Pennington Foundation continues strong support of Nevada

For the past 25 years, the William N. Pennington Foundation has provided philanthropic support for the University of Nevada, Reno students, programs and infrastructure. Established by the late William Pennington '08 (honorary degree), gaming pioneer and co-founder of Circus Circus Enterprises, the Pennington Foundation has made lead gifts to the William N. Pennington Achievement Center, the Pennington Medical Education Building and the Pennington Health Sciences Building. The Pennington Foundation has also funded scholarships at the University since 1995 and provided support for the School of Medicine's speech-language pathology and audiology department for more than a decade.

Most recently, the Pennington Foundation provided a major gift to the University in support of the E. L. Wiegand Fitness Center, a 108,000 square-foot facility that will nearly double the space dedicated to fitness and recreation at the University. The projected opening date is early 2017.

The Pennington Foundation also made a gift to support the Dean’s Future Scholars, a College of Education academic outreach program that aims to increase the numbers of low-income, first generation students graduating from high school and gaining access to higher education.

To learn more about supporting student success at the University of Nevada, Reno, please contact Keiko Weil ’87, director of donor relations, (775) 682-5964 or kweil@unr.edu.

William Chaffin creates ROTC scholarship endowment

Former ASUN President and Sigma Nu member William A. Chaffin Jr. ’66 (political science) credits the University ROTC program and the U.S. Army for shaping the person he is today.

In tribute to the University and military program that led him toward personal and professional success, Chaffin established the William A. Chaffin Jr. ROTC “Quarter Horse” Scholarship Endowment to benefit Nevada undergraduates participating in the ROTC Program, Wolf Pack Battalion.

“I make this endowment in tribute to those who have served, serve now, and will serve in the future,” Chaffin says. “The University of Nevada and the military program led me to personal and professional success. It is payback time. If my Quarter Horse Scholarship provides the impetus for just one more second lieutenant to graduate, we will have made a start.”

After graduating from Nevada, Chaffin served in the U.S. Army for three years, advancing in rank to captain. He saw combat in Vietnam, including the TET Offensive of 1968.

He is honored to have served as an armored cavalry platoon leader with the 1st Squadron of the 4th United States Cavalry, then and now a part of the 1st Infantry Division. The Cavalry Squadron was and is widely known as the “Quarter Horse.” Chaffin was awarded two Bronze Star Medals—one with a “V” device for valor—and the Purple Heart.

After the Army, Chaffin earned his law degree from McGeorge School of Law in 1976. He then worked primarily as a civil trial attorney in the Sacramento area until his retirement in 2012.

Chaffin is past president of the Sacramento Alumni Chapter, a University Foundation trustee emeritus, a 2008 Nevada Alumni Association Service Award honoree and a 2014 Outstanding College of Liberal Arts Alumnus. Chaffin has been married to Lorena L. Moody-Chaffin since 1974. Their son, Paul, is a 2006 Nevada graduate with a degree in speech communications.

To learn more about supporting the Wolf Pack ROTC Battalion, please contact Stuart Golder ’91, ’97 M.A., director of development, at (775) 784-1222 or sgolder@unr.edu.
Mikawa planned gift to help future psychology students

In honor of her late husband and their commitment to the students of the University of Nevada, Reno, the late Lois Merritt Mikawa ’80 M.Ed., ’87 Ed.D. designated the University as a beneficiary of her retirement account to establish the James K. and Lois Merritt Mikawa Distinguished Professorship in Clinical Psychology.

Lois retired from the Washoe County School District in 2000 after 23 years working as a special education teacher, school counselor and school psychologist. During this time, she also taught various classes in the counseling department at the University and was able to mentor many students seeking to find careers in the counseling field.

In 1995, she was honored as School Psychologist of the Year by the Nevada Association of School Psychologists. In 2005, she was awarded the Paul McReynolds Foundation Psychological Services Award for her outstanding services to the ethnic minority doctoral students in the University’s clinical psychology program.

During his 27-year tenure at the University, Jim served as director of the Clinical Psychology Training Program, director of the Psychological Service Center and chair of the Department of Psychology. After being diagnosed with an inoperable cancer in 1993, he directed that upon his death $10,000 should be endowed to the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation for the purpose of establishing an ethnic minority fund for graduate students in clinical psychology.

In the community, Jim was nationally recognized for his research on suicide prevention. He was one of the founders of Reno’s Crisis Call Center and was a psychological consultant to Washoe County Sheriff’s Hostage Team. At the time of his death, Jim was actively involved in research on AIDS and had established an AIDS Outreach Program through the Northern Nevada Hispanic Services.

To learn more about planned giving opportunities at Nevada, please contact Lisa M. Riley, Esq., director of the Office of Planned Giving, (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu. To learn more about the Department of Psychology, please contact Stuart Golder, ’91, ’97 M.A., director of development for the College of Liberal Arts, (775) 784-1222 or sgolder@unr.edu.

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. 8.

The Redfield Foundation established the scholarship program at the University in 2010 with a commitment to sponsor 20 National Merit Scholars, the University’s most prestigious scholarship. Each Redfield Scholar receives $15,000 per year for four years. The Redfield Foundation is a longtime champion of the University and has provided substantial support for the under-construction William N. Pennington Achievement Center, the Act One renovation project for the School of the Arts, the William N. Pennington Health Sciences Building, the Nell J. Redfield Foundation Auditorium in the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, the School of Medicine and the Redfield Campus, along with numerous other projects on campus.

To learn more about supporting National Merit Scholars at the University, please contact Lynda Buhlig, assistant vice president of Development, (775) 682-6013 or lbuhlig@unr.edu.