Cesar Montenegro was a native of Argentina, born on June 3, 1913, and raised by his grandparents on a cattle ranch. As a young man Cesar worked as a comedian/entertainer, a career he continued while joining a brother-in-law in an Argentine produce business. After working and studying in Italy, Africa, the United States and throughout South America, Cesar became a geologist and mining engineer for Anaconda Copper Mining Company in Chuquicamata, Chile.

Mabel Emily Bittleston Rose, born April 9, 1911, grew up near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and was interested in learning from her very early days. She graduated from Pasadena Junior College, and in 1939 from Northwest Nazarene College. After teaching in Idaho and Washington and being widowed in 1944, Mabel accepted a position teaching children of American and British mine workers in Chile, South America, in 1948.

Mabel and Cesar were married in Chile in 1950, remaining there until 1960 when they returned to Idaho. Mabel continued her teaching career while earning a master's degree from the College of Idaho. In 1966 the Montenegros moved to Salem, Oregon. Mabel taught Spanish at McNary High School until her retirement in 1976. After retirement she taught at both St. Mary's Academy and Chemeketa Community College in Salem. Cesar worked many years for a local farmer and kept busy with projects and improvements to their well-manicured home and yard. Cesar and Mabel enjoyed caring for their dogs, growing and sharing beautiful flowers, traveling throughout the world, and making new friends.

The Montenegros are remembered for their friendship and their generosity to those less fortunate. Their desire was to help provide educational opportunities for family members and students majoring in education and to encourage life-long learning and service to others.

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students in good scholastic standing. Financial need shall be a consideration;
2. Preference will be given to descendants of Cyrus and Lottie Bittleston and shall be divided equally among those applying in any given year;
3. In years when no Bittleston descendent has applied for this scholarship, the scholarship shall be awarded to students majoring in education;
4. Nominations for this award are to be made through the Office of Financial Aid.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived.
Gifts to NNU's Endowed Scholarship Program become a "helping hand" to students as they prepare for their vocations and for lives of service to others.
For more information, contact the Development Office, NNU, 623 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.