Orvis alumni create endowments to support nursing students at Nevada

The Orvis School of Nursing Alumni Association has established a scholarship endowment to support nursing students at Nevada.

The association was established in 2005 to provide a network for nursing alumni, faculty and students in support of excellence in nursing education, research and community service. Chapter members created the scholarship in 2009 to support a nursing student in his or her senior year. As the nursing alumni association grew, so did support for the scholarship. Under the leadership of Linda Clift ’74 (nursing), chair of the scholarship committee, the association chose to move from an annual scholarship to an endowed scholarship to ensure support for current and future generations of nursing students.

“An endowed scholarship is perpetual, because it consists of a sum of money that is invested for the purpose of generating investment earnings that support an annual award,” Clift says. “Initiation of the fund would require a minimum deposit of $10,000. Of course, our association was short by several thousand dollars, even factoring in future membership dues.

“A proposal and challenge was brought to the association’s steering committee—to raise $10,000 by the end of 2013,” Clift adds. “Currently, the organization is working diligently to accomplish this goal.”

The first recipient of the scholarship in 2009 was Justin Johnson. The 2010 recipient was Jim Fletcher, and the scholarship was awarded to Michael Coudriet in 2011.

Late last year, Clift’s husband, Bob, a retired physician, clinical professor emeritus of the medical school and 1991 President’s Medal recipient, surprised her with the news that he had established an Orvis School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship in her honor, initiated by a $115,000 gift. The Linda Clift Nurse Practitioner Endowed Scholarship provides fully paid tuition for two years to a qualified graduate student in the nurse practitioner program. Clift says the gesture moved her to tears.

“It was an overwhelming and selfless gift of love—one that certainly fills a need in the graduate program, where support has been less available in the past,” Clift says.

—Roseann Keegan

To learn more about supporting the Orvis School of Nursing, please contact Christina Sarman, director of development, (775) 784-6009 or christinas@unr.edu.