Giving Matters

D o n o r s  M a k i n g  a  D i f f e r e n c e

F A L L  2 0 1 8

The program is making a huge impact not only in the lives of the 170-plus UNLV students who have received its support so far, but to thousands of people touched by its growing network of non-profit partners. The program originated with just four non-profit placement sites for its scholars; today, 24 local organizations and their clients will benefit from partnerships with the Engelstad Scholars Program.

For Sagun, an Honors College senior who plans to become a pediatrician in Las Vegas, volunteering with elementary school students at Democracy Prep at the Agassi Campus was profound.

"I worked with kids in need to help them believe that they can go to college one day – it’s an option some of them didn’t know they have.

“When I started in the program, I was super shy and anxious in social situations. Being an Engelstad Scholar taught me to come out of my shell and look for opportunities to help others.”

CONNECTIONS

Reaching Beyond the Classroom

Engelstad Scholars give back 32,000 hours of service to the community

It gives you broader perspective.
That’s what this program is all about: Helping you to look outside of yourself.

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Campus Marks

2018-2019 Milestones

30,000 STUDENTS
119,587 ALUMNI

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

50 COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
30 HOWARD R. HUGHES COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
20 WILLIAM S. BOYD SCHOOL OF LAW
10 ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

We couldn’t have reached this point in our history nor could we aspire to reach greater heights without this incredible community.

UNLV President Marta Meana
What is your connection to UNLV?

UNLV has been a major part of my life since I came here as a freshman in 1973. While in college, I was a student senator, president of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, and chairman of the Student Union Board. After graduating, I served on the UNLV Alumni Board for 11 years and served as the Alumni Board President from 1991-1993. Now it is my honor to be the chair of the UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees.

What difference can UNLV make to Las Vegas?

When I was growing up, Las Vegas was known as "recession proof," but that is obviously not the case anymore. The Great Recession devastated us. While we are fortunate to have the best hospitality industry in the world in our back yard, we absolutely have to diversify our economy. UNLV will have to be at the center of those efforts through research and by building an educated workforce to attract new and diverse companies to Southern Nevada.

LEADERSHIP
Meet Greg McKinley ’80

The UNLV Foundation Board of Trustees welcomed Greg McKinley as its new chairman July 1. McKinley is chief executive officer of Cragin & Pike, Nevada’s longest established insurance agency. He received his B.S. in accounting from Lee Business School and in 1994 was named UNLV Alumnus of the Year.

I love the fact that since UNLV is still a young university, we have the opportunity to build something special together. We have a highly ranked law school and a brand new medical school – those were not even dreamed of when I was a student – and we have the top-ranked hospitality school in the world. The list of our strengths goes on and on. We live in a community where visionaries have built the impossible, and those same individuals are passionate about this university.

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HONORS
A New Class of Philanthropists

This fall, UNLV welcomes eight new honorees to the Palladium Society, the university’s highest recognition level for supporters who have donated $1 million or more. This year’s celebrated philanthropists represent a wide variety of passions, and their impact reaches across campus.

Thank you to our 2018 Palladium Society honorees:

Barrick

Barrick is the world’s leading gold producer. Since 1989, Barrick has supported UNLV Athletics and the Colleges of Science, Business, and Engineering. Their largest gift supported a senior fellow in Climate Adaptation and Environmental Change at Brookings Mountain West.

The Dunn Family Foundation

The Foundation, founded by school teachers Lloyd and Lois M. Dunn, established the Dunn Family Chair in Educational Assessment in UNLV’s College of Education in 2017. The Chair will support development of educational assessment tools and research.

Edward D. Smith

Edward Smith donated the Maurice Jackson Smith Pipe Organ to UNLV in memory of his late wife, Maurine. In 2004, he and his wife Shamina created the Edward & Shamina Smith Nursing Scholarship in tribute to Shamina’s nursing career. It now funds 70+ scholarships.

The Huntsman Foundation

Founded by Jon and Karen Huntsman, the Foundation established the Harry Reid Endowed Chair in the History of the Intermountain West. The Chair honors the legacy of the Honorable Senator Harry Reid, reflecting his love of history and service to the region.

Marilyn & Mel Larson

Marilyn Larson established the Mel Larson Endowed Chair in Marketing at Lee Business School to honor her late husband. The gift will encourage innovation in marketing education and promote Lee Business School as a leader in marketing research.

Gloria & Mark Fine

Gloria and Mark Fine, with Mayor Carolyn and Oscar Goodman, established a scholarship in UNLV’s School of Medicine. Mark Fine has been a UNLV Foundation trustee since 1985. A landmark donation in 2017 helped expand the medical school campus.

