



TRUE NORTH



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT ON GIVING 2023-2024

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ANNUAL REPORT ON GIVING 2023-2024



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FOUNDATION


CALL: (307) 766-6300 • (888) 831-7795

EMAIL: FOUNDATION@UWYO.EDU

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**WITH
GRATITUDE**

A person is holding a small green plant with yellow flowers in their hand. The background is a blurred mountain range under a clear sky.

What drives you—what gets you out of bed each morning, fuels your hard work, and inspires you to plan for the future? For us, it's the students. That's why we strive to connect donors with programs at the University of Wyoming that not only benefit UW but also align with the values of our supporters. By matching your passions with purpose, we ensure that your generosity makes the greatest impact. Thank you for playing such an important role!

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, the University of Wyoming raised \$61.6 million in private support from 27,646 donors—an increase of more than 4,000 donors from the previous year. Our five-year fundraising average has now reached nearly \$53 million, and UW's overall endowment stands at \$833.5 million.

The UW Foundation continues to carefully and proactively manage the university's private assets while connecting donors to the programs they care about most. Our success is your success, and on behalf of the entire university community, thank you. Your investment directly supports the students, faculty, staff, and programs that define the University of Wyoming.


To see the impact of your support, visit our website at www.uwyo.edu/foundation. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at (307) 766-6300 or email foundation@uwyo.edu.

DOUG STARK
BOARD CHAIR

JOHN STARK
PRESIDENT/CEO



TRUE NORTH



The reason for the existence of the University of Wyoming is students. It's the reason, in 1886, Territorial Governor Frances Warren signed the act that financed the construction of the first building on campus, Old Main. President John Hoyt and five faculty then welcomed 42 students ages 12 to 23 into UW's inaugural class.

Through world wars, social upheaval, and economic booms and busts, Wyoming's university has adapted to changing times while honoring the traditions that came before us. Through it all, students have been our goal, our mission, our true north.

Thank you for joining the team that makes sure Wyoming's students have the tools and support they need to complete their degrees and go on to fulfilling careers and lives. Thank you for choosing to support UW students with your philanthropy.

Your enthusiastic support has a big impact—in the low amount of debt students graduate with, the innovative research faculty and undergraduate and graduate students are able to perform, and the ability of UW both to honor our values and to adapt to changing times.

Today, UW is a nationally recognized land-grant research and teaching institution with over 700 expert faculty, top-ranked academics, world-class facilities, and a beautiful campus sprawling more than 1,000 acres. We still remember where we started and strive to keep the traditions of the West alive.

We have you to thank—your reason is our reason. We're grateful to have you on the team that supports Wyoming's students in reaching their fullest potential!




STORIES OF IMPACT



*As you build your own story,
be inspired by these.*

NEVER TOO FAR FROM HOME.

CHANDAN SHILPAKAR › GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

 Chandan Shilpakar has a 12-hour time difference between him and his loved ones. Thanks to UW's engaged Nepali community, he's been able to thrive. Originally from Nepal, Chandan is pursuing a Ph.D. in plant sciences with a specialization in forage agronomy.

"Before 2018, I didn't even know about Wyoming, to be honest," says Chandan. "When I went to the department website, I saw a lot of Nepali community pursuing their degree over here and thought it would be a good fit."

Chandan also received a graduate assistant position to help him start his degree. Today, he works with ranchers, the Bureau of Land Management, and other stakeholders across the state to further research and development within the field of agronomy.

Chandan adds, "I can see in real time what impact my learning in forage science has. And because of the community here, I never feel like I'm too far from home."



Chandan's success story

REPRESENT.

JACK O'NEIL > JOURNALISM, HONORS, DISABILITY STUDIES

One month before his 10th birthday, Jack O'Neil made the pivotal decision to have his leg amputated, after exhaustingly dealing with a congenital birth defect. The Paralympic Swimmer has never looked back.

In that same year, he qualified for U.S. Paralympics Swimming National Championships—in addition to finishing second in the U.S. Triathlon ParaNationals. This summer, he represented the U.S. in the 2024 Summer Paralympics in Paris.

"I've been disabled all my life," Jack says. "When I was born, my left leg was smaller than the right and it didn't grow at the same rate—my knee didn't work, my ankle didn't work. We tried to save it with a ton of surgeries, but I'd had enough."

Not all of Jack's doctors agreed that amputation was the best decision, but as a nine-year-old, Jack was inspired seeing para-athletes who used running blade prosthetics.

Jack's left leg was amputated above the knee and within two weeks of his surgery he was back in the water. He's been consistently building his athleticism ever since. What's more, Jack is inspiring young athletes through representation. Growing up, Jack was the only disabled youth athlete that he knew. He's now advocating to help make the NCAA a more inclusive place for people with disabilities.

"You don't see people who look like you, and I think representation is so important," Jack says. "It makes me excited when I see another amputee who is just a normal kid looking for someone like them to look up to."

Jack is a force. He was the first athlete with a disability to compete in the USA Triathlon Youth Nationals, High School Nationals, and ParaNationals and the first para-athlete to qualify under able-bodied time standards in Illinois and in Colorado.

His passion for swimming has led him around the world. He's competed in Japan, Italy, Chile, and more. Swimming is what also led him to UW. After trying to connect with different schools and receiving mixed reactions, he connected with UW Head Coach and '08 Paralympian Dave Denniston who promised he'd be treated exactly like everyone else on the team.

In his three years as a Cowboy, Jack's grown not only as a swimmer but a leader as well. Currently, he serves as an elected team captain.



Jack's success story



Christian's success story

MOM IS MY ROCK.

CHRISTIAN COOK › KINESIOLOGY

When you ask first-generation student Christian Cook what motivated him to get his kinesiology degree at UW, he says, “It was my mother.”

“My mother is a fighter,” Christian says. “That’s all I can say, point blank. My mother was a single mother of three. That meant working two jobs and providing for us—me when I was a child, my siblings. She has given all of herself. She helps me through school now. I talk to her pretty much every single day. She is my rock, that’s for sure. She’s completely and utterly the best person in my entire life.”

“My mother sought out physical therapy multiple times with multiple surgeries, and as we are in this rural community (Ranchester), we would have to drive hours and hours to get any surgery, any health-related treatments,” Christian says. “I could see that her getting back to the point where she could walk, where she can go back to work again—that was something that was insane to me.”

This is what has led him to seek a career in physical therapy—he saw a way to help other people in rural areas, people like his mom: “Thinking about the other people who are in my position—where their mothers, their fathers, their grandmothers, their grandfathers, siblings, cousins could get that help from me as a person—was my big journey into physical therapy.”

Christian was helped along the way by the Gordon S. and Charlott Myers Nursing Scholarship. “This scholarship will make a significant difference in my life by alleviating the financial burden that comes with pursuing a college education,” he says. “Moreover, this scholarship will provide me with the means to explore additional educational opportunities, which will enhance my academic and personal growth.”



Ana's success story

IT IS POSSIBLE.

ANA RODRIGUEZ > J.D./MBA CANDIDATE

Undocumented immigrant. Single mother. Survivor of violence. The barriers of higher education were significant for Ana Rodriguez. Now on the cusp of completing her law degree, she's become an inspiration and is giving back to her communities.

"I had an incident where I got my residency through the Violence Against Women Act," Ana says. "As soon as I got that, I hit the ground running. I got into school, and I finished my undergrad a year early and then went straight to law school two weeks later."

Ana is the recipient of the Joe Sandoval Family Trust Multicultural Affairs Scholarship. She is also the founder of the College of Law First Generation Organization.

"I'm not typical," Ana says. "In receiving my scholarships, it's allowed me to go out into the community and do things. As a donor, when you give back it has a triple effect. It's important. For me it's rent money. It's my daughter and I having a place to live. It's textbooks. It's food. It means a lot, and it enables me to continue."

THOSE WHO INSPIRE.

MARY ALGEO › MICROBIOLOGY

When Mary Algeo was a baby in New Hampshire, her family used to go to a nearby farm for breakfast. There is a photo of her dad holding her up next to a dairy cow. From that day, he always knew she would do something with animals, he says. And doing something with animals she does. Mary is a UW microbiology major with a minor in wildlife and fisheries biology and management. She is studying the diseases that affect large animals and wildlife.

Her dad, who works with wildlife, is an inspiration to her: “My dad got his Ph.D. when I was about 10, and so I got to sit there and watch his dissertation presentation. It was great, and it really inspired me. Higher education is super important to me.”

Her mom also inspires her. Her mom is a schoolteacher who was originally from the Philippines: “She actually taught at my school when I was a kid. It was great.”

And her high school science teacher inspired her: “His name was Mr. Morier, and he was my anatomy and physiology teacher. I was going into vet medicine, and so he really encouraged that. He always made me fight harder for what I wanted every day.”

Mary is applying to vet schools and wants to get her Ph.D. and do research. “In ten years, I hope to be helping on research that would improve health—in terms of people and animals—keeping your animals healthy and also you healthy at the same time,” she says. She has been helped along the way by scholarships—a Farm Bureau scholarship and those that are used to fulfill the Brown and Gold Commitment, which benefits out-of-state students like Mary.



Mary's success story

I'LL BE THERE.

JACOB WESTOVER › PSYCHOLOGY

As a child, Jacob Westover remembers being asked by a counselor if he felt helpless. The word stung within the deepest parts of him. One parent diagnosed with terminal cancer, the other ensnared in the grip of addiction, Jacob grew up in the undertow of grief and abuse. Helpless. The word resonated so deeply it was like hearing his own name.

“It wasn’t who I wanted to be,” Jacob says. “I decided it wasn’t who I had to be, either.”

Statistically, kids like Jacob are unlikely to escape compounding trauma. It follows them into adulthood, eliminating opportunity, killing ambition. Jacob likes beating the odds. He gets that from his mom.

When he was in the fourth grade, his mother was given only a few months to live after being diagnosed with stage four skin cancer. She made him a promise that she would see him graduate high school.

“She told me, ‘I’ll be there,’ and she was,” he says. “She got to see me finish. She’s currently in remission, and when I say she never gave up, I mean it. She’s the strongest woman I know.”

His mother’s resilience throughout her illness inspired him to pursue psychology and join the U.S. Air Force, where he is helping individuals experiencing helplessness and PTSD overcome their circumstances. In 2023, Jacob was named a recipient of the James E. and Jill S. Anderson Veterans Student Scholarship.

“How we respond to life is in our control,” Jacob says. “At my core, I want to instill hope in others that there can be a better more positive future, even when you’re given something brutal. Our perceptions shape everything. Because of my mom, I don’t see unfortunate circumstances as a threat—they’re just challenges we’re about to learn how to overcome.”



Jacob's success story

WHAT MOTIVATES ME.

