Updated Arentz Center gives Mackay students a leg up

At the Arentz Center for Student Success in the Paul Laxalt Mineral Engineering Center, students have a place to gather, study, use computers or just hang out with fellow Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering students.

A recent renovation and renaming of the former Arentz Student Center, supported by Nevada’s mining industry and friends of the Mackay School, has improved the infrastructure and functionality of the space.

“The idea behind the remodel was to upgrade the center to provide more space for studying, meeting, relaxing and eating, and as a place to showcase the work of Mackay students to prospective students and employers,” says Katia Albright, coordinator of career development at the Mackay School.

Large pieces of furniture were replaced with modular work/meeting spaces and a reference area where students can see updates on career activities, scholarships, academic advisement and campuswide events. There is also information on companies that recruit at the Mackay School regularly and help for students to prepare for interviews. Barrick Gold Corporation also donated a large-screen monitor that allows the center to share webinars, market upcoming events and host career workshops.

“Overall, this remodel has infused a new functionality and capability to the student center and increased possible activities we can host,” Albright says.

Funding for the remodel was provided by Newmont Mining Corporation, Barrick Gold Corporation, Midway Gold Corp. and Nevada Copper Inc. Additional support was provided by Kappes, Cassiday & Associates; Mackay School Director Russ Fields ’74 (geology), ’85 MBA and his wife, Kathy; and Samuel S. Arentz III ’68 (mining engineering) and family, who initially established the center in 2000 in honor of his grandfather, Samuel S. Arentz, and his father, Samuel S. Arentz, Jr. ’34 (mining engineering). The center houses Samuel S. Arentz, Jr.’s library of U.S. Geological Survey reports, mining and metallurgy reports on Nevada and the United States, field notes and other minerals industry books.

“The center is a place where friendships are made and gives students a sense of belonging, thereby enhancing retention,” says Elizabeth Ball ’97 M.A. (counseling and educational psychology), coordinator of student recruitment.

To learn more about supporting the College of Science and the Mackay School, please contact Donna Knotek ’12, assistant director of development, (775) 682-5952 or dknotek@unr.edu.

Karen Petroni ’59 creates three new scholarship endowments

Motivated by the belief that an educated population is vital to the health of the state and nation, alumna Karen Petroni ’59 (business) has established three new scholarship endowments at the University of Nevada, Reno.

“I want to help students in the fields of education, nursing and medicine, which are so necessary for the state’s health and welfare,” Petroni says.

The Karen Harvey Petroni Scholarship Endowments in education, nursing and medicine will benefit undergraduate or graduate students who demonstrate financial need. In addition, preference for the education scholarship endowment will be for married women or single mothers.

Petroni is the daughter of Nevada graduates Marguerite ’33 (business) and Daniel M. Harvey ’34 (electrical engineering). Marguerite taught in Fernley. After Daniel’s passing, Marguerite established the Col. Daniel M. Harvey Memorial Fund for Engineering.

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.
Alumni couple supports students at alma mater

John Jelavich ’63 (economics) and Karin (Bryant) Jelavich ’63 (social psychology) met as students on the University of Nevada, Reno campus. The couple married the same day they graduated from the University.

In gratitude to the alma mater that brought them together and gave them the tools for success, the couple has established the John Jelavich and Karin (Bryant) Jelavich Scholarship Endowment to support undergraduate students completing their degrees at the University.

In the years that followed graduation, John enjoyed a successful career in banking, while Karin dedicated her life to education as an elementary school teacher and later principal and superintendent for schools in Sutter County, Calif.

Most recently, John founded and served as president/CEO of River Valley Community Bank in Yuba City, Calif. He retired in April of this year and continues to serve on its board of directors. Karin is also now retired and the couple resides in Reno after living the past 50 years in California.

“We received an excellent education at Nevada and have fond memories,” John says. “We are pleased to give back to the school that gave us so much.”

To learn more about supporting scholarships at Nevada, please contact Lynda Buhlig ’84, associate vice president of Development and Alumni Relations, (775) 682-6013 or lbuhlig@unr.edu.

Scholarship endowment honors late John Marvel ’51

A scholarship endowment for medical students from rural Nevada has been established through memorial gifts from friends and family in honor of the late John Marvel ’51 (political science), an early supporter of the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

The Assemblyman John W. Marvel Medical Student Scholarship Endowment is named for one of the longest-serving members of the Nevada Legislature. Elected in 1978, he served 15 regular sessions and nine special sessions through 2008.

As a member of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, Marvel sought the additional funds needed to support the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Dean Emeritus Robert Daugherty, M.D., describes Marvel, who passed away last year, as one of the founding fathers of the school.

“Without his support over the early years of the School of Medicine, we would not have the rural Area Health Education Center programs or the Nevada Health Service Corps,” Daugherty says. “The coming together of the rural hospitals, the mining industry and individuals in rural Nevada to create a scholarship for a student from rural Nevada shows the continuing tremendous support of rural Nevada for the school.”

Jennifer Minor ’12 (neuroscience), a third-year medical student, is the first recipient of the scholarship endowment. Born and raised on her family’s Angus cattle ranch in Dayton, Nev., she will be the first physician in her family, and hopes to return to Dayton to practice medicine.

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