Chemistry alumna and husband make planned gifts to University Libraries and Mackay School

Genevieve (Swick) Paroni ’48 (chemistry) arrived at the Nevada campus with little means to pay for college. Raised during the Great Depression by her widowed mother, “Gen” worked in the campus dining halls during the school year, waited tables at restaurants during the summer and helped her mother run a boarding house at a mine near Eureka, Nev. Through her trademark tenacity, she earned a degree in chemistry and spent her career as a teacher in Eureka and Wallace, Idaho. The chemistry classroom at Wallace Junior-Senior High School is named in her honor, and she was inducted into the Eureka County High School Hall of Fame in 2008. She became the first woman to serve on the Wallace City Council and served for many years on the Wallace Public Library Board.

Gen held a great affection for the state of Nevada and its land-grant university, and was a longtime supporter of the University Libraries and the Alumni Association. Together with her husband, Walter Paroni, the couple included gifts to both the University Libraries and the Mackay School of Mines in their estate plans. The Paronis were charter members of the Nevada Legacy Society, established to honor those who have included the University Foundation in their estate and financial plans.

Gen passed away at the age of 84 last year. Walter passed away at age 88 in 2010. During Gen’s memorial service, her daughter, Andrea Paroni Storjohann, read tribute messages from more than a dozen of Gen’s former students.

—Roseann Keegan

For more information on planned giving opportunities and the Nevada Legacy Society, please contact Lisa M. Riley, Esq., director of the Office of Planned Giving (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu.