On Philanthropy

Estate of Bill Harrigan supports Mackay School

During his lifetime, William A. “Bill” Harrigan ’48 (mining engineering) was a longtime supporter, friend and cherished alumnus of the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering. He served more than 10 years on the Executive Advisory Board.

Harrigan gave generously to the University, including the College of Science, the Davidson Mathematics and Science Center, the Mackay School, undergraduate scholarships, recruitment and the W.M. Keck Minerals Museum. In honor of two of his Mackay classmates, he established the Robert E. Kendall Mining Engineering Scholarship Endowment and the William J. “Hoot” Newman Hydro Scholarship Endowment. In 2010, Harrigan was inducted as a Silver Benefactor in the University’s Honor Court, and in 2014 received the Mackay School’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Born in Gardnerville, Nev., Harrigan attended Reno schools where he excelled in academics and athletics. He began his college education at the University’s Mackay School, but when World War II began, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps where he served with a photo reconnaissance squadron in North Africa, Italy and France. After the war, he returned to the University and graduated in 1948. His distinguished mining career took him all over the western United States, after which he joined Sierra Pacific Power Company as an engineer, retiring after 22 years. He then began his career as a consulting engineer developing groundwater sources throughout northern Nevada.

Harrigan passed away Dec. 8, 2014. As a Nevada Legacy Society member, he remembered the Mackay School in his estate plans, specifically wishing to provide scholarships for Mackay students. The first recipients of the William A. Harrigan Mackay School of Mines Scholarship Endowment will be awarded next year.

Director of the Mackay School Russ Fields said, “Bill Harrigan was a dear friend and the Mackay School could not have had a better alumnus. He supported the school in all possible ways, with his time, his sound advice and his financial resources. His endowment will support the education of future generations of Mackay students. We miss Bill terribly and will always appreciate what he has done for the Mackay School and its students.”

To learn more about supporting students in the Mackay School, please contact Donna Knotek ’12, ’15 assistant director of development, (775) 682-5952 or dknotek@unr.edu. To learn more about planned giving opportunities at Nevada, please contact Brian Saeman ’98, J.D., director of planned giving, (775) 682-5938 or bsaeman@unr.edu.

Randy and Natalie Brown establish scholarship endowment

Randy Brown CPA ’89 (accounting) and Natalie (Mitchell) Brown ’99 (English) have recently established the Randy J. and Natalie M. Brown Scholarship Endowment to be awarded beginning with the 2017-18 academic year.

Randy is a Reno native who earned his bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University where he was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha. He is the director of regulatory and legislative affairs for AT&T and a licensed certified public accountant in Nevada. He has served on the University of Nevada, Reno Foundation Board of Trustees since 2010, holding the position of vice chair for programs and special events, and as a member of the Foundation’s Audit and Finance Committee. Randy is past president of the Nevada Alumni Council and received the Nevada Alumni Association Service Award in 2014. He serves on the Nevada Taxpayers Association and Renown Business Boards, and is a member of the Children’s Cabinet finance committee, past chair of The Chamber of Reno, Sparks and Northern Nevada and a graduate of the Chamber Leadership Reno-Sparks Program.

Natalie earned her bachelor’s degree in English literature from the University. She obtained the Accredited in Public Relations (APR) credential and leads external communications for Wells Fargo’s Consumer Financial Services, Retail Services and Dealer Services nationwide. She previously worked in communications for Rose Glenn and John Ascuaga’s Nugget. Natalie has served as a professional advisor for students in the University’s Reynolds School of Journalism and is an active member of the Public Relations Society of America. The couple has a son, Austin.

“Randy and Natalie have served the University for many years,” said John Carothers, vice president for development and alumni relations. “We are grateful for Randy’s long service on the Foundation Board of Trustees and Natalie’s work in public relations. Randy and Natalie have been tremendous partners for the University, and we are thankful for their continued support.”

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IGT continues strong support of Nevada

IGT has been a champion of University of Nevada, Reno programs and projects for more than 30 years. The company continues its strong support again this year, including a naming gift to the under-construction William N. Pennington Student Achievement Center and support of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center for exhibits of the University’s Special Collections.

IGT’s support of the University’s NevadaFIT academic boot camps will provide fee waivers for need-based students, and its backing of the Dean’s Future Scholars Program will aid low income, first generation students in gaining access to higher education. The Northern Nevada Girls Math and Technology Program supports and encourages middle school girls from varied backgrounds to increase their knowledge, skills and confidence in mathematics, as well as technology used for mathematics learning. IGT has been a partner of this important program produced by the College of Education on campus each summer.

As a longtime supporter of The College of Business, the company continues its funding for the IGT Scholarship in Business and the Corporate Partners Program. It supports Wolf Pack Athletics as well as the University’s outreach efforts through its sponsorship of the Homecoming March from the Arch and support of the annual Foundation Banquet.

Of the company’s ongoing support, John Carothers, vice president for development and alumni relations, said, “IGT continues a remarkable record of philanthropy at the University. We are grateful for the range of programs and projects across campus that IGT has chosen to support, and we are gratified by their valuable partnership in our efforts.”

To learn more about supporting programs at the University of Nevada please contact Lynda Buhlig ’84, assistant vice president of development, (775) 682-6013 or lbuhlig@unr.edu.

Keiko Weil ’87 is the director of donor relations

and the Nevada Alumni Association and for Natalie’s guidance of journalism students. It is tremendously fitting that a scholarship for future University students will be given in their names. We are appreciative to them, not only for their incredible generosity, but for their dedicated service to the University.”

To learn more about supporting students at the University of Nevada, Reno, please contact Keiko Weil ’87, director of donor relations, at (775) 682-5964.