Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation supports study abroad and multimedia education

The Frances C. and William P. Smallwood Foundation recently gave two generous gifts to the University of Nevada, Reno. The first gift supports a Study Abroad Scholarship program at the University Studies Abroad Consortium. The scholarships enable students, regardless of socioeconomic status, the ability to study abroad and enjoy the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills, experiences and attitudes to prepare them for the global society of the 21st century. Up to 25 students will receive the Smallwood Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship beginning in spring 2011.

Carmelo Urza, USAC’s director, noted that “The Smallwood Foundation gift provides Nevada students with the opportunity to participate in a USAC study abroad experience in one of 24 countries. The generosity of the Smallwood Foundation will make a huge difference in transforming these students’ lives and will likely make Nevada more competitive in the globalized economy of the 21st century.”

The second gift was granted to the Division of Information Technology and University Libraries for a Multimedia Summer Boot Camp and undergraduate assistantship program.

Steve Zink, the vice president for information technology, said of the gift, “The Smallwood Foundation recognized the special relationship the Knowledge Center facilities offer to millennial students—those who have grown up with the Internet and the World Wide Web. They not only read and absorb information, they are active learners who leverage new media technology to gain additional perspectives when using information. These are the types of students who we most assuredly want to attract to the University.”

Up to 17 northern Nevada high school students, between their junior and senior years, will participate in a program designed to accelerate their acquisition of the skills required to be successful in new directions in knowledge creation. Working with the @One staff of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, students will spend two weeks in rigorous instruction geared toward a wide range of multimedia activities. The Boot Camp graduate who exhibits the greatest potential for multimedia work, and who enrolls at Nevada, will be named a Smallwood Foundation Scholar and be awarded a two-year undergraduate assistantship. The program starts in summer 2011.

—Keiko Weil ’87

To learn more about USAC, contact Director Carmelo Urza at (775) 682-5888 or curza@unr.edu, and for more information about the University Libraries and its programs, contact Development Director Millie Mitchell at (775) 682-5682 or mimitchell@unr.edu.
College of Business Opens E.L. Cord Student Success Center

The E.L. Cord Student Success Center in the College of Business opened Oct. 22 on the fourth floor of the Ansari Business Building.

The E.L. Cord Foundation provided funding for the project, with additional gifts provided by the Roxie and Azad Joseph Foundation, the Confidence Foundation, Steve Johnson, Hal Plummer and R.C. Barnes. The center features approximately 2,400 square feet of renovated space that includes advising offices, group study areas, a conference room and two student interview/activity rooms.

“We are tremendously grateful for the generous gifts we received to build the E.L. Cord Student Success Center,” said Greg Mosier, dean of the College of Business. “This is an important and integral part of our student success initiative, and we are fortunate to have community partners who believe in our work.”

The center is a place where students meet with academic and career advisers, gather with peers and faculty for study groups, participate in career development training and on-campus interviews with employers, as well as meet with student organizations. The center complements the efforts of the college’s faculty to provide essential support services that engage students in learning, increase retention and subsequent graduation, and successfully transition students into vibrant career opportunities.

The College of Business’ degree programs are designed to prepare students to be successful in both private and public sector organizations throughout the state, region and nation. The college offers baccalaureate degrees, as well as high quality master’s programs in accountancy, business administration, economics, finance and information systems. For the third year in a row, The Princeton Review has recognized the College of Business in special review: The Best 300 Business Schools. Additionally, BusinessWeek magazine ranked Nevada’s part-time MBA program as 21st in the United States. Nevada’s MBA program is the largest of the University's 138 graduate programs, with 193 students enrolled in fall 2010.

—Staff reports

To learn more about the College of Business and its programs, contact Kristen Kennedy ’98, director of development, at (775) 682-6490 or kristenk@unr.edu.

Legacy gift to University Libraries from ’46 alumna

A native of Washington, D.C., Kathleen “Katie” H. Blythe ’46 (history) was born Jan. 20, 1925 and grew up in Pennsylvania and California. Although Katie could have gone to college in California, she wanted to go away to school. Fate intervened when her mother attended a convention in Reno and announced that she had found a college for Katie and her twin sister, Isabel ’46 (journalism), to attend: the University of Nevada. Both sisters had very fond memories of their years at Nevada, including membership in the University ski team and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Upon graduation, Katie went on to enjoy a lengthy career in advertising in both New York City and San Francisco. Katie moved to Carmel, Calif. in 1981 and became involved in the local philanthropic community.

During her lifetime, Katie was also a long-time supporter of the University Libraries and member of the Friends of the University Libraries program at Nevada. Katie passed away on Dec. 27, 2009, but remembered the University Libraries in her estate plans.

Steve Zink, the vice president for information technology and dean of University Libraries, said, “A gift like this is a testament to the University Libraries’ role in creating a rich learning environment on campus. Katie’s generous bequest will help to ensure that students of the 21st century will be able to avail themselves of the extraordinary opportunities offered by the information age.”

—Staff reports

To learn more about planned giving opportunities at the University, contact Director of Planned Giving Lisa Riley at (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu; and to learn more about supporting the University Libraries, contact Director of Development Millie Mitchell at (775) 682-5682 or mimitchell@unr.edu.