Spurred by a strong belief that the sciences have a great potential for discoveries that could improve the lives of future generations, Mackay School of Mines graduate Gary Clemons ’81 (earth science) and his wife, Susan Magee Clemons, a Reno native with several family ties to the University, have established two endowed professorships at Nevada in physics and chemistry.

The Clemons Magee Chemistry Professor Endowment and the Clemons Magee Physics Professor Endowment will be awarded to professors who spark students’ curiosity and creativity, demonstrate a love of learning and a passion for sharing their knowledge, and who motivate students to pursue careers in the fields of chemistry and physics.

“We chose to support endowed professorships because our goal is to positively influence the greatest number of students through professors who possess the ability to truly inspire their students, not just teach them,” Gary says. “During our many years of education, we have experienced both types of professors. Our goal is to support those unforgettable professors who kindle students’ imagination and desire to learn.”

“First of all, we are blessed to be able to establish these endowments,” Susan says. “Gary has enjoyed success in his career and decided to make the gift earlier, rather than later in our lives, so we can actually see and meet the professors and students who will hopefully benefit from our gifts.”

After graduating from Nevada, Gary served in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he attained the rank of major. He went on to receive an MBA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and spent 10 years with Franklin Templeton Investments. Currently he is a partner at Mercator Asset Management.

Susan received her undergraduate degree from Colorado College and her master’s and MBA degrees from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She worked in the real estate finance and banking industry until the birth of their second child.

The Florida residents have been active in their communities, serving as school board members, PTO presidents, youth leaders and coaches, as well as serving several civic and philanthropic organizations.

“We feel that education is the greatest gift you can give,” Gary says. “It is an investment in the future of our state, nation and world. By helping to educate University of Nevada students, we are investing in future scientists who will make incredible discoveries.”

—Roseann Keegan

Mackay School graduate Gary Clemons ’81 and wife, Susan, create two endowed professorships at Nevada

To learn more about supporting professorships at the College of Science, please contact Char Hagemann, development director, (775) 682-8791 or chagemann@unr.edu.