New Foundation Endowments

**Sontag Entrepreneurship Award Endowment**
Rick ’66M.S. (physics) and Susan Sontag have established an endowment to provide an annual award of $50,000 to a student or group of students who demonstrate an ability and intention to start or expand a business. Rick is the former owner of Unison Industries, which he sold to General Electric in 2002. The Sontags later established venture capital firm Bay Companies and The Sontag Foundation, which supports research in brain cancer and rheumatoid arthritis.

**Faith Pedersen Spencer Memorial Library Endowment**
Family and friends of Faith Pedersen Spencer, a longtime University employee and volunteer, created an endowment to provide a permanent source of funds for the University Libraries’ programs, acquisitions and other needs. Faith and her husband John Spencer ’60 (wildlife management), were active supporters of the University Libraries.

**Don Winne Inspirational Student Scholarship Endowment**
When College of Business emeritus professor Donald Winne served on the college’s scholarship committee, he often personally funded scholarships for students deemed “inspirational” based on obstacles they overcame. When he received the B.J. Fuller Outstanding Teaching Award in 2008, he used the award winnings to create this scholarship. After Winne retired in 2010, contributions from colleagues helped the scholarship reach the endowment level. When Winne passed away last year, his friends and colleagues again gave to the scholarship.

## Alumni’s act of giving benefits future students

Lenard ’30 (English and history) and Nelda Sledge ’37 (zoology) made a charitable bequest before their passing to establish the Lenard W. and Nelda O. Sledge Scholarship Endowment to benefit students at their alma mater. The first scholarship in their name will be awarded this fall.

Nelda was born in 1911 to R.J. and Louise Oppedyk. After her mother’s passing, R.J. moved Nelda and her two older sisters to Las Vegas in 1918 so he could work for Union Pacific. He later established the Oppedyk Dairy on 40 acres on the west side of Las Vegas, which was still undeveloped. The girls watched the construction of the Hoover Dam and saw the mushroom clouds of the atom bomb tests at Railroad Pass. Nelda graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1932 and received her bachelor’s degree in zoology in 1937 from Nevada. She went on to complete her master’s degree at the University of Southern California and was a teacher in Nevada and California.

Lenard was a noted debater at Nevada, where he was the mayor of the Lincoln Hall Association and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Kappa Psi, Blue Key, Mask and Dagger, as well as the Honor Roll. He also served as ASUN historian, was active in band, orchestra and the dramatic arts, was on the staff of the *Artemisia* yearbook and the *Nevada Sagebrush*, and was the recipient of the Rand, Fitzgerald and Clark scholarships. After graduation in 1930, he taught English at Las Vegas Elementary School and became a district supervisor for the

Nevada Department of Education and district deputy superintendent of public instruction. He later attended the Southern California College of Optometry, obtaining his doctorate in optometry in 1948. Lenard practiced optometry until his retirement in the 1970s.

In 1979, the couple settled at a Leisure World community in Laguna Hills, Calif. Lenard passed away on Aug. 31, 1994, and Nelda passed away on Nov. 27, 2010.

---Roseann Keegan

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To learn more about planned giving opportunities at Nevada, please contact Lisa Riley, Esq., director of the Office of Planned Giving, (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu.