Emeritus professor establishes charitable gift annuity to benefit University Libraries

Emeritus professor of biology Edgar F. Kleiner is so fond of the new Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center that he can be spotted leading friends and family on informal tours of the building.

“I would move into the library if they let me,” Kleiner says with a laugh. “I dearly love it.”

A former associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and longtime Friend of the University Libraries, Kleiner has established a charitable gift annuity to benefit the University Libraries. With a charitable gift annuity, Kleiner will receive a guaranteed annual annuity income payment each year. Upon his passing, the residual will be available to support the University Libraries, allowing Kleiner to leave a legacy to an entity that he has supported for many years.

“I’ve always had a great respect for libraries,” says Kleiner, who taught botany and biology at the University for 20 years and is the founder and former director of the Wilbur D. May Arboretum at Rancho San Rafael Park. “I’ve been a heavy user of libraries most of my life, so this is merely an expression of a personal favorite topic.”

Kleiner and his wife, Ella ’73 (history/anthropology), have made several donations to the University Libraries through the years, including in-kind donations of two historical Western American paintings and many books and journals.

“I love the Special Collections department,” Kleiner says.

The 295,000-square-foot Knowledge Center opened in 2008 as a resource for students, faculty and the northern Nevada community, offering the best of traditional library resources with state-of-the-art digital and multimedia technologies. Among its offerings, the center boasts the 163-seat Wells Fargo Auditorium, the Clarence and Martha Jones Special Collections Suite, the Basque Library and Center for Basque Studies, the @One center for multimedia services and the MARS automated retrieval system.

—Roseann Keegan

For more information about charitable gift annuities or making a gift to the University Libraries, contact director of development Millie Mitchell, (775) 682-5682 or mimitchell@unr.edu, or Lisa Riley, director of Planned Giving, (775) 682-6017 or lriley@unr.edu.