ANA ACEVEDO › MARKETING

The UW Foundation's own Ana Acevedo is a nontraditional first-generation student working toward a degree in marketing. Helping her along the way have been several donor-created scholarships, including the Hathaway. Family, community, and business are what get Ana out of bed in the morning.

"I have the great fortune of having a really stable and amazing family that has supported me through many facets of life, and so what motivates me is the fact that I have family and people who relate to me and want to support me," Ana says. "My dad came up from just a low-level worker in restaurants and now owns one of the most successful Mexican restaurants here in Laramie. His perseverance and determination really motivate me to find my thing."

It's not just her parents and siblings. She's also supported by her husband Jesus and their three kids. "I think about how I can inspire my little humans and equip them to be very kind and caring contributors to the people around them. It's really cool to share with them, 'You go to school and Mom goes to school.' They see that it doesn't just stop after graduating high school or whatever milestone they're after—it can keep going."

In fact, Ana and Jesus—who is a Sergeant of the Army National Guard—won this year's Ellbogen \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition for their business FINA Custom Work, which designs and develops customizable tactical gear systems.

Ana is so grateful for the support she has received, for the education she is getting at UW, and for the ability to give back. "The university has a great balance of tradition but also innovation that makes you really wonder what could be out there, where can I grow from here?" Ana says. "I'm really passionate about just bringing people together and seeing what their vision is—from personal to professional—to bring really quality time to this short life we have."



Ana's success story

Stories of Impact

THE
**McMURRY
FOUNDATION**

DIFFERENCE MAKERS FOR WYOMING

McMurry Foundation investment
helps renovate the War.





War Memorial Stadium brings Wyoming together.

Your body vibrating from the stomping feet of thousands of screaming fans, the sun shining at your back, the breeze in your face, the canon sounding the Pokes' latest touchdown. Western Thunder taking to the field during halftime, swaying as they belt and pound out *Ragtime Cowboy Joe*, flanked by the Cheer Team, as you clap and scream, "He's a high-falutin, rootin tootin, son of a gun from old Wyoming!"

It's experiences like these that make the War so important to Wyomingites. And that's the inspiration behind the Difference Makers Campaign, which paves the way for the revitalization of the west side of War Memorial Stadium, as well as a new state-of-the-art swimming and diving facility.

"We are deeply honored to support the revitalization of War Memorial Stadium and the construction of the new swimming and diving facility," says Trudi McMurry Holthouse, executive director of the McMurry Foundation and daughter of

philanthropists Mick and Susie McMurry. "This gift reflects our family's commitment to enhancing the University of Wyoming's athletic programs and providing outstanding experiences for students and fans alike."

Susie McMurry and the McMurry Foundation have generously donated a combined \$3.5 million to support the Difference Makers Campaign. This gift—a combined \$2.5 million from the McMurry Foundation and a previous \$1 million from the late Susie McMurry—greatly enhances the gameday experience for football fans and boosts the competitive edge of UW's student-athletes.

"The investment in War Memorial Stadium will impact thousands of people across Wyoming for generations," says Tom Burman, UW athletics director. "Coupled with the McMurry Foundation's leadership of the Wyo Sports Ranch, these two projects will reach the vast majority of people in the state."

In the 1990s, the McMurry family ignited a remarkable era of energy development within Wyoming through the reopening of the Jonah natural gas field. Mick

and Susie McMurry's support of UW has transformed campus through projects including the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center, UW Athletics, Western Thunder Marching Band, the UW College of Business, the UW College of Education, the University Plaza and Conference Center, UW Casper, the Wyoming Technology Business Center, the Fay W. Whitney School of Nursing, and much more.

In 1998, the McMurrys established the McMurry Foundation, with the mission of building a better Wyoming and "paying it forward." The foundation makes a significant and beneficial impact on Wyoming communities by investing in innovative ventures and establishing community programs that make a lasting difference.

In recognition of this remarkable investment by the McMurrys, the new premium club area on War Memorial Stadium's west side will be named the Wyo Sports Ranch Club, after the Wyo Sports Ranch in Casper—a 131,000-square-foot complex for youth and amateur sports tournaments.

The Wyo Sports Ranch is a nonprofit organization and a public-private partnership that stems from the work of Tyler and Trudi Holthouse of McMurry Companies, with the lead gift from the McMurry Foundation. The facility honors Susie McMurry's passion for youth and Mick McMurry's passion to build a better Wyoming.

"My parents, Mick and Susie, always believed in investing in Wyoming's future," Holthouse says. "By supporting these projects, we are continuing their legacy and ensuring that future generations have the best facilities to foster their talents and build lasting memories."

The stadium's new premium club area will offer UW football fans a unique experience with exclusive access to an indoor space featuring premium food and drink options and a full-service bar. Enhancements on the west side will also include improved Americans with Disabilities Act access, 216 new premium loge-style seats, 3,000 new permanent chairback seats with increased leg room, renovations to the media and broadcast center, upgraded lighting for better visibility, and a new public concourse with improved amenities.



MY PARENTS, MICK AND SUSIE, ALWAYS BELIEVED IN INVESTING IN WYOMING'S FUTURE.

— TRUDI HOLTHOUSE

The chairback seating, bleachers, and access points were completed this summer, and the new premium club area, loge-style seating, improved restrooms and concessions, and the media and broadcast center will be finished by summer 2025.

Opened in 1950, War Memorial Stadium is the oldest stadium in the Mountain West Conference. At an altitude of 7,220 feet, the stadium is the highest stadium in NCAA Division I football. Since 1950, it has gone through several upgrades and renovations. In 2010, the Wildcatter Stadium Club and Suites were added to the east-side stands, and in 2018, the McMurry High Altitude Performance Center to support student-athletes was completed.

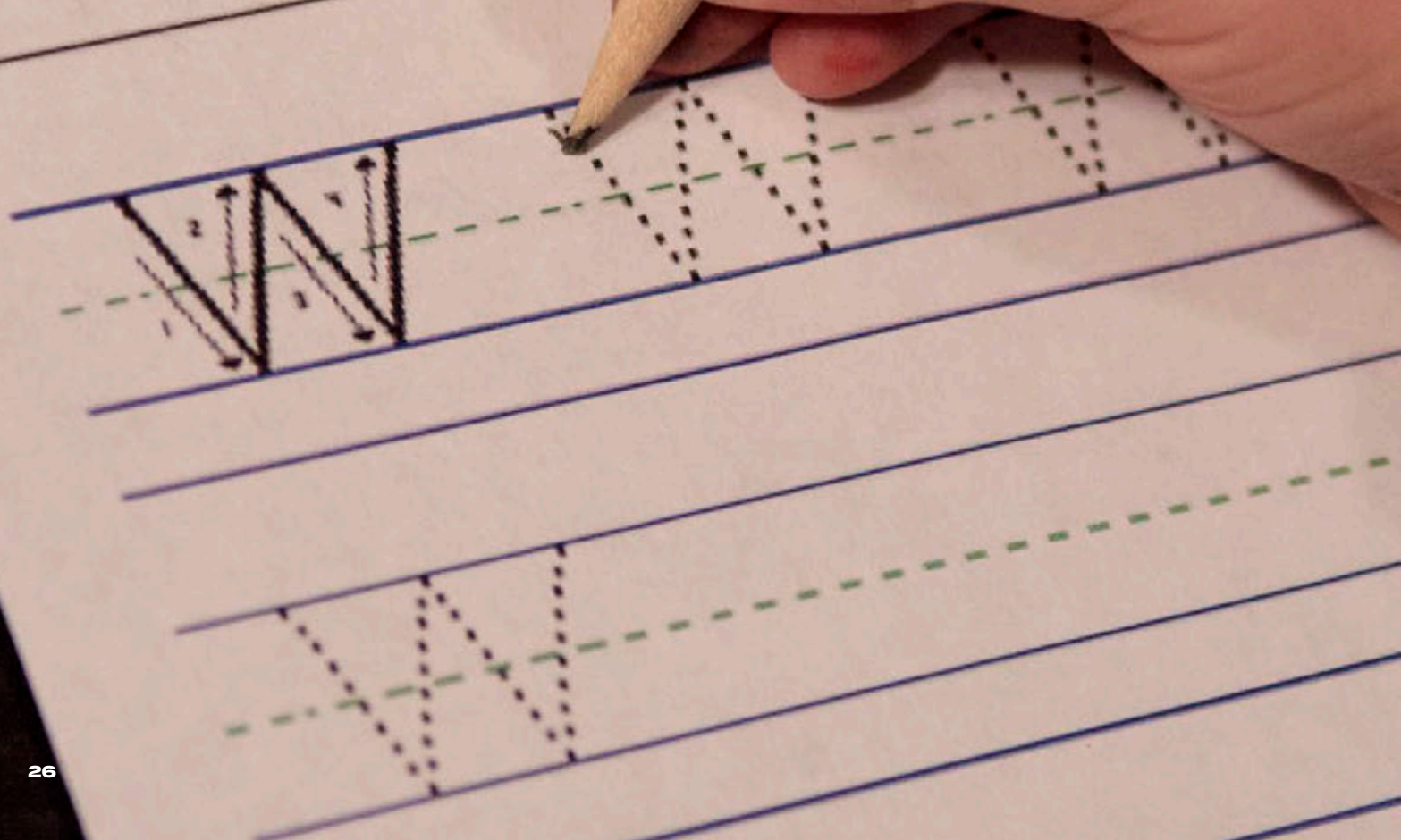
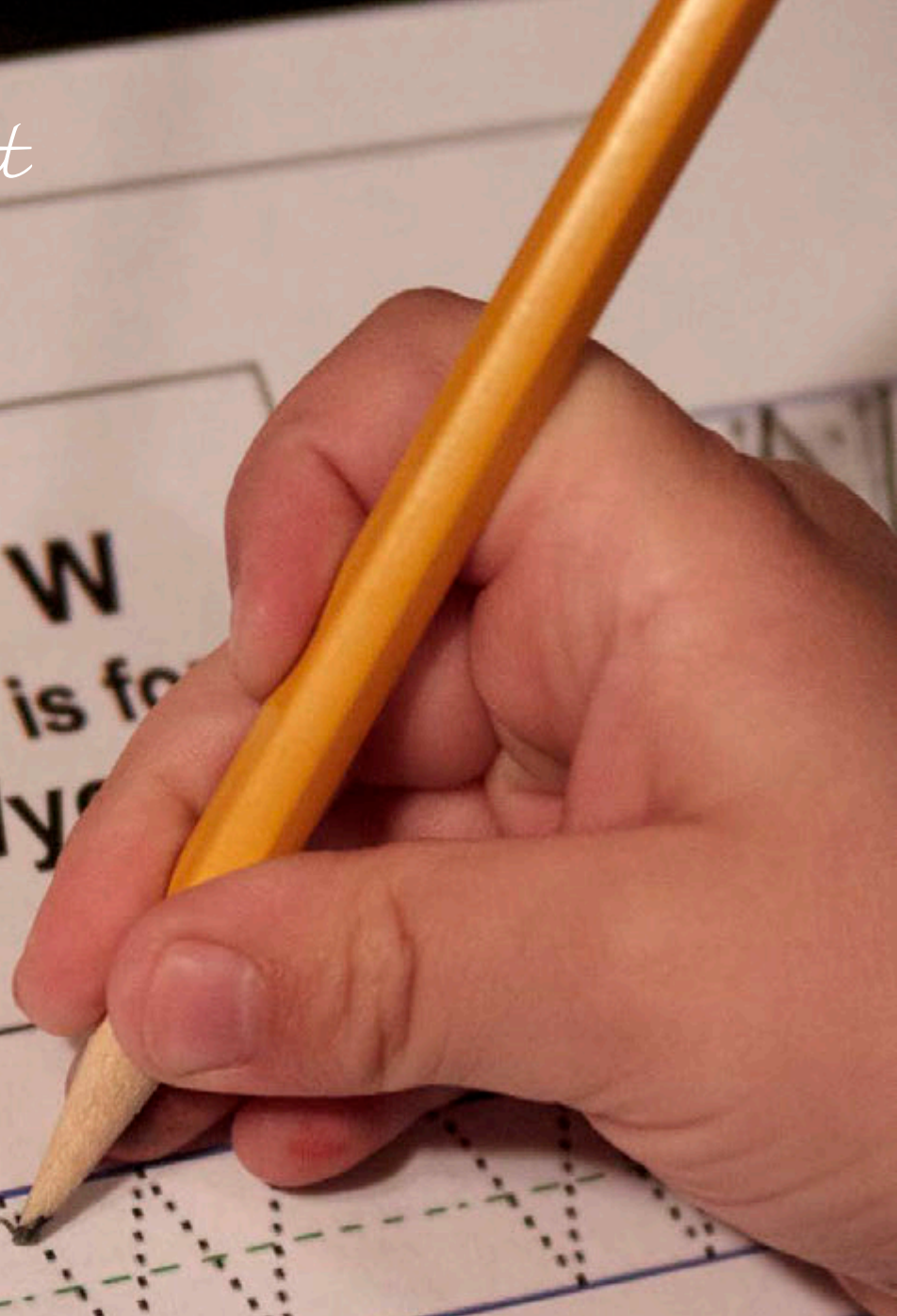
"For nearly 75 years, War Memorial Stadium has been home—home not just to our incredible Cowboy student-athletes but home to the Cowboy and Cowgirl community," says Burman. "Six Saturdays each fall, we come together as a family to share our love for UW and to help propel our student-athletes in competition. We've seen historic wins and trophies raised and shared lifelong memories that can only be made at a place like UW."

