

Donations spur growth at School of Medicine

Major gifts from Las Vegas businesswoman Jean Tobman and the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust are targeted for student scholarships and the construction of a new Health Sciences Education Building on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. By supporting scientists and health care providers at the School of Medicine, these gifts help to advance the frontiers of medical discovery, improve the quality of life, and educate tomorrow's medical leaders.

The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust

The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust has pledged \$150,000 to support the Health Sciences Education Building. The new facility presents a unique opportunity to expand the medical and nursing schools while incorporating innovative approaches to medical education and preserving quality and individual attention.

John Ben Snow, born in Pulaski, N.Y., in 1883, enjoyed a long and colorful life. During his 89 years, Snow amassed fortunes on two continents: in Europe, as a competitive and innovative executive with F.W. Woolworth, and in his native America as the dynamic publisher of the Speidel Newspapers.

In 1975, two years after his death, the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust was established in New York. The individuals named as trustees and their successors were empowered to grant funds for educational, scientific and humanitarian purposes to qualified organizations.

The 50,579-square-foot Health Sciences Education Building will have an impact far greater than the incremental addition of basic classroom space. The northern medical campus will achieve the critical mass necessary to shape it into the complete medical school that it must become, with the completion of the Center for Molecular Medicine, Family Medicine clinic, Pennington Building and soon the Health Sciences Education Building,



Photo by Theresa Danna-Douglas

Reka Danko, '07M.D. has chosen to do a residency in internal medicine at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. "Scholarships provided crucial tuition relief," she says. Approximately 80 percent of School of Medicine students are eligible for and receive federal financial aid.

The Tobman legacy

Mrs. Jean Tobman recently provided two major gifts to the University of Nevada School of Medicine to enhance scholarship support for students and to name the student lounge in the new Health Sciences Education Building.

Jean Tobman and her husband, Herb, first established a medical scholarship in the School of Medicine in 1997. The name of the scholarship was recently changed to the "Jean and Herb Tobman Scholarship in Memory of Alan Tobman and Alan Joseph Martin" to honor Jean's son and grandson.

The medical student lounge in the new Health Sciences Education Building will be named "The Herb and Jean Tobman Student Lounge in memory of Alan Tobman and Alan Joseph Martin." Mrs. Tobman's granddaughter, Dr. Addie Moran, is a 2000 graduate of the School of Medicine and currently practices anesthesiology in Los Angeles.

Jean and Herb established and helped build several businesses in Las Vegas. They also raised a family, but were never too busy to help others in need. Even though Herb Tobman was very well known (he served on many Las Vegas boards and ran for governor in 1986), the family was interested in philanthropy, not publicity. "It was just like Herb to write a check for a good cause and not tell anyone about it," Jean says.

A beloved entrepreneur and civic leader, Herb passed away in 2006. Jean is carrying on and extending Herb's philanthropy

through her recent, most generous gifts to the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Her contributions have provided for a substantial endowment for scholarships that are available to medical students from Clark County.

Mrs. Tobman reflected seriously on the current state of health care in Nevada while thinking about these significant gifts and discussing them with her family. As a businesswoman, Jean understands growth and knows that growth has brought an urgent need for improved health care to Nevada, especially among the needy. She wanted to do what she could to help. "I would like to see deserving young people get educated here in Nevada and stay in Nevada, and my whole family feels this way."

The University is grateful to Jean Tobman and the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust for their investments in medical students and the Health Sciences Education Center, which will help double the number of medical students, significantly expand the Orvis School of Nursing and multiply the impact of the School of Medicine's leadership role in the improvement of Nevada's health.

For more information on supporting the School of Medicine, please contact Stefanie Scoppettone, director of development for the School of Medicine, at (775) 682-9143 or scops@unr.edu.

—Ken Kempcke

Author Isabel Allende to speak at Latino Research Center event

Internationally acclaimed author Isabel Allende is coming to campus this fall. The Thelma B. and Thomas P. Hart Foundation and E.L. Cord Foundation have provided major gifts to the Latino Research Center to sponsor "Stories and Dreams: An Evening with Isabel Allende." This public lecture and fundraising event to support the Center will take place at 7 p.m., Oct. 9 in the Joe Crowley Student Union Grand Ballroom.

