Legacy gift continues support of Great Basin and tribal research in anthropology

The estate of the late Astrid Liljeblad provided a substantial gift to the University to support Great Basin and tribal research in anthropology through the Sven and Astrid Liljeblad endowment. Astrid, who recently passed away at age 100, and her husband, Sven ’84 (honorary doctorate, humane letters), who passed away in 2000, also at age 100, established the endowment nearly two decades ago to support research and the study of linguistics, culture and folklore in the Nevada Great Basin.

Sven came to the United States in 1939 from Sweden under an Anders Zorn fellowship to the University of California, Berkeley after receiving his doctorate from Lund University and serving in research and archival positions at Uppsala University. During World War II he was drafted by the U.S. military to teach courses on Finland and Russia, and in 1945 received a two-year appointment through the Swedish government to teach Swedish, Norwegian and Danish language and culture at Harvard University. It was during this time he met his future wife, Astrid von Heijne.

In the early 1950s Sven was appointed to a professorship in social sciences at Idaho State University, and in 1965 was a visiting professor at the University of Nevada. In 1976, the couple moved to Reno when Sven accepted the Hilliard Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities at Nevada, teaching anthropology and working extensively with the Shoshone and Northern Paiute tribes in Idaho and Nevada. He held the position until 1983, and in 1984 received an honorary doctorate from the University. The couple returned to their native Sweden in 1991, and in 1999 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Sven was widely known and admired among Native Americans, and during his career amassed an enormous archive of linguistic and folklore materials relating to the Numic-speaking peoples of the northern Great Basin. Catherine “Kay” Fowler, professor emerita and University Foundation Professor, said, “Sven and Astrid not only made remarkable contributions to the study of Great Basin indigenous languages and cultures during their lifetimes, but now are facilitating the continuation of that work by others, including indigenous community members.” Based on Sven’s materials and more than 20 years of work by Fowler and others, a Northern Paiute-English dictionary is currently being published.

For more information about how you can help support the programs in the College of Liberal Arts, contact development director Stuart Golder at (775) 784-1222 or sgolder@unr.edu.

—Keiko Weil ’87
University’s 4-H camp receives support for facilities

Two charitable foundations recently made gifts to support improvements at the University’s Nevada State 4-H Camp at the south shore of Lake Tahoe.

The Marshall R. Matley Foundation provided funding for portable decking which allows disabled campers to access the beach area, and the H. N. & Frances C. Berger Foundation provided funding to construct a permanent outdoor eating structure.

“The Berger Foundation is pleased to be a part of this fine program and we know that the new improvement will be enjoyed by all,” said Chris McGuire, vice president of programs for the Berger Foundation.

Karen Hinton, dean and director of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, said the gifts will bring important improvements to the 32-acre camp.

“We are enormously grateful to the Matley and Berger foundations for their support of the 4-H camp,” Hinton said. “The camp experience makes a difference in the lives of so many youth throughout the state and we are pleased to have this extraordinary support.” These donors and the projects were celebrated at the camp’s open house Sept. 12.

As part of University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, the 4-H Camp provides a positive environment in a natural setting where 4-H and other youth groups learn life, leadership and citizenship skills. The diverse forest, meadow and beach ecosystems provide an unparalleled opportunity for outdoor environmental education. Since 1939, 4-H groups have been camping at the site, and in 1953, ownership of the camp was transferred to Cooperative Extension. Each year the camp welcomes diverse groups of visitors, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Camp Lotsafun, Girl Scouts and the University’s summer band camp. In 2009, more than 3,000 campers were able to benefit from an experience at the camp due in large part to the generosity of donors like the Matley and Berger foundations, whose commitment helps ensure the camp meets the needs of youth now and in the future.

Dan Klaich ’72, trustee, said, “The Matley Foundation trustees look for projects that will improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and the portable decking project at the Nevada State 4-H Camp fit perfectly with our goal.”

For more information about how you can help support the 4-H Camp and other programs of Cooperative Extension, contact development director Lynda Buhlig at (775) 682-6013 or lbuhlig@unr.edu.

—Keiko Weil ’87

Estate of 1954 alumnus creates criminal justice scholarship

Russell T. Schooley was born in Reno in 1931 and graduated from Nevada in 1954 with a degree in history. While a student, Schooley was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. After receiving his degree he continued his graduate education at Nevada then served in the United States Army in Korea as an infantry lieutenant, and later attended George Washington University Law School.

Schooley’s professional career was distinguished, including working as chief investigator in the Washoe County District Attorney’s Office, investigator for Nevada Gaming Control Board, the Identification Division of the FBI and special agent in naval intelligence in Washington, D.C. He served as deputy chief for the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office for 20 years until his retirement in the 1980s. Upon his death, Schooley remembered his alma mater by leaving the proceeds of his estate to the University to establish a scholarship for students pursuing a degree in criminal justice. The Roy R. and Russell T. Schooley Scholarship Endowment also honors Russell’s father, Roy R. Schooley, who worked as a groundskeeper on campus in the 1950s. Roy and his wife, Mabel, adopted Schooley as a child.

The University offers both bachelor and master degrees in criminal justice and undergraduates can pursue a prelaw option. Students are educated for justice-related positions in the public and private sectors, graduate study and law school.

For more information about how you can help support the criminal justice program or other programs in College of Liberal Arts, contact development director Stuart Golder at (775) 784-1222 or golder@unr.edu.

—Keiko Weil ’87