alumni Association members. At a recent get-together celebrating the accomplishments of Ed Outreach certificate program graduates, Azmun Khan became the first to join. She recently received a certificate in paralegal studies from UNLV.



DESIGNED TO WIN

Students from the UNLV Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering put their education to the test at the Fred and Harriet Cox Spring 2012 Senior Design Competition. Forty-three teams showcased commercially viable inventions and innovations designed to solve everyday challenges. Among the entries were 17 new smart-phone apps, a self-stirring stove, a solar medical equipment sterilizer, a sequential banana ripening box, and more, including the first entries representing the Entertainment Engineering and Design program.

The Grand Prize went to the Retrofit Hybrid Solution, a plug-in electric automobile motor that would save about \$3,000 in gas costs during the first year and roughly \$17,000 over the seven-year life cycle of a battery. Seniors Jeremy Feliciano, Derek Joiner, and Richard Ryan from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering shared grand prize honors. In addition to ongoing support from Fred and Harriet Cox, sponsors Dominic Anthony Marrocco, Bally Technologies, Cirque du Soleil, JT3, NV Energy, Switch, and Zappos.com provided thousands of dollars in prize money.

*Competition namesake and patron
Fred Cox with Richard Ryan*

SOLAR-POWERED TRIUMPH

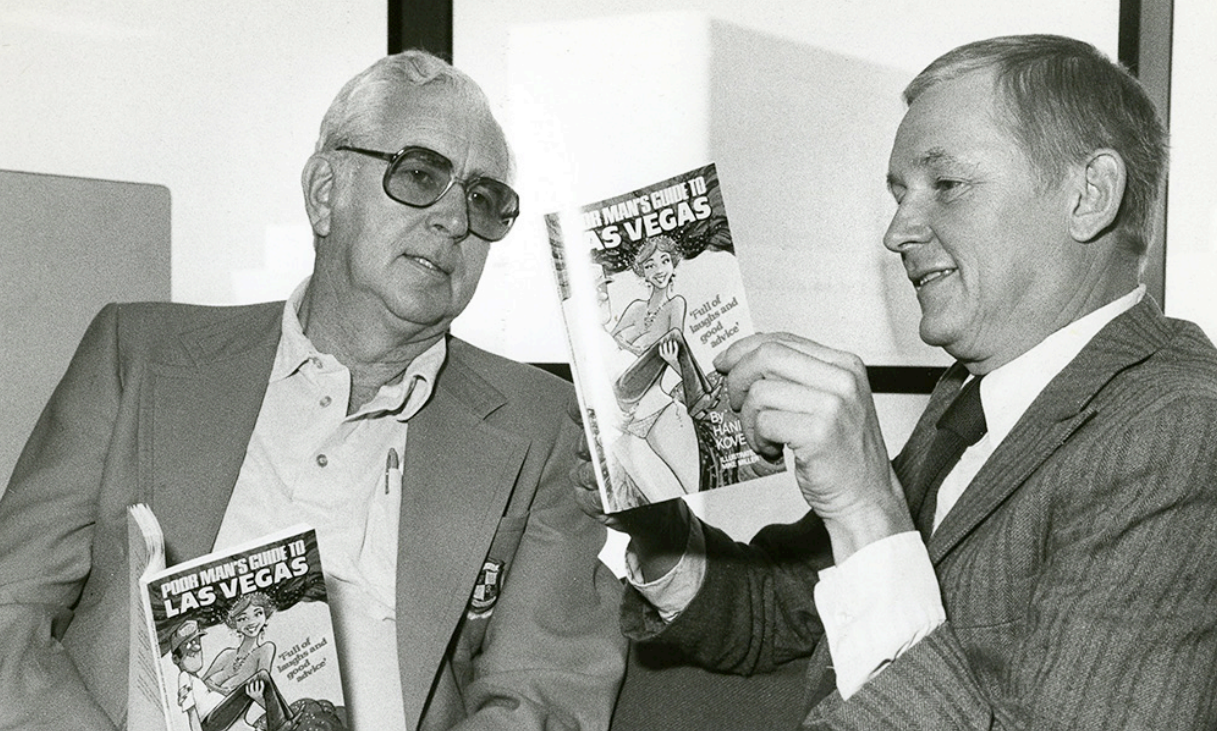
In our last issue of Inspiring Achievements, we introduced UNLV's Solar Decathlon team, an interdisciplinary group of students from architecture, engineering, business, and communications vying for one of 20 finalist spots in the U. S. Department of Energy's 2013 Solar Decathlon competition. We are happy to follow-up with the news that Team Las Vegas has been selected to compete in this elite international competition, which takes place in Irvine, CA in 2013. The project will be integrated into various programs

at UNLV, including the Solar and Renewable Energy Minor and Renewable Energy Graduate Certificates (both supported by NV Energy), the David G. Howryla Design-Build Laboratory (supported by Mr. Howryla and the Marnell Foundation), the Mendenhall Innovation Center (supported by the Mendenhall family), and the Engineering Senior Design courses (supported by Fred and Harriet Cox). For information about how to support our team, contact Anne Mulloy at anne.mulloy@unlv.edu.