The Difference Makers Campaign also includes support for a new UW swimming and diving facility with a 50-meter pool, locker rooms, and seating areas. This new facility will also serve the youth of the state, offering a 50-meter training and competition opportunity that is currently unavailable in southern Wyoming. This new swimming and diving facility has been sorely needed at UW. Although the John Corbett Building has served swim teams for more than three decades, the current facility is more than 50 years old and is inadequate to support a collegiate swimming and diving program.

Stories of Impact



W
is for
Wyo





Ann Pickard
& Dan Smith

what
inspires
us

COUPLE'S MAJOR GIFTS CREATE
FUNDS FOR LITERACY AND
FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS.

Parents are often an inspiration for their children, but it goes both ways. Children often inspire their parents. That's the case for Ann Pickard and Dan Smith.

Smith and Pickard decided to have children later in life and ended up adopting brother and sister Nathan and Rebecca. During her career, Pickard served across the globe in a number of leadership roles in the energy industry, and so Smith retired from his job as a captain in the U.S. Navy and took care of the kids. "I was Captain Mom," he says with a big smile.

The family was living in Nigeria for Ann's job when Nathan, a kindergartener at an international school, was diagnosed with dyslexia. There were no programs to help him, so Smith and Pickard helped create some.

"So many kids with dyslexia—it's not recognized until they're in the sixth or seventh grade," Pickard says. "By this time, they're in lots of trouble, and a lot of them don't graduate. And, so, the more we can get them help to be recognized earlier with some good reading support, the more likely they can be successful, too."

"Nathan struggled all the way through his life," Smith adds. "The first bit was figuring out he had some learning difficulty. We figured out right away that that is one of the best ways to help a child—to figure it out early." With this help, Nathan went on to earn a degree as an auto mechanic and now lives in Los Angeles. Daughter

Rebecca is currently a student at UW. Pickard and Smith are very proud of both their children.

Nathan inspired them to make a planned gift to UW of \$2 million that supports the endowment Nathan's Gift – A Literacy and Special Education Excellence Fund. Nathan's Gift fosters excellence and provides financial support to the UW College of Education's Literacy Research Center and Clinic and the Special Education Program. This support is focused on developing and implementing a statewide initiative for those with learning differences, especially dyslexia—catching it early to better help students.

Pickard and Smith's other major gift was inspired by their journey as first-generation students. This

outright and planned gift of more than \$2 million establishes the Ann Pickard and Dan Smith President's Endowed Scholarship for First-Generation Students.

"Neither of us had any help from our parents (for college)," Pickard says. "They just couldn't afford it."

The Pickard and Smith Scholarship supports those who are first-generation students from Wyoming. It provides a generous amount of support to each recipient and can be renewed up to three years. It is an important part of the UW President's Endowed Scholarship Program, which provides opportunities to Wyoming's top-performing high school and transfer students. "The most important thing in life is education," Pickard says. "It is the



one thing that enables you to break out of whatever class or whatever background you are and progress.”

Pickard and Smith are both self-described “military brats” who believe in the power of education to change lives. “Both of us have always put an emphasis on education,” Pickard says.

Pickard has been described by *Fortune* magazine as “the bravest woman in oil” and “one of the 50 most powerful women in business.” She retired as executive vice president for Shell in 2016.

Pickard was born in Wyoming but then moved around the country a lot while growing up. She returned to the state and graduated from Cheyenne East High School. She attended UW for two years before earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of California and a master’s from the University of Pennsylvania. Her long career as an executive with Mobil and then Shell includes overseeing development in the Arctic, Africa, the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, South America, and the United States.

Retired Captain Dan Smith graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, earning a degree in electrical engineering. He went on to earn a master’s and an engineer’s degree from the Naval Postgraduate School. He served on surface ships, alternating tours on land and sea as a naval officer. He managed major acquisitions, and he served on five ships. He was the captain of the last ship, the *USS Underwood*. It had been his lifelong dream to command a ship.

Smith’s connection to Wyoming is through his grandmother, who lived on the South Fork outside of Cody for many decades. He has great memories of spending summers with her when he was growing up. “Fishing and time spent in Yellowstone were the highlights,” he says.

“The most important thing in life is education.”

— ANN PICKARD



Pickard and Smith first met when they were both 15 at Edwards Air Force Base, where their fathers were stationed. They met again when Smith was attending the Naval Academy in Maryland but visiting his sister in California. “The rest is history,” Smith says.

With Pickard’s career promotions, the family lived in seven countries on five continents over 14 years, ending up in Houston, Texas. Now the couple has retired to Coronado, California, to a beautiful home on the ocean.

“With our philanthropy, we want to make the world a better place,” Pickard says. “Education is critically important, and the single best thing you can do for somebody is to help them move up in the world and have good opportunities.”

Stories of Impact

Wagonhound Land & Livestock Company

RANCHERS HELP





PING RANCHERS

MAJOR GIFT BY ART AND CATHERINE
NICHOLAS SUPPORTS WYOMING
RANCHING AND AGRICULTURE.

If you break down on a Wyoming road, you can count on one of your neighbors stopping to help. And if you come across someone else broken down along the road, you stop and help. That's the Wyoming way.

Wyoming ranchers Art and Catherine Nicholas, who own Wagonhound Land & Livestock Company, LLC near Douglas, are helping tomorrow's ranchers on their road to the future. Their \$2.5 million gift—doubled to \$5 million by state matching program—supports the UW Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership Program.

“Wagonhound Land & Livestock is thrilled to partner with the University of Wyoming with our investment in the Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership Program,” says Andrea Nicholas Perdue, CEO of Wagonhound Holdings. “As stewards of the land and advocates for sustainable agriculture, we are excited to contribute to the cultivation of future leaders in the industry.”

Wagonhound Land & Livestock is a 300,000-acre ranch raising Red Angus and quarter horses located south of Douglas on Wagonhound Creek. The ranch also includes farm, outfitting, and guest operations.

Their brand, which dates back to territorial days, is the quarter circle, bar, quarter circle. The Nicholases have owned the ranch since 1999.

Art serves as a director emeritus on the board of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and the investment committee of the American Quarter Horse Association. Catherine is a director of the American Quarter Horse Foundation and serves on the board of the Cowgirl Hall of Fame. The couple has an expansive Western art and book collection, and they support the Traditional Cowboy Arts Association. They both have a background in investing.

Art Nicholas grew up on a cattle ranch in Nebraska and, while in the Navy, he moved to San Diego, California, where he earned a bachelor's degree in finance from San Diego State University. He has over 40 years of experience in investing, co-founding Nicholas-Applegate Capital Management and serving as chairman and CEO. Before that, he was a portfolio and bank manager.

Catherine Nicholas has over 30 years of experience as an investment analyst and portfolio manager. She founded Nicholas Investment Partners, which is advised by Art. Previously, she served as global chief investment officer for Nicholas-Applegate Capital Management. She earned her bachelor's degree in business administration cum laude and her MBA in finance, both from the University of Southern California.

The nature of ranch management and agricultural leadership today requires professionals to have an integrated understanding across a broad array of disciplines while demonstrating strong interpersonal skills that allow for effective teamwork, collaboration, and development and retention of talent—all of which are addressed in the UW Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership Program. Initially launched in 2021, the program provides future generations of ranchers and agricultural producers with in-depth hands-on programs that honor the tried-and-true while developing the technologies of tomorrow.

The program provides a real-world multidisciplinary education to Wyoming's students and professionals in ranch management and agricultural leadership. It seeks to integrate classroom learning with practical experience and to connect students with producers and industry professionals.

The program also facilitates an annual seminar series, Ranching in the West, held at community colleges



“AS STEWARDS OF THE LAND AND ADVOCATES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, WE ARE EXCITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CULTIVATION OF FUTURE LEADERS IN THE INDUSTRY.”

