From the President

An investment in a building, and much, much more

“We’re not investing in the building. We’re investing in the people inside of it.”—Jan and Bob Davidson, May 2010.

Recently, during a tour of the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, I was reminded of Jan and Bob Davidson’s words. The building was still empty. Last-minute touch-ups were the order of the day. But soon, when classes begin in August, its brightly-lit halls and stairwells will be filled with our students, its classrooms and laboratories ably manned by our faculty.

Jan and Bob have graciously shared their dream with our institution to develop the talents of what our nation needs most right now: more top-flight mathematics, science and engineering students. Whether it has been through the establishment of The Davidson Academy of Nevada—a free public school for profoundly gifted middle and high school students located on our campus—or providing the lead gift for the construction of the University’s newest building, the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, Jan and Bob have been pivotal figures in the evolution and growth of our campus.

They’ve already touched the lives of too many to count. In the fall, as the Davidson Academy begins its fifth year of instruction, the academy’s numbers will have grown to more than 100 students—a record. It is estimated that 70 percent of our student body, at one point or another during their academic careers, will take at least one course in the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, making it one of the busiest and most productive buildings on our campus.

And there are other benefits as well. Jan and Bob’s words of investing in people, in addition to investing in bricks and mortar, certainly ring true—particularly as they relate to our faculty.

Great faculty truly do give a campus its heartbeat. Great faculty are like a team of talented soloists who know how to collaborate to create the most memorable symphony imaginable. They have an innate ability to stretch themselves and others. They encourage their students to follow their passions and to take risks.

The Davidson Mathematics and Science Center will prove to be an inspiration for our students and our faculty. As the years pass, I believe it will become an incubator of human achievement. It will spur our current faculty to great heights. And, it will attract new minds from across the country, new professors who will join us here to teach, research, create and inspire within a sparkling, 105,000-square-foot building.

All campuses need a “magnet” building that will grab the attention of the brightest students and the best faculty. The Davidson Center will provide our campus with such a needed anchor in mathematics and science. More than anything, though, the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center will be the symbol that a commitment to human aspiration, as Jan and Bob Davidson so aptly noted, is the wisest investment any person can ever make.

Sincerely,

Milton D. Glick
President
www.unr.edu/president

President Milt Glick stands with lead donors to the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, Jan and Bob Davidson, after they received honorary doctorates in May.

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Contact us by mail, phone or fax: Morrill Hall/0007
University of Nevada, Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557-0007
address changes: (775) 682-6541
fax: (775) 784-1394

Class Notes submissions: chatter@unr.edu
Address changes: silverblue@unr.edu
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