"We want to share the beauty of our Latin American heritage," says Emma Sepúlveda, Foundation Professor of foreign languages and literatures and director of the Latino Research Center. "Mrs. Allende, with her wonderful books and her insights, is an inspiration to many others who have come to this country and called it home."

The event will correspond with Hispanic

Heritage Month and help support cultural events, University and community programs and the educational mission of the Latino Research Center. The Thomas P. and Thelma B. Hart Foundation and E.L. Cord Foundation are strong supporters of the center and a long-time friend of the University, investing in numerous campus projects in athletics, science, medicine, and liberal arts.

Allende is considered one of the first successful women novelists in Latin America. When the English translation of her widely acclaimed first novel, *The House of the Spirits*, appeared in 1985, she became an international success. Since then, she has published several more novels and a book of short stories, many of which have been best-sellers.

"This is a great opportunity for everyone to get closer to one of the most respected authors of our times and enjoy an unforgettable evening full of stories and personal experiences that will touch everyone," Sepúlveda says.

Ticket prices range from \$35 to \$150. A special \$1,000 sponsorship ticket includes



a private meeting with the author. All ticket proceeds go toward funding for research at the Latino Research Center and for scholarships for University students.

The University of Nevada Latino Research Center serves as a focal point for research, advocacy, educational efforts and outreach on issues related to the Latino community

within the state of Nevada and the nation. Since its inception, the center has helped to enhance community research projects and to provide important learning opportunities for University students, faculty and staff of all ethnicities. Its multidisciplinary research makes an important contribution to the land grant mission of the University of Nevada.

—Ken Kempcke

For more information about the Latino Research Center and Isabel Allende's visit, please contact the center at (775) 784-4010, latinocenter@unr.edu, or visit www.unr.edu/latinocenter.

Scholarship created to honor climatologist John James

Mark James, former Nevada state senator and former Las Vegas County Commissioner, and his wife, Lori, have established a scholarship endowment to support students in the atmospheric sciences and geography, and to honor Mark's father, John W. James.

John James worked at the University of Nevada, Reno for 28 years as a geography and meteorology professor. He was a respected authority on alpine environment and climate, particularly the Sierra Nevada Range and the Lake Tahoe Basin, and a pioneer in the field of weather modification.

James was also appointed by the governor of Nevada as the state's climatologist and served in that position for 23 years.

"Of all his pursuits, my father most enjoyed teaching," said Mark James. "He was an inspiration to his students, but he never took himself too seriously. My dad loved humor, and he used it in his teaching, interviews with the media, speeches and everyday conversation. I think people loved that about him."

James spent part of his childhood in Henderson, but moved away to attend high school in Roseville, Calif. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Oregon. After teaching in Colorado and California, he moved to Nevada in 1969 to help found Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village.

It was while serving as a military cartographer in Korea during the Korean War that James first became interested in weather. As state climatologist, he maintained weather

records taken by about 100 observers in backyard weather stations throughout Nevada. His fascination with Nevada's weather, especially severe weather, was unparalleled. As climatologist, he frequently expressed concern about the long-term availability of water in the state.

The John W. James Scholarship Endowment is a fitting tribute to James' lifetime commitment to research, his students, the state of Nevada, and the University of Nevada. The generous contribution from his family to establish the endowment ensures that his legacy will continue on the Reno campus in perpetuity.

For information about how to contribute to the John W. James Scholarship or the College of Science, please contact Char Sutton, director of development for the College of Science, at (775) 682-8791 or csutton@unr.edu.