— ANDREA NICHOLAS PERDUE

 **Wagonhound**
LAND & LIVESTOCK CO.

throughout the state. The series includes a one-day leadership summit and is attended by professionals and students alike. The series offers insights into how Wyoming ranches and businesses and agencies are dealing with real-world challenges.

Students in the program learn animal science, rangeland management, agricultural business and economics, agricultural communication, organizational leadership, and political science. They also are prepared as employees, managers, and leaders through courses that address communications, conflict, ethics, collaboration, human resources, policy, and much more.

The program meets the needs not only of students but also members of the larger community within the state who are engaged in ranch management and agriculture. It offers professional development for current ranch managers and agricultural leaders, a bachelor's degree in ranch management and agricultural leadership, and graduate degrees and advanced certifications. The curriculum is guided by experts—ranch owners, agency professionals, agribusiness leaders, industry executives, elected officials, academics, and UW alumni.

Each level of education—certification, bachelor's, or master's—is designed to incorporate workforce development, practical experiences, research-based technical knowledge, real-world problem-solving, and making connections with industry leaders throughout the West. For example, students working on their bachelor's degrees complete three internships with government agencies, working ranches, nonprofits, private organizations, and/or associations important to Western livestock agriculture.

Our future is stronger when we come together and help each other down that road. The Nicholases are doing just that.



COURTESY PHOTO

Desert Cowboy

TALES OF GRATITUDE WITH MARTIN KNAUSS



Stories of Impact



IT WAS THE DRY AIR THAT MADE MARTIN KNAUSS FEEL AT HOME.

The climate in Laramie is both an ache and a gift. The valley wind is filtered through the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains. It cracks the skin on your hands, on your lips. It's thin and clear, scattering more light across the horizon. Our sunsets humble the mountains. Here, at 7,220 feet, you learn to breathe with gratitude.

Martin had never seen Laramie, not until the day he moved here for college in 1976. He drove in by himself, making the trip from Bullhead City, Arizona, a little over 900 miles. The arid Wyoming plains reminded him of his desert home.

The decision to attend the University of Wyoming had come down to value and cost. Arizona didn't offer petroleum engineering at the time, and his first semester at UW was only \$120. He'd learn that \$120 would buy him much more than an education. Through UW, Martin got to see snow for the first time. He became close with renowned educators and spent evenings playing racquetball with his mentor. He also made the networking connections that would eventually lead to a prosperous 35-year career with multinational oil and gas company, Chevron.

"I was accepted on a scholarship grant that covered my out-of-state tuition," Martin says. "That was part of what inspired me to give. I don't like the fact that kids are going into debt to go to college. I think Wyoming does a good job at lowering the cost of tuition, especially compared to these other schools. I'm hoping this endowment will keep student costs even lower."

"I FEEL GOOD ABOUT GIVING BACK TO UW BECAUSE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO ME. I LOVE THE WYOMING MENTALITY AND CULTURE OF RESPONSIBILITY."

— MARTIN KNAUSS



The Martin Knauss Energy Student Enrichment Fund supports students who are enrolled in the energy degree programs at the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences and the School of Energy Resources. The fund provides scholarships and enrichment opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Most importantly, it creates greater access to higher education for students aspiring to make an impact.

By 1980, Martin graduated with a bachelor's in petroleum engineering. His Wyoming education would lead him around the world, bringing his Cowboy integrity and resilience with him. Between 1988 to 1991, he'd find himself in another desert, Saudi Arabia, during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Martin worked as a lead petroleum engineer just 20 miles from the Dhahran barracks. He and his wife Gail would witness the flash of the Iraqi Scud missile that struck the U.S. military base—an attack that resulted in the greatest combat loss taken by any single Army unit since Vietnam. During the air raids, they bunkered in a windowless room.

“Living internationally shaped my perspective on life,” Martin says. “I’ve always thought that one of the best things a U.S. citizen can do is live in a third-world country for at least six months. It will teach you how other people live and how they survive.”

Eventually, the Knausses became desensitized to the sirens. They would sometimes stand outside, watching thin lights trace arches across the desert sky.

In 1991, Martin and Gail moved back to the United States but continued to travel throughout Europe, Southeast Asia, and Africa. They would visit an array of cultures including Thailand, Vietnam, China, Japan, Brazil, Argentina, and many more. Along the way, they would connect with other travelers who are also passionate about experiencing the world firsthand.

“My favorite part is the people I meet,” Martin says. “We’ve become close with friends who live in different parts of the country and the world.”

The Knausses feel blessed in the opportunities they’ve received. As Martin shares his experiences, his widespread appreciation brings together the events that detail his life—both the triumphs and the challenges. He shares his gratitude for natural resources and his appreciation of the relationships he’s built over the years. Martin carries the Western ethos through his respect for land, people, and life itself.

“The university provided me the glide path to be successful in my career, and I used my career to be successful in my retirement and my life,” Martin says. “I feel good about giving back to UW because of what it means to me. I love the Wyoming mentality and culture of responsibility. I am disturbed by the amount of debt students are facing when they choose to pursue a university degree. I want to give back to help with that. I want to give students the same opportunities that were given to me.”



Stories of Impact

UW GIVING DAY

UW Giving Day 2023 saw the highest number of donors in the history of this annual celebration of philanthropy—a stunning 8,978. In just 24 hours, \$3.6 million was raised that goes directly to students and the faculty and programs that support them. In addition to breaking the record number of donors, there was a record-breaking 207 campaigns created by units and student organizations. More than \$1 million was available in overall matching and challenge funds, as well as 48 unit-specific matches and challenges. All matching funds were used up within minutes of going live.

“On behalf of the University of Wyoming and the UW Foundation, I would like to thank you for your overwhelming generosity on Giving Day,” says Mary Shafer-Malicki, former chair of the UW Foundation board. “The outpouring of support from alumni, students, faculty, and friends has truly made a difference. Together, we are shaping a brighter tomorrow for UW.”



DR. SONG JIN

Song Jin is founder of Advanced Environmental Technologies LLC and an adjunct professor in Civil and Architectural Engineering at UW. But way before that, he was an undergraduate in China who dreamed of pursuing graduate studies in the U.S. Despite numerous obstacles—and with the help of the Helen Dunnewald Memorial Scholarship and UW Professors Don Roth and Patricia Colberg—his determination led him to UW. Thirty years and a Ph.D. later, he honored that very scholarship on Giving Day 2023 by giving back. “It was such a touching moment,” Song says. Reconnecting with the Dunnewald family brought his journey full circle, and he is humbled by the opportunity to pay it forward and help future students.

BRIAN PEPIN

A trailblazer and first-generation college student, Brian Pepin is a drummer in an 80s cover band. He is also a principal software developer at Xbox, a division of Microsoft, and a graduate of the UW College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. For 22 years, he has paid it forward through support of the President’s Impact Fund—that supports students across the board—and he gives back to the College of Engineering and Physical Sciences. He also actively supports his professional community online through contributions to Github, Quora, and other sites.

THE SCHWARTZKOPF FAMILY

Sandy Schwartzkopf was a nontraditional student who transferred from Eastern Wyoming College to UW, where she earned her bachelor’s in English with honors. She returned for her master’s and taught English 1010, aspiring to complete a Ph.D. and to continue teaching. Tragically, she lost her fight with breast cancer at the age of 39, and her master’s was awarded posthumously. In honor of this caring mother and wife who loved learning, the Sandy Schwartzkopf Scholarship was established to benefit nontraditional students in the Department of English. The scholarship was started by her parents Hal and Shirley Brethour and her husband Rick. Sandy’s son Joel gives to the fund every month to continue her legacy and to create opportunities for other students like his mother.

IVY MCLEOD

Ivy McLeod’s life took off in a big way—literally, with NASA. Originally from Basin, Wyoming, she graduated from UW with a bachelor’s in physics. She earned a master’s in physics and meteorology from the University of Oklahoma before working her way up to her current position as flight controller for the International Space Station at Johnson Space Center. She returns to UW every fall for the Women in STEM conference to mentor, and she supports her alma mater through gifts to excellence- and science-focused programs across campus.

Stories of Impact

DOUG AND DENIZ STARK

UW Foundation Board Chair Douglas Stark and his wife Deniz are both UW alums devoted to giving back to their alma mater. After earning his degree in agricultural business in 1980, Doug joined Farm Credit Services of America. He served as president and chief executive officer from 2005 until his retirement in 2017, the culmination of a 37-year career. Deniz graduated in 1984 with her degree in agricultural business.

Together, the Starks have facilitated collaboration on research and outreach projects between UW and Farm Credit Services of America and helped launch UW's first minor in leadership. Doug and Deniz also established the Stark Family President's Endowed Scholarship, which supports transfer students to the UW College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources.

"I felt UW was a pivotal point in my life and career," Doug says. "There are so many opportunities if students will look at their college education as that pivotal experience—that platform to propel them into an exciting future. That's what keeps me motivated and giving back to UW."





GENE SCOTT

Gene Scott grew up on a wheat farm and cattle ranch north of Fort Laramie. It was a big step from his graduating class of six to the UW campus. Finances were tight, but he worked summers as a road construction truck driver and campus jobs, as well as receiving scholarships. He graduated with a bachelor's from the Department of Speech before pursuing a master's from American University and a Ph.D. from Purdue. Initially, he worked for Cal Davis and then served as a management consultant for California health care companies. He then founded his own consulting business, which he operated for 20 years. In gratitude, he is establishing the Gene Scott College of Arts and Sciences Student Enrichment Fund through his estate to support transformative experiences for A&S students.

AKSEL PETERSON AND REBECCA RAYBOULD

Three-time UW alum Aksel Peterson and spouse Rebecca Raybould believe in supporting students who are Wyoming's best and brightest. Through their philanthropy and their estate, they established the Aksel Peterson and Rebecca Raybould President's Endowed Scholarship in 2021, the impact of which was doubled by the state matching program. "I was one of the first ten recipients of the UW Superior Students Scholarship in 1961," Aksel says. "This scholarship was a godsend for me at the time, and I believe in passing this good fortune on to students of the current generation."

DR. KURT FELTNER

UW alum Kurt "Cub" Feltner loves Wyoming agriculture. From Pinedale, he's served at universities across the country in ag colleges and experiment stations. With his estate, he established the Feltner Family College of Agriculture Assistance Fund, which provides scholarships to Wyoming ag students, especially those studying plant science. Previously, he established a fund in honor of his late wife of 58 years, Lynn, which created an award for the best student paper in *Reflections*, the research magazine of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station.

Stories of Impact

JOHN P. ELLBOGEN FOUNDATION

A major investment from the John P. Ellbogen Foundation will support nuclear energy instruction and the Nuclear Energy Research Center (NERC) in the University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources. The \$1 million gift will be doubled to \$2 million by State of Wyoming matching funds to establish the John P. Ellbogen Foundation Nuclear Energy Research Center Fund. Major objectives include developing and delivering nuclear-related coursework—including certificates and degrees at the undergraduate and graduate levels—and programmatic support of nuclear-focused faculty, staff, and students.