J. Willard & Alice S. Marriott Foundation

Since 1997, the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation has been creating hospitality leaders through its support of the William F. Harrah College of Hospitality. They are a founding donor of Hospitality Hall and namesakes of its state-of-the-art Marriott Executive Kitchen.

Flora & Stuart Mason

In 2006, UNLV alumnus and former English faculty member Flora Mason and her late husband, Stuart, established the Mason Undergraduate Peer Research Coach program at University Libraries. The program builds academic and life skills for at-risk students.

The Palladium Award is designed and created by local art glass studio Domsky Glass.
**Scholarships Generate Gender Research**

How do children raised by male caregivers view men and women?

The birth of a first child is life changing. For Chee Lim, it not only set him on the path of new parenthood, but also shifted the course of his career. “When I saw how the nurses cared for my wife, it opened my eyes to nursing as a profession,” Lim says. “They also made sure that, as a new dad, I was ready to take care of my son.”

Lim, who received a bachelor’s in biology from UNLV in 2014, re-enrolled in the School of Nursing when his first born was an infant. Now the father of two sons — a 3-year-old and 9-month-old baby — Lim expects to graduate with a B.S. in nursing in December. The Edward and Shauna Smith Nursing Scholarship is supporting his education.

UNLV psychology major Leah Oswinn’s research about the gender associations children make when they’ve been raised by male primary caregivers is relatively uncharted territory. For the past three years, Oswinn has been mapping out data in the UNLV Psychology Department’s Baby & Child Rebel Lab.

Children raised by women tend to see women as caring, and men as powerful. But, do children raised by male caregivers have different perceptions?

With support from the McNair Scholars Program, Oswinn spent her summer working with UNLV researcher Jennifer Rennels, studying a sample of 20 children ages 4 to 6 who had been raised by male primary caregivers. This semester, with additional help from the Philip J. Cohen Scholarship Program, she is able to continue her research.

So far? Early data analysis shows that more of those children associate males with warmth and caring.

“Gender is an interesting subject to explore from this perspective, because it’s different from other social categorizations such as race,” Oswinn says. “Children show an own-group preference when they’re very young — boys prefer boys and girls prefer girls — and the preference is very strong.

“As we age, females continue to show a preference for females, but males also show a preference for females by adulthood. We don’t really know why that is.”

With help from her scholarships, Oswinn is on a path to finding out.

“Being surrounded by people I can share my ideas, hopes, and fears with, who are just as obsessed with research as I am, has been a highlight of my undergraduate studies,” Oswinn says.

Edward and Shauna Smith established the scholarship in 2016 to help 14 of the neediest students complete their studies. They recently expanded the program to support 72 scholarships annually.

Through the scope of the scholarships, the Smiths are addressing the future health care needs of Nevada — while also inspiring change on a personal level.

For Lim, that means support for his goal to be a pediatric nurse. “As a dad, I know I connect with kids; as a nurse, I can help heal them.” Edward D. Smith is a recipient of the 2018 UNLV Palladium Award.

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**Make an Impact!**

On October 11th and 12th, 2018, be part of something big. You’ll have 1,957 minutes — honoring the year UNLV was founded, 1957 — to donate.

https://rebelsgive.unlv.edu

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#REBELSGIVE
SOLUTIONS

The Trickle Down Effect

Wolzinger Scholarship fuels research that could save communities from floods

Forest fires devastate anything standing in their paths. And they also alter the ground beneath them. Scorched soil can become water-repellent – and that means disaster when it rains, causing floods and further endangering nearby communities.

But UNLV Ph.D. student Rose Shillito is developing a way to predict water runoff that can help vulnerable communities better prepare for flooding.

With support from the Wolzinger Family Research Scholarship, Shillito and her colleagues are working on mathematical models that have drawn the attention of the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Ultimately, land management agencies may be able to use her work to improve flood warning systems.

Additionally, her research is drawing attention from scientists in hotbeds of fire-related research worldwide, such as Australia, the Mediterranean, Europe, and Canada.

“It’s very exciting,” says Shillito, a hydrologic scientist who was born and raised in Arizona. After building a career in hydrology and soil research that led her to work for the Flood Control District in Tucson, grow potatoes on experimental farms for the USDA, and study effects of over-fertilization on drainage in Maryland’s Chesapeake Bay, she realized, “I missed the desert.”

So she moved to Las Vegas to work at the Desert Research Institute in 2011 and began her Ph.D. in geoscience at UNLV in 2014. She plans to defend her dissertation this fall.

“I think it’s important for people to know an academic education can continue over your lifetime, and I appreciate UNLV’s support for nontraditional students,” Shillito says.

“Donors who support this kind of work are invaluable,” she says. “It makes all of this possible.”