Jenkins family creates biology fellowship

Stephen Jenkins and his wife, Katherine, were inducted into Honor Court as Silver Benefactors at the 2009 Honor Court Ceremony. In 2008, Jenkins, a professor of biology at Nevada since 1975, and Katherine established a fellowship endowment to support a graduate student at the master’s or doctoral level studying animal behavior, ecology, evolution or conservation biology at the University.

Jenkins is a former National Merit Scholar at Dartmouth and received his Ph.D in biology from Harvard. His research focuses on the behavioral and population ecology of mammals, foraging, plant-animal interactions and research design.

“Graduate students have a unique role at the University,” Jenkins says. “While pursuing their own educations, many also make critical contributions as teaching and research assistants to the success of our institution. Katherine and I established this endowment for graduate students in ecology to free them from teaching or research obligations for a semester so that they could spend full time writing their thesis or dissertation. We hope that graduate students who receive this fellowship will find it as valuable and productive as sabbaticals are for faculty.”

—Ken Kempcke
USA Funds makes higher education a reality for scores of Nevada high school students

The University of Nevada, Reno Foundation honored USA Funds by engraving the corporation's name in the pillars of Honor Court as recognition for its generous and long-standing support of the College of Education's Dean's Future Scholars Program.

Established in Indianapolis in 1960 to help families finance rising college costs, USA Funds is a nonprofit corporation that works to enhance postsecondary education preparedness, access and success. Dean's Future Scholars is a University program that prepares and equips Nevada middle and high school students for postsecondary education. The program encourages low-income, culturally diverse and first-generation students from 25 middle and high schools in Nevada's Washoe and Storey counties to attend college and become teachers.

Patricia Roe, special assistant to the president at USA Funds, represented the organization at the Honor Court Ceremony in June. “The students involved with the Dean's Future Scholars program are demonstrating that first-generation students can and do succeed when the right support mechanisms are in place,” Roe says. “101 of the 113 high school graduates to date are involved in postsecondary education and the first cohort group from Nevada will graduate with degrees beginning in December of 2009. The Dean's Scholars program is making a difference in the lives of these students and USA Funds is pleased to be a part of this successful program.”

—Ken Kempcke

Patricia Roe, special assistant to the president at USA Funds, which was recognized as a Patron.