The John P. Ellbogen Foundation is dedicated to creating change for the benefit of the people of Wyoming through the support of science, education, and charity. It is a longtime and generous partner of UW, supporting the university's educational efforts, programs, faculty, and students.

"The board and I are thrilled about the opportunities this grant will create for the students and faculty at the university and for the state of Wyoming," says Spencer Garland, vice president of the Ellbogen Foundation Board of Directors. "This grant aligns well with two key pillars of the foundation's mission by supporting both education and science. Additionally, it provides important funding for NERC, which in just three years has become an integral player in Wyoming's energy transformation."



MELLON FOUNDATION

The Mellon Foundation seeks to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking where ideas and imagination can thrive. Its \$850,000 grant to UW and the Department of English established the program “Re-Storying the West for a Transformative Future: We Are Wyoming.” This program records the contemporary stories of everyday Wyomingites and creates “a living public archive” of Wyoming stories. It also launched a Ph.D. in public humanities, providing subgrants to faculty and creating graduate assistantships and internships.

JOHN P. ELLBOGEN FOUNDATION

A major gift from the John P. Ellbogen Foundation created the John P. Ellbogen Pathways from Prison Program Support Fund—two forces for good coming together to more than double their impact. The Wyoming Pathways from Prison Program provides high-quality college courses to incarcerated women and men through generous volunteer support provided by UW faculty, staff, and students. The Ellbogen Foundation creates change for the benefit of the people of the state of Wyoming through its support of science, education, and charity. Together, they give people a second chance.

TOMÉ FOUNDATION

Established at UW in 2021 by a major gift from the Tomé Foundation, the Tomé Scholars to Fellows Program supports some of the nation’s most distinguished students as they seek solutions to some of our most complex environmental challenges. Students of exceptional talent and exemplary skills receive a full-ride four-year scholarship and experiential learning opportunities. The foundation further supported the program this past year, adding more scholars and the position of Tomé College Relations Representative and Recruiter. The foundation is the work of Carol and Ramon Tomé, both of whom are successful UW alums.

LEONA M. AND HARRY B. HELMSLEY CHARITABLE TRUST

A grant by the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust of nearly \$1.6 million to the UW College of Health Sciences will train Wyoming health care professionals on state-of-the-art ultrasound equipment as part of a statewide ultrasound initiative. The larger initiative includes nearly \$13.9 million to help Wyoming hospitals and health centers purchase ultrasound imaging devices and to boost sonography and point-of-care ultrasound training opportunities across the state. It will enhance patient care by both broadening the scope of training in specialty ultrasound and bolstering access to point-of-care ultrasound services, as well as improving quality.

Stories of Impact

TALLGRASS ENERGY AND WILLIAMS

Two corporate partners are supporting the CO₂ Storage Excellence Fund at the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources. They are Tallgrass Energy, an industry leader with a commitment to achieving decarbonized energy solutions, and Williams, an energy infrastructure leader. Both partners contributed \$250,000, which together was doubled to \$1 million by State of Wyoming matching funds.

The excellence fund will provide the essential support to advance existing efforts in carbon capture, utilization, and storage—from research and demonstration to commercialization—thus benefiting the future Wyoming economy.

“We’re proud to expand our partnership with the University of Wyoming through this gift and to support the advancement of a developing field that will create new opportunities for future generations in Wyoming,” says Kyle Quackenbush, Tallgrass’s segment president over CO₂. “It’s essential that we partner with the vital industries that support the communities where we operate. These partnerships help us continue to deliver innovative solutions that advance decarbonized energy.”

“Williams has a strong relationship with the University of Wyoming and is pleased to support the School of Energy Resources CO₂ Storage Excellence Fund,” says Brian Hlavinka, Williams’s vice president of new energy ventures. “The fund will accelerate research, development, and deployment of CO₂ storage—a powerful tool to help achieve net-zero emissions and to decarbonize hard-to-abate industrial processes.”





NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES, LLC

A major gift from NextEra Energy Resources, LLC will support the growing Professional Land Management program in the School of Energy Resources—one of nine undergraduate programs accredited nationally by the American Association of Professional Landmen and the only one currently offering a standalone four-year degree program. The program trains graduates in determining mineral and surface ownership so that they can serve as the public-facing agent for mineral and energy development lease negotiations. This interdisciplinary practical learning experience includes the disciplines of law, business, mathematics, and environmental science.

UNIWYO CREDIT UNION

UniWyo Credit Union is the proud title sponsor of UW Homecoming and Cowboy Coffee in a three-year agreement with the UW Alumni Association. This fall's celebration took place September 23–28 with the theme of Ragtime Reunion. UniWyo Credit Union has been a longtime supporter of UW, the UW Alumni Association, Homecoming, and much more. In addition to contributing to the financial wellness of students and of those who support them, UniWyo has supported critical programs at UW including the UniWyo Sports Complex, the UW Common Cents Financial Wellness program, study abroad scholarships, the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center, the Art Museum, and Wyoming Athletics. Their impact on student success cannot be understated. Not only has UniWyo been a financial partner in these programs but often actively volunteers their time with each of these activities well.

DEVON ENERGY

Devon Energy is a proud partner with the Wyoming Conservation Corps, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth in conservation that provides formal university-level courses—leadership in natural resource management, conservation leadership, wilderness medicine, and a month of field training. This is the company's 17th consecutive year in support of the preservation and restoration of Wyoming's beautiful public lands. Each year, Devon meets the new WCC crew, learns about their impactful summer projects, and lends a hand. In 2024, 39 Devon volunteers had the opportunity to work on constructing a trail for access to the North Platte River.

Stories of Impact

DOUBLE 4 FOUNDATION AND DAVE AND MELANIE TRUE

A significant investment by Casper's Double 4 Foundation and Dave and Melanie True continues the remarkable momentum of the Difference Makers Campaign, University of Wyoming Athletics's drive to raise millions of dollars in private support to renovate the west side of War Memorial Stadium and to build a new competition pool facility.

The private support from dedicated Pokes fans and supporters will be combined with a significant investment by the State of Wyoming and UW to complete the two facilities.

"There is no question that this will be an advantage to the state of Wyoming and its citizens," says Dave True, Double 4 Foundation trustee and a member of the UW Board of Trustees. "Major athletic programs bring a huge benefit not only to the institution but to the students. As a student, a major part of your experience is outside the classroom, and a good program at the Division I level contributes to that experience."





MARK CASEY

A major gift from Mark Casey, an equity portfolio manager at Capital Group, establishes the new Bitcoin Research Institute at UW, which asks big questions about Bitcoin and money in general. It is the first university institute of its kind. The purpose of the institute is to create an international hub of philosophical, economic, and scientific thinking and research on Bitcoin and to increase the quality and impact of Bitcoin research in general. The institute's inaugural director is Bradley Rettler, an associate professor in UW's Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and a fellow at the nonprofit Bitcoin Policy Institute, a think tank studying the future of money.

BRYAN AND WANDA CARLSON SMITH

A bequest from civil engineering alum Bryan Smith and his wife Wanda creates the Bryan and Wanda Carlson Smith Scholarship and Student Enrichment Fund. This fund provides generous support for juniors or seniors in civil engineering from Wyoming or Montana. The fund can also be used for hands-on learning opportunities for students to gain real-world work experience—for example, field trips to construction sites, steel bridge and concrete canoe competitions, and surveying. Bryan is thankful for his UW education, which taught him to be an effective engineer.

DAVE AND CHRISTEL WALRATH

We pass along our good fortune to those who come after. Professor Dave Walrath and his wife Christel are passing along their good fortune by establishing the David and Christel Walrath Professorship in Mechanical Engineering. The fund supports faculty and programs in mechanical engineering, Dave's UW department, with a focus on solids mechanics or materials. Dave earned his bachelor's and master's from UW and then a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware. He worked in industry on composite materials analysis before returning to UW to be a professor and to help Wyoming small businesses create companies with their product ideas.

Stories of Impact

UW FOUNDATION STEWARDSHIP AWARDS



Mark Guiberson



Joe Carver

Two University of Wyoming faculty members have earned the prestigious UW Foundation Stewardship Award for 2024. They are Mark Guiberson, head of the Division of Communication Disorders, and Joe Carver, director of Western Thunder Marching Band.

“Connecting with our donors, understanding their UW journey, and aligning with their vision has been a true joy for me,” Guiberson says. “Together, we’ve elevated UW’s Division of Communication Disorders into a program known for innovation and excellence. I thank our donors for the role they’ve played in shaping the division’s evolution and success.”

“I am incredibly honored to receive this award,” Carver says. “Engaging with supporters of Western Thunder Marching Band is one of the great joys of my role here at UW. I am deeply grateful for the students in the band who have worked hard to better our program. Thank you to the UW Foundation for their work in providing our students the very best experience.”

The UW Foundation Stewardship Award recognizes the leadership of UW faculty members who excel in the relationship-building and stewardship of alumni and donors through effective use of private gifts, engaging former students in the activities of the university, and a commitment to strong external relationships for the betterment of UW.

DR. KEN GRIFFIN

Some of UW's most faithful supporters are its faculty and staff. Former College of Business Dean Ken Griffin has benefited UW with his philanthropy for a whopping 40 years. This is in addition to all the other ways he has served UW. For example, he established multiple funds that honor his late wife Leah, who tragically died of ALS in 2009, and one that honors historian and U.S. Air Force Colonel Gerald Adams. He has supported the Ken and Leah Griffin Scholarship for College of Business students consistently since 2003, but these are just a few of the many gifts he's given.

BILL AND NANCY PETTUS

Bill and Nancy Pettus have a combined total of 55 years in education and over 30 years on the UW College of Education Advisory Board. They have been staunch financial supporters of the college for over 37 years, including the Literacy Research Center and Clinic, the Bill and Nancy Pettus Special Education Scholarship, and much more. It's hard to measure the breadth and depth of the impact they've had on UW. "I believe my undergraduate program at the University of Wyoming was second to none, and I am indebted to the university for the excellent education I received," Bill says.

LEW AND DONNA BAGBY

Distinguished Emeritus Professor Lew Bagby is retired UW Russian faculty and director of International Programs, and Donna Bagby is a retired UW electron microscopist in Zoology and special assistant to the UW president. For 29 years, the Bagbys have supported UW with their philanthropy in the areas of UW they are most passionate about—Wyoming Public Radio, Modern and Classical Languages, the Symphony, the Art Museum, Theatre and Dance, Global Engagement, and much more. Their Lew Bagby Foreign Language and International Studies Scholarship supports Arts and Sciences students who are focusing on international studies and a foreign language.



