Mathewson professorship to encourage entrepreneurship

Charles Mathewson, former president, CEO and board chairman of International Game Technology, has made a $1 million gift to establish the Charles N. Mathewson Endowed Professorship in Entrepreneurship at the College of Business in support of the college’s efforts to expand its curriculum and provide long-term resources to facilitate student engagement in entrepreneurial and start-up ventures.

“I’m a born entrepreneur,” Mathewson says. “I respect that flare and try to encourage it in others, because that’s part of what has made America great.”

Mathewson and the Charles Mathewson Foundation have been longtime champions of the University of Nevada, Reno. The Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center is named in recognition of a combined $10 million gift from Mathewson and IGT.

The College of Business began offering a minor in entrepreneurship five years ago, which is open to students from any discipline. A student Entrepreneurship Club is housed in the college and open to students across campus.

Last fall, alumnus Rick Sontag ’66M.S. (physics) also donated $1 million to the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation to establish the Sontag Entrepreneurship Award Endowment, administered by the College of Business, which annually rewards the winning student entrepreneurship team with $50,000.

In addition, the Hopping Foundation recently established the Hopping Endowed Professorship in Entrepreneurship.

“The University has the ability to enhance economic development in a variety of ways, and promoting entrepreneurial efforts is just one way we aim to do that,” says Greg Mosier, dean of the College of Business.

“We are very grateful for Mr. Mathewson’s contributions and will immediately put them to good use to continue to grow our Entrepreneurship Program, and give our students the tools they need to turn their business dreams into real-world successes here in Nevada,” Mosier adds.

To learn more about supporting the College of Business, please contact Lynda Buhlig ’84, executive director of development, (775) 682-6013 or lbuhlig@unr.edu.

—Roseann Keegan

Redfield Foundation salutes National Merit Scholars—Recipients of the Nell J. Redfield Foundation Scholarship for University of Nevada, Reno National Merit Scholars were honored at a Morrill Hall reception Sept. 18. The Redfield Foundation established the scholarship program at the University in 2012 with a commitment to sponsor 20 National Merit Scholars, the University’s most prestigious award. Each Redfield Scholar receives $15,000 per year for four years. To learn more about supporting the University’s National Merit Scholarship Program, please contact John Carothers, vice president for Development and Alumni Relations, (775) 784-1352 or jcarothers@unr.edu.

Redfield scholars Lily Daylami, Jacob Fisk, Sarah Johnson, Erik Jensen and Connie Duong, Redfield trustee Jeanie Jones, President Marc Johnson, Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations John Carothers, Redfield trustee Jerry Smith, and Redfield scholars Lisa Bryant, Katie Mill and Timothy Grunert. Not pictured: Redfield scholars Dallas Ahrens and Michelle Duggan.

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Wells Fargo First Generation Scholars honored

The annual Wells Fargo First Generation Scholarship Luncheon was held Oct. 11 in the William F. & Nadine M. Pillsbury Tower Reading Room in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center to honor 19 scholarship recipients, their families and the goodwill of Wells Fargo Bank. First Generation Scholars represent the first generation of their families to attend college. Wells Fargo presented a ceremonial check for $71,000. Scholarship recipients will receive an annual award of $3,500 each of their four years of college with satisfactory progress. Since 1988, Wells Fargo Bank has provided more than $900,000 in support of Nevada students. To learn more about supporting scholarships at the University of Nevada, Reno, please contact Keiko Weil ’87, director of donor relations, (775) 682-5964 or kweil@unr.edu.


Greater Nevada Credit Union makes gift and matching pledge to band

Greater Nevada Credit Union has launched “It’s Time to Support the Band,” a promotion to benefit the Wolf Pack Marching Band, with an initial gift of $20,000 and a pledge of $20,000 for each of the next two years. GNCU has also pledged to match up to $45,000 in additional donations to the band over the next three years. Donations to the Wolf Pack Marching Band will be matched 1:1 by GNCU up to $15,000 per year. GNCU is promoting the matching gift campaign in their branches, as well as at home football and basketball games.

“Greater Nevada is honored to sponsor the Wolf Pack Marching Band over the next three years,” says Dean Altus Jr., executive vice president and COO of Greater Nevada Credit Union. “We look forward to promoting the band and the terrific entertainment value they bring to University sporting events and to the northern Nevada community-at-large.

“GNCU will be raising funds for the band’s equipment, their travel expenses and educational scholarships, and hope to generate increased community support by rallying Wolf Pack fans around their band,” Altus adds.

“This is a very exciting partnership opportunity for everyone involved. Go Pack!”

To learn more about supporting the Wolf Pack Marching Band and helping the band reach their $15,000 goal by June 2013, please contact Lynda Buhligh ’84, executive director of development, (775) 682-6013 or lbuhligh@unr.edu.

—Roseann Keegan