Kinross creates professorship at Mackay School

Kinross Gold U.S.A. Inc. has established a new three-year term professorship at the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering to support higher education in the academic areas critical to the mining industry, including the geological sciences, mining engineering and mineral processing, extractive metallurgy and geographic information systems. Founded in 1993, Kinross Gold has quickly grown to become one of the world’s leading gold mining companies. The company’s $300,000 gift will establish the Kinross Term Professorship and provide salary and benefit support for an assistant professor in mining engineering.

“Education is a major focus for Kinross and we are pleased to support the Mackay School to help develop future mining professionals,” says James Fowler, Kinross Gold’s regional vice-president, North America. “Nevada is the nation’s preeminent mining state and the industry serves as one of its largest employers, placing a strategic importance in supporting mining education.”

The Mackay School of Earth Sciences’ close ties with industry leaders provide students with opportunities for academic and career success. “Kinross’s investment will assist with program growth, both in depth and breadth, succession planning for the retirement of seasoned faculty and research distinction,” says Jeff Thompson, dean of the College of Science.

The list of chairs and professorships at the Mackay School supported by the mining industry include the Goldcorp Endowed Chair, Goldcorp Term Professorship, the Newmont Endowed Professorship and the Barrick Gold of North America Term Professorship.

To learn more about supporting the professorships and chairs at the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, please contact Char Hagemann, director of development, (775) 682-8791 or chagemann@unr.edu.

Alumni couple establishes endowment for aspiring teachers

Driven by their long-term commitment to education, retired educators Terence ’63 (business administration), ’87M.Ed. (secondary education) and Frances Breen Terras ’60 (elementary education), ’88M.Ed. (elementary education) have established a scholarship endowment to benefit students at the College of Education.

The Terence E. and Frances Breen Terras Scholarship Endowment in Education will benefit a junior or senior undergraduate pursuing a degree in education and is preferably from central Nevada, like Fran and Terry.

“I can still name friends who weren’t able to attend college because of financial need,” Terry says. “By establishing this scholarship endowment, we hope to give students the gift of higher education and help them achieve their dreams of becoming a teacher.”

Fran grew up in Goldfield, while Terry was raised in Tonopah. The couple met while attending Tonopah High School and married in 1960 after graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno. They moved to California for several years while Fran pursued a career in teaching and Terry worked at Aerojet and Campbell Soup Company. Terry realized he preferred a career in education, so the couple returned to Nevada in 1967 and began teaching careers with the Washoe County School District. In the 1980s, they received master’s degrees from the College of Education.

To learn more about supporting scholarships at Nevada, please contact Melanie Perish, director of development, (775) 682-1394 or mperish@unr.edu.
Seeligers establish scholarship endowment to honor nurses

Kay Park Seeliger ’65 (nursing) and Tom Seeliger ’63 (economics) understand the importance of a compassionate and skilled nurse. Within a month of being diagnosed with breast cancer for a second time, the couple’s daughter, a single mother, learned that her own 15-year-old daughter had non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. 

Thus began the Seeligers’ long journey of many days and nights spent in hospitals, including Renown Medical Center in Reno, the Children’s Hospital & Research Center in Oakland, Calif., and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas—sometimes with Kay in one hospital and Tom in another, depending on when and where their daughter and granddaughter were being treated.

Through this journey, the Seeligers came to appreciate the caring and loving nurses who paid close attention to their daughter and granddaughter, and realized just how important good, well-trained nurses are. The Seeligers decided to establish the Kay Seeliger Nursing Scholarship Endowment for students at Nevada who are pursuing an undergraduate degree in nursing.

“The nurses were fantastic,” Kay says. “Their loving care was amazing. It was like they were taking care of their own children. When the nurses had a day off, they would come to visit my daughter and granddaughter.”

Both the Seeligers’ daughter, Sally, and granddaughter, Abbie, are in remission. Abbie is a senior at Reno High School and is the student-body vice president. She is looking forward to college and eventually becoming a surgeon.

“Her strength and focus astounds us,” Kay says. “She never complains.”

To learn more about supporting the Orvis School of Nursing, please contact Christina Sarman ’00, ‘11M.A., director of development, (775) 784-6009 or csarman@unr.edu. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, please contact Lisa M. Riley, Esq., director of the Office of Planned Giving, (775) 682-6017, or lriley@unr.edu.

Planned gift honors Eisingers’ loyalty to Nevada and one another

The late John Eisinger ’60M.S. (geology) was devoted to his alma mater, the field of geology in Nevada, and most of all, his wife of almost 40 years, Sandra. When John passed away from leukemia in 2003, Sandra honored John and their devotion to one another by establishing a scholarship endowment in his name and making gifts to the endowment each year. She supported students at the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering through the scholarship endowment until her passing in 2012 at age 78.

Thanks to a planned gift from the couple’s estate, the V. John Eisinger Memorial Scholarship Endowment will provide the equivalent of 18 Nevada Silver and Blue scholarships each year for students in the Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering.

John received his bachelor’s in geology from the University of Idaho. He went on to receive his master’s from the Mackay School of Mines, now the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering. In 1962, he began working for Eagle-Picher Minerals, Inc. as a production planner, rising through the ranks over the next 38 years as plant manager, vice president-general works manager, vice president of production, vice president of operations and senior vice president of operations.

The couple met in Lovelock when John went to work for Eagle-Picher and Sandra was working as a cocktail waitress. After his retirement in 2000, the company established the Eagle-Picher Minerals Inc. V. John Eisinger Honorary Scholarship at the Mackay School to honor John's four decades of professional service. After John’s passing in 2003, Sandra continued to contribute to the scholarship, eventually creating the V. John Eisinger Memorial Scholarship Endowment and establishing a planned gift to the scholarship so that Mackay Students could benefit from the couple’s generosity well into the future. Sandra was inducted into the University’s Honor Court in 2008.

For more information on planned giving opportunities, please contact Lisa M. Riley, Esq., director of the Office of Planned Giving (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu. To learn more about supporting the Mackay School and the College of Science, please contact Char Hagemann, director of development, (775) 682-8791 or chagemann@unr.edu.