WAYS TO GIVE

There are many ways to impact the success of the University of Wyoming. Rest assured that your gift—no matter the size—will do just that. There are a variety of ways to donate to UW:

- gifts of cash,
- creating a scholarship,
- establishing an endowment,
- gifts from wills, trusts, and beneficiary designations,
- gifts in honor or memory,
- establishing a chair or deanship,
- real estate, stock, and other securities,
- digital assets and cryptocurrency,
- retirement plans and life insurance, and
- a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust.

You can also make a pledge, and some corporations or organizations match the charitable gifts of their employees, which can double the impact of your gift. Check with your human resources department.

ONLINE

Give securely online at uwyo.edu/giveonline

PHONE

Call toll free (888) 831-7795 or (307) 766-6300

MAIL

UW Foundation
Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center
222 South 22nd Street
Laramie, Wyoming 82070

OR VISIT

uwyo.edu/foundation to learn more and connect with one of our directors of development



GIVING PRIORITIES

STUDENT SUCCESS

At the heart of the university's mission lies a commitment to student success. Every facet of the university revolves around supporting and empowering students to achieve their highest potential.

- Engaging coursework that promotes critical thinking and problem-solving.
- Experiential learning opportunities such as internships and hands-on research that prepare students for success today and tomorrow.
- A supportive campus environment fostering belonging and wellness.
- Career development programs preparing students for success post-graduation.
- Scholarships and support funds increasing access and alleviating financial barriers.

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Central to student success is faculty excellence. UW invests in recruiting, retaining, and developing top-tier faculty members to excel in their teaching, research, and service pursuits.


- Supports student success.
- Attracts and retains top faculty, boosting university reputation.
- Cultivates a culture of excellence and growth.
- Drives impactful research and knowledge advancement.
- Fosters interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Catalyzes opportunities for external funding through grants, research, corporate partnerships, and philanthropy.
- Strengthens UW's competitiveness in attracting top students.
- Builds a collaborative academic community.
- Invests in the university's long-term success.

INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

Prioritizing fundraising efforts for institutional excellence encompasses projects and programs such as infrastructure upgrades, facilities, technological enhancements, and research initiatives to enhance educational quality and promote student success while bolstering UW's reputation, impact, and visibility.



FINANCIAL REPORT ▲



Fiscal year 2024 marked significant strategic progress for the UW Foundation investment portfolio, particularly in enhancing income-driven returns. While our overall return of 7.7% did not meet the 9% cost of capital objective, we successfully increased the portfolio's income yield to 2.4%, up from 1.5% in 2019, by building on the strategic shifts implemented in 2023. The 2.4% income yield represents 26.6% of our 9% cost of capital, which translates to greater stability of returns to support the University of Wyoming. Our goal in the coming year is to achieve a 3% run rate of contracted income in the endowment by employing the strategies described below while remaining within the fixed income policy allocation approved by the foundation's board.

As capital allocators, we are always on the lookout for places where capital is moving to or in this case from. Opportunistic credit and private debt are key areas for institutions like ours to bridge the capital void left by banks exiting certain credit relationships due to increased regulatory burdens. We anticipate this opportunity will continue, if not intensify, as banks face ongoing capital constraints and adopt more conservative risk appetites in response to regulatory pressures. Opportunistic credit and private debt investments provide attractive yields with a high degree of income stability due to their contractual nature. By targeting senior secured loans, real estate lending, and specialty finance, our investment managers have been able to capture yields that significantly exceed current market interest rates.

Another area where capital retreat has created an investment opportunity is fossil fuel energy infrastructure. While this may seem unrelated to emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, AI applications significantly increase energy consumption. For instance, AI-powered Google search queries use ten times more energy than traditional searches. McKinsey & Company estimates that the United States will need an additional 50 gigawatts of electricity by the end of the decade to accommodate this trend. Where will this power come from? The answer is that this power will have to come from every available energy source that currently feeds the electrical grid. As a picks-and-shovels approach, we have allocated public equity capital to natural gas transportation infrastructure. These midstream companies are a vital backbone of the energy economy and will benefit from increased energy demand in the United States.

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Alongside our focus on areas where capital is retreating, we are committed to directing investments toward sectors that drive growth and technological innovation. Our internal analysis indicates that leading technology firms—Microsoft, Apple, Nvidia, Amazon, Meta, and Alphabet—contributed half of the S&P 500's returns this fiscal year. Investors drove this result because they believe that these companies can generate excess returns through the development and application of large language models and AI across various business sectors. Admittedly, our public equity portfolio managers did not have an oversized exposure to these large technology companies, which resulted in performance for our public equity allocation being less than we would like. However, we have benefited from the rise in AI, just not in the same manner as expressed by the leading public market indices. The coming year will require judgement and perhaps a bit of luck to position our public equity investments to better participate in transformative technological change while maintaining a conservative posture.

For a snapshot of our allocation ending on June 30, 2024, please see the FY24 Asset Allocation graph (page 61). Compared to last year, this graphic shows a slightly higher allocation to private debt (areas where capital is retreating) and a slightly higher allocation to real assets (areas benefiting from technological growth). The UW Foundation Investment Team—in collaboration with our board of directors and our consultant Meketa Investment Group—updates the allocation targets every year in response to an ever-changing financial landscape.

In summary, we remain pragmatic in positioning fund investments within our allocation framework. Our focus remains on reducing complexity and fees while we continue to seek areas where capital is retreating or needed to fund future technological growth. We seek to earn greater than our cost of capital of 9%, to the ultimate benefit of the students at the University of Wyoming.

UW Foundation Investment Team



PRIVATE SUPPORT TOTALS

(in millions)

FY20	\$43.3
FY21	\$48.8
FY22	\$51.4
FY23	\$59.6
FY24	\$61.6

DISBURSEMENTS TO UW

(in millions)

FY20	\$26.9
FY21	\$31.3
FY22	\$30.2
FY23	\$37.1
FY24	\$41.1

Note: The fiscal year totals above include disbursements to UW for building projects as well as additional support.

ENDOWMENT

(in millions)

FY20	\$585.9
FY21	\$794.7
FY22	\$751.3
FY23	\$789.5
FY24	\$833.5

ENDOWMENT EXPENDITURES

(in millions)

FY20	\$20.6
FY21	\$20.7
FY22	\$21.5
FY23	\$22.9
FY24	\$28.0

NUMBER OF ENDOWMENTS

FY20	1,589
FY21	1,646
FY22	1,690
FY23	1,774
FY24	1,823

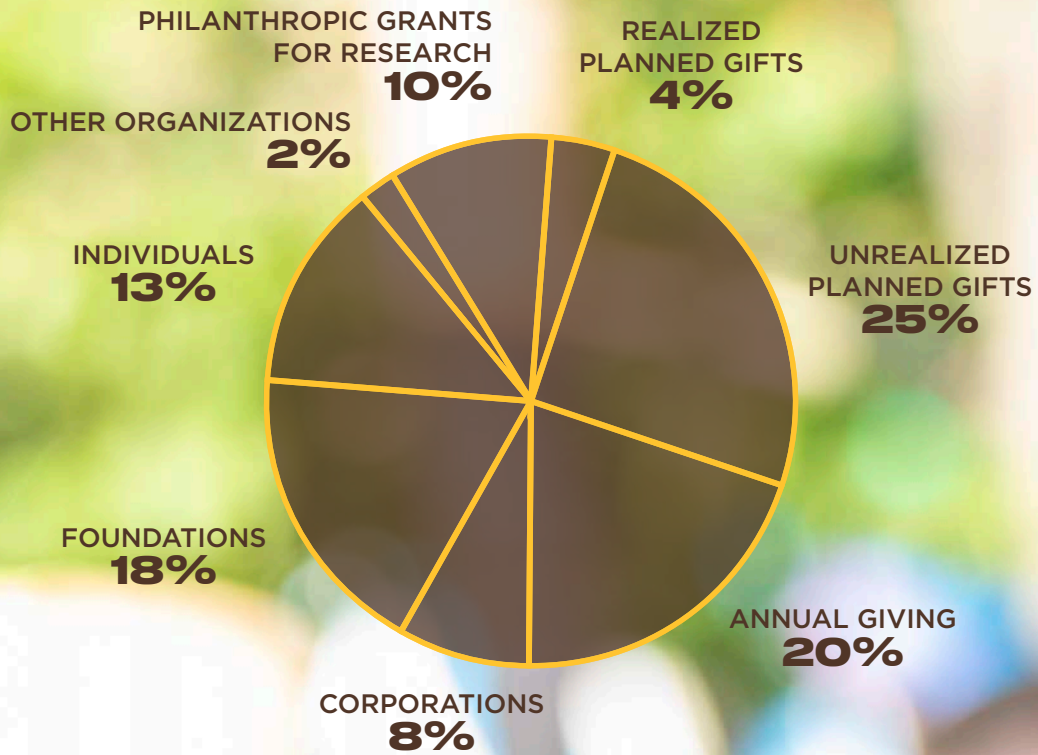
NUMBER OF DONORS

FY20	24,195
FY21	23,637
FY22	22,739
FY23	23,554
FY24	27,646



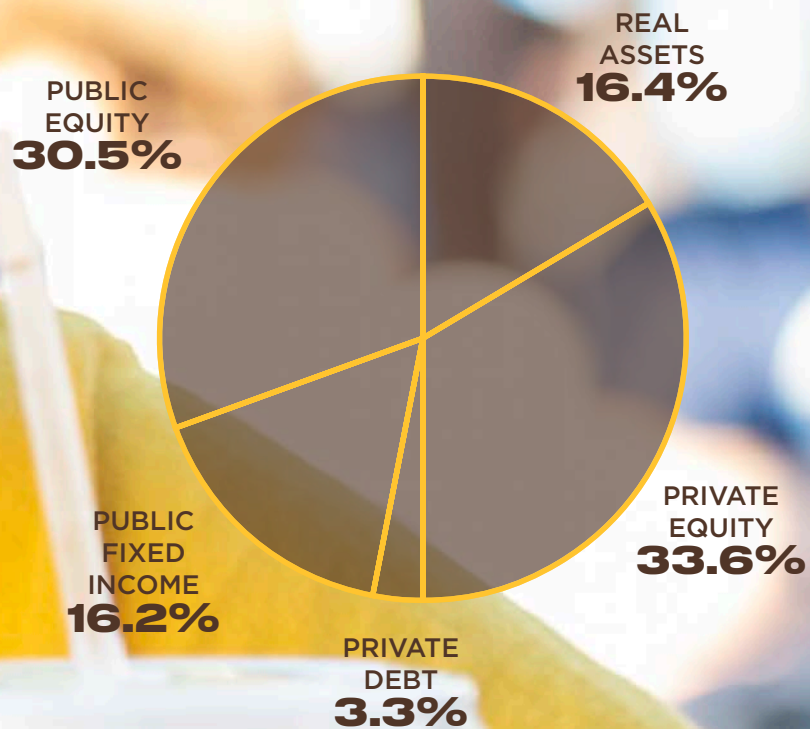
SOURCE OF DOLLARS RECEIVED

FY24



ASSET ALLOCATION

FY24



NEW ENDOWMENTS

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS

Wyoming Ranching Excellence Fund

Established by Wagonhound Land & Livestock Company, LLC, to foster excellence and provide financial support to the Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership Program.