THE GIFT OF GELEGENHEIT

The German word for opportunity is Gelegenheit...and in any language, opportunity is at the core of a newly endowed scholarship that honors the service of Honorary German Consul Emerita Sigrid Sommer. Ms. Sommer, who served as Honorary Consul of Germany in Las Vegas for 20 years, comes from a distinguished family of German diplomats and journalists. Her support of the arts and business has made her name synonymous with German-American friendship at UNLV and in the community. **The Sigrid Sommer Scholarship** will allow students to advance their study of the German language at UNLV's partner site in Lüneburg, Germany.



Hank Kovell (left) presents a copy of his book “Poor Man’s Guide to Las Vegas” to UNLV Libraries’ Hal Erickson, ca. 1981

MAKING HEADLINES

GIFT COMMEMORATING PR LEGEND MAKES NEWS AT UNLV

When Hank Kovell accepted his first public relations job in Las Vegas in 1955, it was with one condition: he would give it three months, and then return to California. With that in mind, he came to Las Vegas to kick off the opening of the now legendary Moulin Rouge Casino, the city’s first racially integrated showroom and hotel. Instead of three months, Mr. Kovell ended up spending the next 30 years working in Las Vegas, securing a name for himself as a key public relations pioneer in the city he came to love.

Now, thanks to a gift to UNLV from a lifelong friend, Kovell’s name will live in perpetuity through the establishment of the Hank Kovell Scholarship Endowment, a fund to benefit journalism and integrated marketing (public relations) students at the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs. “When Hank passed away, I asked myself, ‘what would he like to have done?’” explains Robert Vinson, who established the endowment to honor Kovell’s achievements. “He would feel good about supporting a journalism school in Las Vegas.”

After the Moulin Rouge closed, Kovell went on to work as a publicist and advertising director for the Fremont Hotel and others. Among the more notable clients early in his career were the then-teenaged Newton Brothers, Wayne and Jerry. Later Kovell ran a successful advertising agency, and contributed to almost every major civic and charitable organization in Southern Nevada. He served two terms as president of the Las Vegas Press Club and founded the Public Relations Association of Las Vegas in 1972.

“Hank was in love with this community,” says Jim Seagrave, vice president of advertising for Boyd Gaming, who was hired and mentored by Kovell in the 1960s. “He was at the core of a group of very skilled publicists and hotel executives who made this city explode. The bigger Las Vegas got, the happier he would be.”

An ardent world traveler, Kovell authored “Poor Man’s Guide to Las Vegas” and, when he retired and finally moved back to California, penned the popular syndicated column “The Mature Traveler.” The feature ran in the Los Angeles Times for 17 years.

Mary Hausch, associate professor of journalism in the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs, knew Kovell when she was managing editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. “Hank would light up a room,” she recalls. “This scholarship will keep Hank’s memory alive for generations of students. They will be inspired by knowing that someone cared enough about them to help them on their paths to becoming professionals themselves.” One of those students is Irene Lopez, the first in her family to graduate from college, who will earn a master’s degree in Journalism and Media Studies in fall 2012. “I feel very lucky and privileged to be the recipient of the Kovell Scholarship,” she acknowledges. “In an age when anybody can blog, the role of the professional, credentialed journalist is more valuable than ever before.”



“
I feel very
lucky and
privileged.
”

**Hank Kovell Scholarship
recipient Irene Lopez**

EVERY GIFT COUNTS!

23

That's 23 million—the number of dollars of private funds raised so far this fiscal year by the UNLV Foundation. These gifts support scholarships, academic programs, campus facilities, faculty research, student services, and more. Donations of all amounts make an impact.

16

The Rebel Ring Phonathon reaches out to thousands of parents, alumni, and friends to offer them an opportunity to support UNLV. There are 16 Rebel Ringers—committed UNLV student callers who help generate unrestricted annual fund dollars used to strengthen all areas of campus life.



4325

All types of donors support UNLV, but the largest group to do so is alumni. 4,325 alumni made gifts to UNLV this fiscal year. By giving back, alumni help ensure that the best resources are available for current and future students.



1500

More than 1,500 UNLV students receive financial awards from privately funded UNLV scholarships each year. This philanthropic support from individuals and organizations is vital to making a college degree affordable and allows UNLV to attract and retain the best students.



126.5

A strong endowment is a sign of a strong institution. The UNLV Foundation Endowment Fund grew to more than \$126.5 million this year. The anticipated amount available for distribution in Fiscal Year 2013 (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) is up 35.8% over the previous fiscal year—a good sign, indeed! (Please note that distributions are based on the fair market value of the fund at the end of the fiscal year as determined by the rolling average of the previous twelve quarters.)

8181

...and counting. That's the number of donors who have made gifts to UNLV so far in Fiscal Year 2012. If you haven't yet made a gift and would like to be part of the roster, please visit: foundation.unlv.edu/give or call: 702-895-3641. Or, checks payable to "UNLV Foundation" may be mailed to: UNLV Foundation, Box 451006, 4504 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, NV 89154-1006. Thank you.



PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

GUEST CHEF ALEX STRATTA
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012
DETAILS INSIDE, PAGE 5

UNLV FOUNDATION

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Master's degree candidate Irene Lopez is just one of more than 1500 UNLV students whose lives are being transformed by gifts of scholarship. Read her story, and that of the donor who is helping her make headlines, inside on *page 6*.