NV Energy honors Nevada alumnus Jeff Ceccarelli

The renewable energy program at the University of Nevada, Reno has been named in honor of longtime NV Energy executive Jeff Ceccarelli ’76 (civil engineering), who retired in July after 40 years with the company. The Jeffrey L. Ceccarelli NV Energy Renewable Energy Program continues NV Energy’s support of the University’s renewable energy initiatives, including the Renewable Energy Center, workforce development efforts and online course development on renewable energy topics.

“This program, which was started with support from NV Energy more than five years ago, represents one of the first in the country to have an interdisciplinary focus on renewable energy.”

The NV Energy Foundation has donated more than $1.5 million to the University’s renewable energy program over the past several years, and has made major gifts to the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, renewable energy initiatives, scholarships and other programs.

“Through the support of NV Energy and Jeff Ceccarelli, we are able to offer a renewable energy minor to all students, an online graduate certificate in renewable energy, a new renewable energy track in electrical engineering, and state-of-the-art graduate education, including a renewable energy laboratory at the Redfield Campus,” said Manos Maragakis, dean of the College of Engineering.

Michael Yackira, president and CEO of NV Energy, said Jeff was an early champion of renewable energy efforts in the state.

“Jeff has been instrumental in establishing a strong relationship between NV Energy and the University,” Yackira said. “With the support of the University in naming this program in his honor, we are expressing our gratitude for his many years of leadership and pursuit of progress in the field of renewable energy.”

Ceccarelli is a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Board, an emeritus member of the Nevada Alumni Council and the 2009 Nevada Alumni Association’s Alumnus of the Year.

To learn more about supporting renewable energy initiatives at Nevada, please contact Maryanne Cameron, director of development, (775) 682-9503 or mcameron@unr.edu.

—Roseann Keegan

Ben Maze endowment to benefit University Libraries

Dr. Ben Maze ’79 (predental) credits his great aunt, Mary Woitishek, for making dental school financially possible. Maze has established a library endowment in her name to benefit the Special Collections Department and name the large art niche on the first floor of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center.

After dental school, Maze opened an endodontic practice in Las Vegas. Now semi-retired, Maze has remained a strong champion of his alma mater and has made gifts in support of the Knowledge Center, including naming seats in the Wells Fargo Auditorium in honor of several classmates.

To learn more about supporting the University Libraries, please contact Millie Mitchell, director of development, (775) 682-5682 or mmitchell@unr.edu.

—Roseann Keegan

Special Collections librarian Jacque Sundstrand assists Arielle Gorin, a visiting graduate student from Yale.
Huffey honors late husband

Faculty emerita Dorothy (Howell) Huffey ’61 (secondary education) has established a scholarship endowment from memorial gifts in honor of her late husband, Paul Huffey ’61 (secondary education), to benefit students pursuing a degree in secondary education.

After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno, Paul was a teacher in Las Vegas. He went on to become a real estate agent and broker. In 1983, he was appointed to the California-Nevada Super Speed Train Commission and was named chairman of the Nevada Commission on Ethics.

A fourth-generation Nevadan, Dorothy’s great-great-grandfather, James W. Haines, signed Nevada’s 1864 constitution and served on the University of Nevada’s first Board of Regents. She was active in student government and Greek life at Nevada, and was a teacher before the birth of her son, Neil ’97 (political science), in 1974. From the 1980s, she chaired the State Personnel Commission and served on the Nevada Legislative Steering Committee for Higher Education. She received the University’s President’s Medal in 1993.

Dorothy was the director of Development and Alumni Relations for the University’s southern office in Las Vegas from 1994 to 2005. In 1999, she chaired the inaugural balls for Gov. Kenny Guinn. She has been the society columnist for the Las Vegas Review Journal for 30 years.

To learn more about supporting the College of Education, please contact Mitch Klaich ’02, director of development, (775) 784-6914 or mklaich@unr.edu.

—Roseann Keegan

Stacie Mathewson Foundation supports sober living center

The Stacie Mathewson Foundation has established the Stacie Mathewson Recovery and Prevention Community Fund to support the new Nevada Recovery and Prevention Community for students who are in recovery and/or choosing to live a substance-free lifestyle while attending the University of Nevada, Reno.

The Nevada Recovery and Prevention Community, or N-RAP, is a new drop-in center on the Nevada campus in room 1001 of the William Raggio Building. With the goal of promoting students’ personal, academic and professional goals, N-RAP provides a nurturing place to hang out, attend daily recovery meetings, receive peer-to-peer emotional and academic support, and participate in substance-free extra-curricular activities and service learning opportunities.

The program is made possible through the University’s Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies, known as CASAT, whose mission is to provide training, technical assistance, evaluation, research and other services to support prevention, treatment and recovery from alcohol and drugs.

Using elements from three primary collegiate recovery models, N-RAP combines existing resources on the campus with focused attention on providing the broad-based support beneficial to recovering students and their substance-free peers. N-RAP augments other efforts by CASAT to educate students, enhance the workforce and decrease stigma about addiction and its impact on the individual, their family and friends, and the community.

To learn more about supporting the Division of Health Sciences, please contact Stefanie Scoppettone ’96 Ph.D., director of development, (775) 682-9143 or scops@unr.edu.

—Roseann Keegan

Stacie Mathewson, of the Stacie Mathewson Foundation, is pictured at the Nevada Recovery and Prevention Community with associate project coordinator Carolyn Edney, project coordinator Daniel Fred, and student workers Jordan Fugate and Matt Owens.

The legacy of the late Paul Huffey ’61 (left) is honored through a new scholarship endowment established by his wife, Dorothy Huffey ’61.