Williams CO₂ Storage Excellence Fund

Established by the Williams Companies Foundation to foster excellence and provide financial support to the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources.

Karen Williams Memorial Excellence Fund in Family and Consumer Sciences

Established by Stephen Williams in memory of his late spouse, Karen Williams, to foster excellence and provide financial support to the University of Wyoming Family and Consumer Sciences department.

Clint Devin, UW Rugby Captain, Excellence Fund

Established by Jerry, Irene, Lance, Carey, Shelley, and Jessica Devin, in memory of the late Clint Devin, to foster excellence and provide financial support to the University of Wyoming Men's Rugby Club.

Casselman Veteran Student Support Excellence Fund

Established by Betsy Casselman-Porter to support the University of Wyoming Veterans Services Center with the objective of serving military and veteran students.

Frank and Barbara Mendicino/David and Karen Carmichael College of Law Clinical and Experiential Learning Excellence Fund

Established by Frank and Barbara Mendicino to foster excellence and provide financial support to clinical programs and experiential learning at the University of Wyoming College of Law.

Tallgrass CO₂ Storage Excellence Fund

Established by Tallgrass Energy Partners to foster excellence and provide financial support to the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources.

Bonner Family Wyoming Explorers Fund

Established by Brad and Yancy Bonner to foster excellence and provide financial support to the University of Wyoming Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources by providing support to students to complete an international experience.

Bill and Victoria Scarlett Student Success Excellence Fund

Established by Bill and Victoria Scarlett to foster excellence and provide financial support for student success at the University of Wyoming Peter M. and Paula Green Johnson Student Success Center.

Charles V. Brown Speech and Debate Excellence Fund

Established By Charles V. Brown, Jr., to foster excellence and provide financial support to the University of Wyoming Speech and Debate Team.

Larry H. and Mary Pat Vering Accounting Excellence Fund

Established by Larry H. and Mary Pat Vering to foster excellence and provide financial support to the University of Wyoming Department of Accounting and Finance.

FACULTY SUPPORT

Davis Excellence in Agriculture Professorship

Established by Anne Davis Peterson to recruit and retain faculty in the traditional agriculture disciplines in the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming.

David and Christel Walrath Professorship in Mechanical Engineering

Established by David and Christel Walrath to foster excellence in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, to recruit and to retain faculty, and to advance the mechanical engineering programs at the University of Wyoming.



STUDENT SUPPORT

Feltner Family College of Agriculture Assistance Fund

Established by Cub Feltner to provide scholarships to students enrolled in the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources, with preference given to students who graduated from a Wyoming high school and who are studying plant science.

Christos Constantinides (Dr. C) Electrical Engineering Scholarship

Established by the Christos Constantinides family to provide scholarships to undergraduate students majoring in electrical engineering.

Dwight and Velna Blood Scholarship

Established by Russel Blood, Ronald Blood, James Blood, Carolyn Nielson, and Kimberly Hamon in memory of their late parents, Dwight and Velna Blood, to provide scholarships to students who are enrolled in the College of Business or the College of Education.

Gwen E. Denton Memorial Music Scholarship Endowment

Established by Paul and Kristi Briggs in memory of Paul's late mother, Gwen E. Denton, to provide scholarships to Wyoming resident students who are studying music.

Zimmerman Family Foundation Graduate Student Success Fund at UW Casper

Established by the Zimmerman Family Foundation to support graduate students enrolled in the social work program, the counselor education program, or related mental health field program at UW Casper with educational or enrichment opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

Christine A. Barry Nuclear Energy Student Enrichment Fund

Established by Christine A. Barry to support students at the University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources with educational or enrichment opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

Randall B. Luthi Legacy Steer-a-Year Fund

Established by Randall B. Luthi to provide scholarships to University of Wyoming students who are residents of Wyoming and are participating on a UW intercollegiate athletics team.

George Mathes, Jr. Legacy Steer-a-Year Fund

Established by George Mathes, Jr., to provide scholarships to University of Wyoming students who are residents of Wyoming and are participating on a UW intercollegiate athletics team.

David K. Okano Pre-Dental Student Scholarship Fund

Established by David K. Okano to provide scholarships to Wyoming-resident juniors or seniors who are completing their pre-dental coursework with the intention of attending a professional dental school following graduation.

Verna Burger Davis Memorial Scholarship

Established by Allison Bodan and Jim Davis in memory of their late mother, Verna Burger Davis, to provide scholarships to students in the Music department and are studying piano.

Linda L. Bowman STEM Scholarship for Students with GRIT

Established by the family of Linda L. Bowman to provide scholarships to students in the University of Wyoming College of Engineering and Physical Sciences who are residents of Wyoming and who have graduated from Wyoming high schools.

Gene Scott College of Arts and Sciences Student Enrichment Fund

Established by Gene Scott, Ph.D., to support transformative experiences for students in the University of Wyoming College of Arts and Sciences.



Edwin A. (Tony) and Dorothy Dunn Scholarship in Chemical Engineering

Established by Tony and Dorothy Dunn to provide scholarships University of Wyoming students who are residents of Wyoming and majoring in chemical engineering, with preference for undergraduate students.

Jon Benson Student Award in Entrepreneurship

Established by Teddi Benson to provide awards for students who are participating in the John P. Ellbogen \$50K Entrepreneurship Competition.

Wold Family Ranch Management and College of Agriculture Leadership Fund

Established by the Wold Foundation to support experiential learning opportunities for students enrolled in the Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership Program. Preference is given to students who are Wyoming residents.

Jimmie Louise and Dr. Robert (Bob) Zawacki Scholarship

Established by Bob Zawacki to provide scholarships to students enrolled in the Department of Management and Marketing.

John and Mary Kay Turner Graduate Research Support Fund

Established by multiple individuals in honor of John and Mary Kay Turner to support graduate students in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources with educational or enrichment opportunities inside and outside the classroom. Specifically, the fund supports students who are doing impactful research.

Kevin McKinney Communication and Journalism Student Enrichment Fund

Established by Kevin McKinney to support juniors or seniors in the Department of Communication and Journalism, with educational or enrichment opportunities inside and outside the classroom, with preference for students who graduated from a Wyoming high school.

Martha and Roger Clark Scholarship

Established by Roger Clark to provide scholarships to juniors or seniors in the Department of Management and Marketing.

Steve Smutko Collaborative Leadership Fund

Established by multiple individuals in honor of Steve Smutko to support students in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources with educational or enrichment opportunities inside and outside the classroom. The fund supports students who are studying collaboration, collaboration governance, or collaborative decision making.

Terry and Corwyn Moss Pharmacy Experiential Education Fund

Established by Terry and Corwyn Moss to support students at the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy with educational or enrichment opportunities inside and outside the classroom. The fund supports students who are completing their fourth year of the program and have demonstrated desire to maximize their professional growth opportunities as a student.

Thomas Bulgrin Multiple Woodwind Scholarship

Established by Thomas Bulgrin to provide scholarships to students who are music majors, are studying multiple woodwind instruments, are actively taking lessons in two separate woodwind studios in order to gain fluency in doubling skills, and are playing in at least two University of Wyoming ensembles.

Bryan and Wanda Carlson Smith Scholarship and Student Enrichment Fund

Established by Bryan and Wanda Carlson Smith to support students with educational or enrichment opportunities inside and outside the classroom. Recipients are students who are juniors or seniors majoring in civil engineering, who have a GPA between 2.8 and 3.7, and who have graduated from a Wyoming or a Montana high school.

Wayne Sand Student Success Fund in Atmospheric Science

Established by Wayne Sand to provide grants to graduate students enrolled in the Department of Atmospheric Science.

U.P. Patel Family Athletics Scholarship

Established by Rajeev U. Patel to provide scholarships to student-athletes who are enrolled in the College of Business, with preference for students majoring and/or minoring in entrepreneurship.

William and Marietta Dinneen Institutional Fund

Established by an estate gift from William J. Dinneen, Jr. and Marietta T. Dinneen to support scholarships for students attending the University of Wyoming.

Digital Frontier Scholarship

Established by Colter Reed to provide scholarships to juniors or seniors in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and/or the School of Computing.

Cowboy Coaching Student Success Excellence Fund

Established by an anonymous donor to foster excellence and provide financial support to the University of Wyoming Cowboy Coaching Program.

Dean and Iola Cosner Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Established by Barney, Danny, and John Cosner in memory of their late parents, Dean and Iola Cosner, to provide scholarships to juniors, seniors, or graduate students in the Division of Communication Disorders, with a preference for students from Wyoming and students who are studying American Sign Language.

Jeri J. Mathes Early Childhood and Education Scholarship

Established by Robert, George, and Sean Mathes in memory of their late mother, Jeri J. Mathes, to provide scholarships to students from Wyoming who are majoring in early childhood education and/or elementary education, with a preference for students from either Campbell County or Sheridan County.

Galles Memorial Fund

Established by Meegan and Michael S. Steinberg in memory of Vickie and Don Galles to provide scholarships to College of Business students with financial need who have graduated from Natrona County High School.

Waeckerlin Pre-Med Undergraduate Scholarship

Established by Dr. Ron Waeckerlin and Carol Waeckerlin to provide scholarships to Wyoming-resident students who are completing their pre-medicine studies.

Aubrey Brooks Conrad Memorial Scholarship

Established by Millie Conrad in memory of her late spouse, Aubrey Brooks Conrad, to provide scholarships to students enrolled in the School of Pharmacy.

Bob Nelson Faculty Enrichment Institutional Fund

Establish by a gift from Robert "Bob" Nelson to support faculty enrichment in the School of Pharmacy.

Charles Leonard Graduate Fund for Wildlife Research

Established by Andrea Leonard in memory of her late brother, Charles Leonard, to support summer stipends for students in the Department of Zoology and Physiology who are engaged in large mammal wildlife research projects.

Dick and Mary Lou Taggart Student Enhanced Experience Fund

Establish by Dick and Mary Lou Taggart to support students enrolled in the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources with educational or enrichment opportunities inside and outside the classroom.

