

COWBOY Legacy

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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION

Estate Gift Helps UW to Be its Best

ERIC AND LAURA MARSH

It all began in Hastings, Nebraska, where a 16-year-old boy noticed a 15-year-old girl and never looked away. What began for Eric and Laura Marsh as high school sweethearts continues for a lifetime—two people building a life together, one step at a time.

When Eric enrolled at the University of Wyoming and joined the swim team, Laura was right there with him. They married young, and when Eric returned to UW to finish his petroleum engineering degree, Laura went to work as a legal secretary at a Laramie law firm, helping them cover out-of-state tuition and make ends meet.

“I was real fortunate that I had a beautiful bride that worked, and I worked, and between the two of us, we were able to pay out-of-state tuition and go to the University of Wyoming,” says Eric.

Eric graduated in 1982 and headed straight into the oil and gas industry. The couple settled in Rock Springs, where their three daughters were born, before eventually moving to Denver. Eric’s career took him from Questar to Encana Corporation, where he rose to executive vice president. His work there helped develop the Jonah Field, whose name now graces the playing surface at War Memorial Stadium.

Later, Eric and Laura founded Vine Energy together. They built it into one of the largest natural gas producers in the country, developing the Haynesville shale in Louisiana. It was sold to Chesapeake Energy in 2021.

“When we built Vine Energy, my desire was never to have an average company,” says Eric. “We had the best people, and we had high expectations.”

Through it all, Eric remained deeply connected to Wyoming. He served on the UW Foundation Board, the Engineering National Advisory Board, and Governor Mark Gordon’s Energy, Engineering, and STEM Integration Task Force.

Eric and Laura have designated a percentage of their trust to the University of Wyoming. This estate gift establishes the



Eric and Laura Marsh Chair in Energy and Petroleum Engineering. It also enlarges support for their Eric and Laura Marsh Scholarship in Engineering, which is designed specifically for students from outside Wyoming who might otherwise find the cost of a UW education out of reach. Through the years, their philanthropy has supported a number of other programs across campus. They also support various Christian charities and their church.

“At Vine Energy, we did one thing, and we did it better than anybody else,” says Eric. “That’s what I want to see at Wyoming with our legacy gift. It’s choosing the thing to focus on and going out and getting it done. Being average is never going to be good enough. We can be as good as any university that exists out there if we put our minds to it.”

Have you thought about supporting the programs and initiatives you care about at UW through your estate plan? To learn more about your options or let our office know about a gift you have already planned, please contact Brett Befus at (307) 766-4259 or bbefus@uwyo.edu.

What’s your Wyoming Legacy?



Give More by Giving Smart **TAX-SAVVY WAYS TO SUPPORT UW**

Generosity and good financial planning aren't mutually exclusive. In fact, the most impactful gifts often come from donors who've thought strategically about how they give. By choosing the right giving vehicle, you may be able to reduce your tax burden, avoid capital gains, and maximize your impact on those things you care about most.

Here are some of the most tax-advantaged ways to make a difference at the University of Wyoming.

- **A gift in your will or living trust** – Leaving a gift in your will or living trust is a simple way to make a lasting gift. By designating UW as a beneficiary in your will or trust, your gift will support the university, and if your gift is made through a living trust it may pass outside of the probate process and could reduce the taxable value of your estate.
- **Beneficiary designations** – You can name the University of Wyoming as a full or partial beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), life insurance policy, or bank account. Because retirement accounts are often heavily taxed when passed to heirs, directing these assets to UW can be a highly tax-efficient way to create a lasting impact.
- **Donor-Advised Funds** – You can contribute cash or assets to a donor-advised fund, receive an immediate tax deduction, and recommend grants to UW over time. This offers flexibility, simplicity, and the ability to give anonymously if desired.
- **Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from your IRA** – If you are age 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$111,000 per year directly from your IRA to a qualified charity like UW, completely tax-free. QCDs count toward your required minimum distribution and are excluded from your taxable income, making them one of the most tax-efficient ways for retirees to support causes they care about.
- **Gifts of appreciated stock or securities** – Donating long-term appreciated assets directly to UW instead of selling them allows you to avoid capital gains tax and receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the assets.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts.** A Charitable Remainder Trust allows you to transfer assets into a trust that provides income to you or a named beneficiary for life or a set term of years. At the end of the trust's term, the remaining assets pass to UW. You receive an immediate charitable deduction and may also reduce estate taxes.

We encourage you to consult with your professional advisors to explore which approach is right for you.

To learn more about any of these options or to notify UW of a planned gift, please contact Brett Befus, Senior Associate Vice President of Development, at (307) 766-4259 or bbefus@uwyo.edu. *What's your Wyoming legacy?*



NO POSTAGE
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BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 2 LARAMIE, WY

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
1000 E UNIVERSITY AVE
LARAMIE WY 82072-9801**





UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
FOUNDATION

Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center
222 S. 22nd Street
Laramie, WY 82070

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Please send me a free copy of the Guide to Planning a Will and Trust.
- UW is already included in my charitable plans, and I have not previously informed your office.

MAIL: Detach from newsletter, fold in half, and seal on the side opposite from fold.

CALL: (307) 766-4259 to speak directly to a UW representative.

ONLINE: Fill out the form online at: <https://gopokes.formstack.com/forms/legacy>.

Thank you to our Legacy Society members who have documented a legacy gift.

**HOW WERE YOU FIRST CONNECTED TO UW?
WHO CONNECTED YOU WITH UW?**

Legacy ^{COWBOY}

Planning for the Future

A Guide to Planning Your Will and Trust

Creating a will or trust may not be the most exciting task, but it is an essential part of planning for your future and ensuring that your wishes are respected after you're gone. Our Guide to Planning Your Will and Trust can make this process more manageable by helping you organize your estate plans and gather the information needed to put your wishes in place.

Request your free copy of the Guide to Planning a Will and Trust by returning the attached reply card.

Sample Bequest Language

"I give to the University of Wyoming Foundation (a nonprofit corporation located at 222 S. 22nd Street, Laramie, Wyoming, or its successor) [\$amount, % of the estate, or description of the property] to benefit the University of Wyoming generally [or as specifically described]."

Tax Identification Number (EIN)

Tax ID # 83-0201971



CONTACT US

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