Kappy Bristol supports the Photojournalism Project at the University of Wyoming in Memory of Larsh K. Bristol with yearly contributions and a bequest. The endowment was created to honor her brother Larsh, and Kappy and her father feel it is a fabulous way to create a lasting legacy for him.

“He always was a very outdoors type of person, and he loved animals and writing,” says Kappy. “He really adored Wyoming, and that’s why he went to college there. He enjoyed every minute of it.”

Larsh was born on May 2, 1952, in Waukon, Iowa. He earned a degree from UW in journalism in 1974. His career in photojournalism took him to many exciting places, including many around Wyoming. He started a local newspaper and photography studio in Alpine, Wyoming, along with a photography studio and gallery in Sheridan.

He eventually returned home to Iowa where he created photo essays and books, including Iowa, Simply Beautiful; Iowa, Simply Beautiful II; and Iowa Impressions. He earned a strong reputation for chronicling life along the upper Mississippi and for his photographic portrayals of human emotion.

Larsh’s life was tragically cut short, but his legacy lives on. Kappy credits Kendall Stewart Harman and Sharon Haley Linhart—who were some of Larsh’s first friends when he came to UW—with creating the endowment. The Photojournalism Project at the University of Wyoming in Memory of Larsh K. Bristol is an annual $5,000 stipend awarded to UW students. The guidelines are quite broad and seek to attract proposals that include a diversity of interests.

All UW students, both undergraduate and graduate, are eligible. The stipend can be used for a wide variety of purposes including tuition, travel, equipment, living expenses, and more.

Each year, many students apply for the award. Seeing multiple students pursue photojournalism projects is the exact impact Larsh’s family and friends sought when establishing the fund.

Kappy and her father support the endowment award every year, but Kappy also has created a bequest to enhance the endowment in the future. This blended gift approach to philanthropy maximizes the impact of Kappy’s generosity on student’s lives, and knowing about this option could benefit other donors as well. Not all donors are able to fund an endowment in their lifetimes, but they may have the ability to set up gift annuities or leave estate funds that will have a continuing impact on students.

Kappy’s estate gift ensures that future students have the ability to explore their interests and develop their skills in photojournalism, just as Larsh did.

“We are very, very grateful for the University of Wyoming’s acceptance and operation of this little fellowship,” explains Kappy. “They have been just fantastic, and I want to thank them very much.”

If you are interested in learning more about estate giving, please contact Tracy Richardson, Senior Associate Vice President for Development, at (307) 766-3934 or trichar6@uwyo.edu.
William Robertson Coe was a philanthropist and insurance, railroad, and business executive who loved the American West. He was born in England in 1869, and his family moved to the United States when he was in his teens. After a storied career that included insuring the RMS Titanic, he bought Buffalo Bill Cody’s 492-acre hunting camp, Irma Lake Lodge, and split his time between Cody and New York. Coe became one of the first individuals to make a bequest gift to UW.

Coe was concerned about the teaching of American values in schools, especially in the context of the Communism scare in the 1950s. Through tireless lobbying by UW President Humphrey, Coe was persuaded to fund a summer refresher course for school teachers in American Studies in 1952. The program was designed to meet “the threat of Communism, Socialism, Collectivism and Totalitarianism and other Ideologies opposed to the preservation of our System of Free Enterprise.” It was so successful that Coe donated further funds toward a permanent American Studies program and a new library.

The Wyoming legislature authorized a matching gift in the form of a bond for $750,000, which was funded by oil royalties, to assist with the library building costs. Milward Simpson, University of Wyoming Board of Trustees president and friend of Coe, was instrumental in securing Coe’s donation for the new library building. The library gift discussions materialized due to Simpson and Coe’s observation that the University of Wyoming did not have an adequate library to house Coe’s extensive western book collection.

In 1958, three years after Coe’s death, the university dedicated Coe Library and the American Studies program—one of the first in the nation that became a model for similar programs. Through a bequest, Coe established an additional endowment to support American Studies. Upon his death in 1955, his total giving to UW reached $4 million—an extraordinary amount.

Coe’s generosity and dedication has permanently strengthened Wyoming’s university, and the William Robertson Coe Library is named in his honor.
Why should I contact the UW Foundation if I have included UW in my will or trust?

If you have included UW in your long-term plans, we want to thank you and let you know how important your gift is to the future success of Wyoming’s students. In addition, providing the UW Foundation with the applicable details of your gift ensures that your donative intent—how you would like the funds to be used—will be carried out when your gift is realized. We also like to show our further appreciation by inviting you to become a member of our Legacy Society.

There have been instances where donors have generously left a portion of their estate to UW, but we were unaware of it until we received the funds. In some cases, the will or trust properly articulated a well-defined use for the gift, but there have been instances where the donor did not clearly articulate the use in the governing estate planning document—leaving it to UW to determine the best use of the funds. By informing the UW Foundation of your plans—or better yet engaging us as a member of your team during the planning process—we can make sure your gift goes where you want it to go and benefits the students or programs at UW that you want it to impact.

If you would like to document the use for your gift, we would be pleased to work with you to complete a Notification of Legacy Gift. This one-page standard form will be kept confidentially on file at the UW Foundation along with the applicable pages of your estate plan describing your gift.
The Grand Opening of the spectacular Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center occurred on Friday, October 24, 2014.

The Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center is the University of Wyoming’s welcome center with a state-of-the-art technological infrastructure that is funded entirely through private support. Through the vision and guidance of the UW Foundation Board of Directors, UW raised more than $25 million in private funds for the building, making this the largest fundraising facility project in the university’s history.

The center is home to students past, present, and future. It houses the UW Alumni Association, Admissions, Career Services, and the UW Foundation and contains office and collaborative space for these units as they support and promote the university.

Contact Us

To learn more about your options for estate planning, please contact:
Tracy Richardson
Senior Associate Vice President for Development
(307) 766-3934
trichar6@uwyo.edu

We are here to help you and your estate planning team. If you have made UW part of your estate plan, we encourage you to contact us so that we can properly document your intentions and express our sincerest thanks.

If you would like to receive more information regarding planned giving, please submit the form at wyoalumni.uwyo.edu/planningyourfuture.