Shirley A. and Harry R. Reed Football Scholarship

Established by Shirley A. Reed in memory of her late spouse, Harry Reed, to provide scholarships to students involved in the University of Wyoming football program.

Visual Art Student Internship and Exploration Fund

Established by John and Kathleen McKinley and Sue Sommers to support experiential learning opportunities for students earning a BA in Studio Art or a BFA in Studio Art.

SERVICE TO WYOMING


James and Nancy Lasater Institutional Fund

Established by an estate gift from James and Nancy Lasater to support the University of Wyoming under the direction of the president.

A close-up portrait of a woman with light brown hair pulled back, wearing glasses and a dark t-shirt. She is smiling warmly at the camera. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

WYOMING VS. MISSOURI
STRIPE
AUGUST 31, 2023



The UW Foundation, established in 1962, is appointed by the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees to raise, receive, and manage private gifts to maximize support for the University of Wyoming.

It is an independent nonprofit corporation governed by a board of directors consisting of up to 20 elected voting members, six non-voting ex officio members, and as many voting emeritus members as may be elected by the board. Board members bring a wealth of experience from a broad spectrum of careers and professional and personal backgrounds.

The UW Foundation has been a dynamic partner with the University of Wyoming for more than 60 years. Through the generosity of our many alumni and friends, the UW Foundation raises an average of \$53 million a year in private support—money that goes to students and the faculty, staff, and programs that support them. This private support helps to make UW the best educational institution possible.

HIGHER PURPOSE

Foster an environment of trust and service that empowers others to make a difference.

VALUES

Excellence: Strive to make an impact in extraordinary ways.

Gratitude: Practice intentional, personal, and actionable expressions of appreciation and recognition.

Growth: Empower individuals to meet a greater potential.

Inclusivity: Nurture a culture of belonging by prioritizing equitable access to resources, growth, and opportunities.

Integrity: Commit to strong ethical principles through trust and accountability.

Respect: Demonstrate consideration and grace by listening, learning, and understanding.

Transparency: Encourage communication that is open, honest, consistent, and intentional.





ANNUAL GIVING

Annual Giving is the only fundraising program of the university that reaches out to all alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends each year to offer giving opportunities for direct support of UW's colleges, departments, and programs. This creates a vital and dependable source of private support to help the University of Wyoming fulfill its mission to become one of the nation's finest public land-grant research universities.

CLANCEE REA

Director of Annual Giving and Donor Experience Program
(307) 766-3979
clancee.rea@uwyo.edu

20%

ANNUAL GIVING
CONTRIBUTION
TO TOTAL GIVING
for FY24

GIFT PLANNING

The UW Foundation's Gift Planning staff assists donors in integrating charitable gifts into their financial, tax, and estate planning objectives, maximizing benefits to both donors and the University of Wyoming. With smart planning, you can increase the size of your estate, reduce the tax burden on your heirs, and/or receive an immediate tax deduction, life income, continued use of gift property, or elimination of capital gains tax—as well as making a meaningful contribution to UW.

BRETT BEFUS

Associate Vice President for Development
(307) 766-4259
bbefus@uwyo.edu

29%

GIFT PLANNING
CONTRIBUTION
TO TOTAL GIVING
for FY24

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UW Foundation directors of development working closely with individual donors and with the university to focus on the priorities of each. They help guide the significant and thoughtful commitments that have a major impact on the future of Wyoming's university.

JILL HIGHAM

Senior Vice President for Development
(307) 766-4000
jhigham@uwyo.edu

13%

MAJOR GIVING
CONTRIBUTION
TO TOTAL GIVING
for FY24

CORPORATE GIVING

Corporate engagement plays a vital role in advancing all aspects of the university, with some of UW's most transformative achievements made possible by the exceptional support of industry and strategic partners. Collaborating with UW creates opportunities for innovation, development, and joint ventures, benefiting both UW and the companies involved. This partnership not only strengthens UW's ability to grow but also helps industries stay at the forefront of cutting-edge advancements.

ANGELA VER PLOEG

Senior Director of Corporate Engagement
(307) 766-1939
angela.verploeg@uwyo.edu

8%

CORPORATE GIVING
CONTRIBUTION
TO TOTAL GIVING
for FY24

FOUNDATION GIVING

Foundations have made a lasting impact on Wyoming's students and the colleges, programs, and facilities that support them. Student by student, foundation-supported scholarships have built a wealth of human capital. Foundations give because it is part of their core mission—to make the world a better place.

KATRINA MCGEE

Senior Director of Foundation Development
and Research Collaborations
(307) 766-4266
kmcgee1@uwyo.edu

18%

FOUNDATION GIVING
CONTRIBUTION
TO TOTAL GIVING
for FY24

DONOR RELATIONS

Stewardship and donor relations are built on trust and transparency. At the UW Foundation, we are committed to managing your private gifts to the best of our ability. We ensure that you, our valued donors, receive the feedback you need and feel appreciated for the significant contributions and impact you are having on the University of Wyoming.

KRISTIN MORRISON

Director of Donor Relations
(307) 766-3911
jer2911@uwyo.edu



University of Wyoming Foundation

EXECUTIVE TEAM

JOHN STARK

President/CEO
(307) 766-6300
jdstark@uwyo.edu

JILL HIGHAM

Senior Vice President for Development
(307) 766-4000
jhigham@uwyo.edu

TOBY MARLATT

Vice President for Strategic Initiatives
and Communications
(307) 766-5085
tmarlatt@uwyo.edu

PHILIP TREICK

Chief Investment Officer
(307) 766-3989
ptreick@uwyo.edu

TROY CASERTA

Vice President for Financial Services
(307) 766-3971
tcaserta@uwyo.edu

ELIZABETH JENKINS

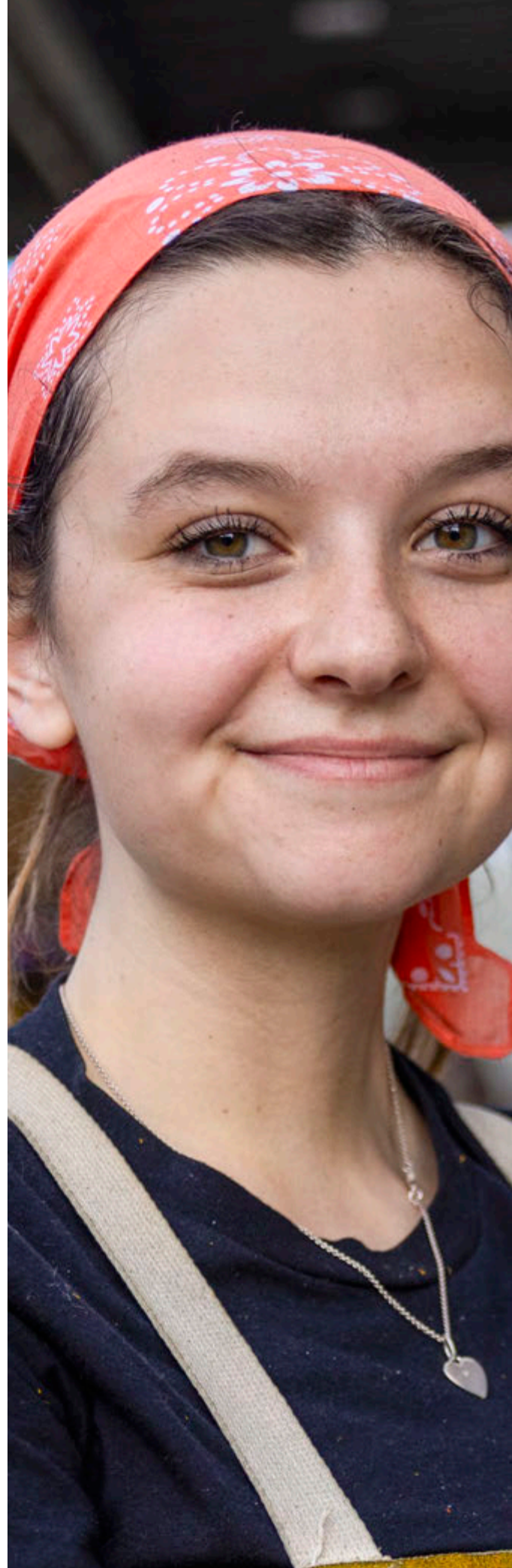
Vice President for Advancement Services
(307) 766-4555
elizabeth.jenkins@uwyo.edu

BRETT BEFUS

Associate Vice President for Development
(307) 766-4259
bbefus@uwyo.edu

DEBBIE MARTINEZ

Director of Board Relations
and Administrative Services
(307) 766-3844
debm@uwyo.edu



University of Wyoming Foundation **DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

EMMA-JANE ALEXANDER

Director of Development
(307) 766-3040
emmajane.alexander@uwyo.edu

FARYN BABBITT

Director of Development
(307) 766-1801
fbabbitt@uwyo.edu

SARAH CHEVALIER

Director of Development
(307) 766-3963
sarah.chevalier@uwyo.edu

HAILEY DUNGAN

Director of Development
(307) 766-4551
hdungan@uwyo.edu

TEDDI FREEDMAN

Director of Development
(307) 766-3967
tfreedma@uwyo.edu

KEENER FRY

Director of Development
(307) 399-0004
keener.fry@uwyo.edu

LUCUS HANSEN

Director of Development
(307) 766-3831
lhansen13@uwyo.edu

DOUGLAS HAMMOND

Senior Donor Experience Officer
(307) 766-3981
dhammon3@uwyo.edu

KATIE KERN

Senior Director of Development
(307) 766-4364
kkern4@uwyo.edu

KATRINA MCGEE

Senior Director of
Foundation Development and
Research Collaborations
(307) 766-4266
kmcgee1@uwyo.edu

SHANNON MOSNESS

Senior Director of Development
(970) 224-9054
shannon.mosness@uwyo.edu

TATE NOBLE

Donor Experience Officer
(307) 766-3975
anoble3@uwyo.edu

JOHN PARADIS

Senior Director of Development
(307) 766-3809
jp12@uwyo.edu

CLANCEE REA

Director of Annual Giving and
Donor Experience Program
(307) 766-3979
clancee.rea@uwyo.edu

JORDAN ROBERTUS

Donor Experience Officer
(307) 766-3965
jjochems@uwyo.edu

CRAIG RUSSOW

Senior Director of Development
(307) 766-1803
crussow@uwyo.edu

TESS SNOW

Director of Development
(307) 766-3083
tess.snow@uwyo.edu

TYLER SPEAR

Senior Director of Development
(307) 766-3901
speart@uwyo.edu

ANGELA VER PLOEG

Senior Director of
Corporate Engagement
(307) 766-1939
angela.verploeg@uwyo.edu

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