—Ken Kempcke

Gatherings



Davidson Math and Science Center Groundbreaking

The first natural science building to be constructed at the University of Nevada, Reno in four decades took the initial step toward becoming reality with a groundbreaking ceremony for the \$50 million Davidson Mathematics and Science Center early in the summer. University President Milton Glick said when the state-of-the-art building opens in August 2010, it will provide crucial instruction for the more than 16,500 students who will need a thorough knowledge of math and science to compete nationally and internationally. "It is especially significant that in this time of limited resources for the state, this building is a statement that we will continue on our trajectory as the best University that Nevada can have, and to take our place among the other great universities in the country." With the Davidsons' lead gift of \$11 million and additional gifts from other donors, Nevada was able to raise the \$18 million required to obtain a \$32 million match from the state Legislature during its 2007 session.

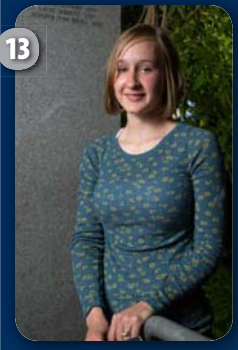
- (1) Paul Bible, chair of the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation inspects a medical hand model. Many of the groundbreaking's decorations were learning tools that will be found inside the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center upon its completion.
- (2) Kambiz Raffiee, associate dean for the College of Business, director of MBA Program, and Foundation Professor of Economics, with his daughter, Misha, and wife, Sima. Misha attends the Davidson Academy on the University of Nevada, Reno campus, which is a free public day school for profoundly gifted learners.
- (3) State Senator William Raggio '48 (political science) looks to the crowd as Jan and Bob Davidson are presented with Galileo thermometers to mark the day, and as a token of gratitude for their continuous support of higher education at Nevada. Their gift served as crucial funding toward building this much needed facility.
- (4) Chuck Hayes, associate dean for the College of Science, with Bill and Sharon Scott and Jeff Thompson, interim dean of the College of Science.
- (5) Shirley Westfall and her husband, David, emeritus professor and chair of pharmacology, emeritus vice president of academic affairs, and the first dean of the College of Science, were thrilled to be part of a day that saw years of hard work come to fruition.
- (6) The Department of Mathematics and Statistics faculty were on hand to proudly display the accomplishments of the department and its students. The department consists of 23 full-time faculty.



Honor Court Celebration

President Milton Glick and the University Foundation Board of Trustees were pleased to host an event June 19, after their annual summer meeting, to acknowledge the legacies created by faculty, staff and students and the generosity of friends and alumni, thanking them all for their support and dedication.

- (7)** Char Sutton, director of development for the College of Science, sits with Sandy Eisinger, whose name was engraved in the Honor Court for her investment in student scholarships through the Eagle-Picher Minerals/V. John Eisinger Memorial Scholarship Endowment, which was created in memory of her late husband.
- (8)** Inducted as Distinguished Faculty for 2008, Ann Ronald observes the jovial crowd with Regent Howard Rosenberg. Ann served first as an English professor in 1970, later as dean of the College of Arts and Science, and now as an English professor again.
- (9)** The Honor Court event is a time for many supporters of Nevada to gather and return to campus. William Sparkman, dean of the College of Education, and Mary-Ellen McMullen '73 (English), Foundation trustee, catch up with friends and supporters.
- (10)** President Milton Glick addresses a crowd of more than 250 friends, faculty, alumni and students who attended the annual summer event.
- (11)** Steve Wesnousky, 2008 Foundation Professor, is director of the Center for Neotectonic Studies at the University. He says that opportunities at Nevada have afforded him academic rigor and bright students, who make teaching and research a pleasure. His name was also engraved on an Honor Court pillar as the 2008 Tibbitts Distinguished Teacher of the Year.
- (12)** John '72 (physics) and Derwent Bowen represented the Bowen family, whose name was engraved in the granite pillars of Honor Court. The Bowsens' honored John's mother, True, and his father, Grant, who graduated from the University in 1930, by commemorating a reading room in the new Knowledge Center.
- (13)** 2007 Herz Gold Medalist Layne Jarrett poses next to her name engraved in the South Gazebo. This fall Layne is attending graduate school at Colorado State University, where she will work toward a doctorate in veterinary medicine.



Photos by Theresa Danna-Douglas