Wolf Pack anglers reel in money for student scholarships

Nevada students Travis Olson and Justin Landerman finished third in the National Guard FLW College Bass Fishing Tournament on Clear Lake in Kelseyville, Calif., March 7. The third place finish earned the team $4,000—$2,000 for student scholarships and $2,000 for the school’s bass-fishing club.

National Guard FLW College Fishing is a nationwide competitive bass fishing program open to all full-time students at four-year colleges and universities. It consists of 20 qualifying events, five regional championships and the national championship. Student teams from across the country fish for scholarship money, prizes and, ultimately, a chance to compete in the $2.5 million Forrest Wood Cup in 2010.

Justin and Travis are both from Boulder City and both are sophomores majoring in electrical engineering. They have been fishing together since they were kids. After attending the University as a freshman, Justin learned about FLW Outdoors and started the Wolf Pack bass-fishing club. The club now has close to 20 members, six of whom form two-person teams for the FLW tournaments.

“I love the FLW events,” Justin says. “Bass fishing requires a lot of strategy and it’s very competitive. Bass are smart, lazy fish and it’s difficult to succeed in tournaments. I’m very proud and happy that some of the money that we’ve won is being used to provide scholarship support to students. It’s a great feeling, especially in these tough times when many students are struggling financially.”

Travis and Justin will next represent the University in the National Guard FLW College Fishing Regional Championship on the California Delta in Stockton Sept. 19-21 with a chance to win $25,000 and advance to the national championship.

—Ken Kempcke

Alumna leaves legacy gift to College of Education

Lois Honeywell received her bachelor of arts degree from Nevada in 1945 and became a teacher in Yerington. After leaving Lyon County in the 1950s, she taught in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District in California. In her trust, she arranged for an endowment with the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation to honor her mother and father, Jessie and Clayton Honeywell.

The University also received a bequest from Lois’ brother, Clayton Jr., who established a mirror trust with his sister. Income from the Jessie and Clayton Honeywell endowment will be used to support annual scholarships in the College of Education beginning in the 2010-2011 academic year.

For more than 50 years, the College of Education has played a leadership role in the growth and advancement of education in the state of Nevada. Its fundamental mission is to prepare the next generation of educators in a research environment, while honoring the University’s land-grant mission. The Honeywells’ gifts will benefit not only individual education students, but also help the University achieve overall objectives for a strong future.

Lois and Clayton join an ever-growing group of alumni and friends whose contributions and foresight are making an incredible difference for students at the University. Through their planned gifts to the College of Education, the Honeywells impact the lives of children and the fabric of society through the preparation of outstanding and accomplished educators.

—Ken Kempcke

For more information on planned giving opportunities, please contact the Planned Giving Team: Lisa M. Riley, J.D., lriley@unr.edu, or Robert Eggleston, beggleston@unr.edu, (775) 784-1352.
AT&T and Wells Fargo support Hispanic business initiative

AT&T and Wells Fargo recently provided funding to kick off a partnership initiative between the College of Business and the Nevada Small Business Development Center that will focus on three critical elements to enhancing Hispanic entrepreneurial activity in Nevada: educating more Hispanic students at the College of Business, facilitating research that provides insight into Hispanic business operations and workplace issues, and providing entrepreneurial training and counseling to Hispanic business owners.

“This outreach project, known as Imagine 2012, is designed to enhance Hispanic entrepreneurial activities statewide and provide stronger educational opportunities throughout Nevada,” said Marcel Fernando Schaerer, program manager in the Nevada Small Business Development Center.

Hal Lenox, president of AT&T Nevada, commends the University for creating an innovative education program for the Hispanic community that he feels will increase middle school and high school retention.

“These combined components align with the goals of the AT&T Foundation in supporting education in diverse communities and increasing high school retention to create a stronger workforce,” Lenox said.

“As a company, we believe we must invest in graduating our students from high school to create a strong and educated workforce that will continue to make the U.S. a leader in technology and innovation,” Lenox continued.

“The University of Nevada, Reno has created a powerful business program that entices and encourages thinking and innovation on an international scale. At the same time, it is finding ways that will help keep students in high school so they can pursue higher education as a path to success.”

Chad Osorno, Wells Fargo Northern Nevada regional president, says: “I commend the College of Business for continuing to develop programs that encourage diversity in entrepreneurship and commerce. Innovative programs, including Imagine 2012, give students at Nevada access to top-notch information and experience that will help them be successful in a competitive work environment. They also help meet the growing demands of businesses in our community for educated, well rounded employees. Programs like these are exactly what our community needs to prepare the next generation of business leaders.”

—Ken Kempcke

Marshall R. Matley Foundation provides gift for medical research

The Reno-based Marshall R. Matley Foundation recently provided a major gift to support the research of Esmail Zanjani, chair of the Department of Animal Biotechnology in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources. This is the foundation’s second gift to Zanjani, whose research seeks to improve the quantity of human insulin-producing cells and may one day lead to improvements in the treatment of diabetes, liver and pancreatic illnesses, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and other diseases.

“Private foundation support is crucial for the development of new ideas—ideas that haven’t yet reached the level that would attract national funds,” Zanjani says. “Private grants have been critical in unearthing all kinds of important findings, allowing investigators to push the envelope and engage in projects that normal public funding doesn’t support.”

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Even though funds from private foundations are sometimes less than what researchers obtain through organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, they are often more helpful because restrictions are fewer and the money can be used creatively to pursue new and promising ideas.

“The trustees of the Matley Foundation are a very intelligent and caring group of people that have done a lot for the University community,” Zanjani says. “It is my goal that their support will soon result in real therapy solutions for patients who suffer from debilitating illnesses.”

The Marshall R. Matley Foundation, named in honor of the Reno rancher and businessman, was created primarily to advance the interests of special needs children and adults. In addition to supporting Zanjani’s research, the foundation has provided generous gifts to Campus Escort Service, the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and the Disability Resource Center.

—Ken Kempcke

With the help of the Marshall R. Matley Foundation, Professor Esmail Zanjani and his students are pioneering research biotechnology.

The Hispanic business initiative is creating a new learning environment. Pictured: international affairs junior Shirley Diaz and accounting information systems senior Christina Martinez.