Tom Stroock
Ambassador of Generosity

By TAMARA LINSE

Ambassador Thomas Stroock was a passionate and dedicated public servant whose generosity to his adopted home state of Wyoming and to its university extends way beyond his lifetime.

“When I first came to Wyoming, I thought I’d died and gone to heaven,” said Tom in a 2009 interview.

Tom’s large bequest to UW continues his support of the Stroock Professorship of Natural Resource Conservation and Management, which he and his wife Marta established in 1988. The bequest also continues his support of International Programs that he loved and to which he dedicated much time. It will also support the curation and digitization of his papers at the American Heritage Center.

Tom and Marta’s support of natural resource conservation is a natural outgrowth of Tom’s love for Wyoming and his pride in representing the mineral industry while also making significant contributions to environmental and wildlife conservation. The Stroock Professorship in the College of Business was established to further his belief that the best possible use of natural resources need not be incompatible with preserving the best possible natural environment.

Their UW International Endowment, established in 2001, supports a wide range of international programs and scholarships—for example, study abroad and international travel, international speakers, and international faculty and student stipends and awards. Tom and Marta also supported the UW chapter of Engineers Without Borders.

Jean Garrison, Director of International Studies, says, “What Ambassador Stroock has done for International Studies over the years has helped students coming from places like Baggs, students like me [from Dayton], to accomplish so much.”

Last year, with the help of the Stroocks and many other people, UW’s international programs were all united under one roof, the Cheney International Center. These programs include International Programs, headed by Anne Alexander, and International Studies, headed by Jean Garrison. International Programs leads UW’s internationalization efforts and includes visiting scholars and Study Abroad, while International Studies is a degree program for faculty and students.

“Exposing students to the broader world is what a university should do,” said Tom. “It should expand the horizons and the knowledge and the attitude of the people in the state. UW doing that is wonderful. It’s exciting to watch, and it was exciting to be part of it.”

Tom has been a part of Wyoming’s and UW’s internationalization for most of his adult life, and he served as the U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala from 1989-92 under President George H. W. Bush. It was one of his proudest accomplishments.

“Everybody in the embassy worked like hell to do a great job,” Tom said. “Because they did such a good job, it made me look good. We got all kinds of awards and kudos because we had an

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A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION
DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

We are nearing the end of an incredibly challenging but rewarding and successful year at the University of Wyoming Foundation. For fiscal year 2010, I am pleased to report due to the overwhelming generosity of our alumni and friends, we have received over $29 million in new gifts and commitments. Pretty remarkable considering the financial climate this past year. In addition, we have documented 25 new planned gift commitments totaling over $3.5 million in estimated gift expectancies. On the investment side, things are looking brighter as well, with our endowment rising above $260 million in recent months. We are truly blessed to be in Wyoming, to work at the University of Wyoming, and to have friends and supporters that stand behind our state’s university.

This year has been bittersweet. We have been very fortunate in terms of planned gifts that have come to us as a result of the foresight and planning of some very notable and distinguished alumni and friends. However, these gifts come to us from those with whom we have forged deep and enduring relationships. The university lost some great friends this year—Tom Stroock, Cliff Hansen, Bill Campbell, Emmett Chisum, Jack Cassari, Don Ritter, and Mary Lou Atkins, to name just a few whose legacies live on in the many lives they have touched here on campus and across the state. What is truly remarkable about these individuals was not only their support and passion for UW during their lives but also that they each went that extra mile with exemplary gifts through their estate plans. This is truly one of the most personal and remarkable things a UW supporter can do for this great institution. In fact, this has been one of our most remarkable years ever, with over $11 million in realized estate gifts. We cannot thank these individuals and their families enough for what they have done to strengthen the university.

I hope you find this edition of Cowboy Legacy insightful, thought-provoking, and informative, and I hope it will help you consider where the University of Wyoming fits into your long-term plans and how you might be able to leave a legacy.

Thank you for all your continued and outstanding support. I welcome a phone call or email at any time and look forward to meeting many more of you in the days and years to come.

All the best,

“We cannot thank these individuals and their families enough for what they have done to strengthen the university.””

TRACY RICHARDSON

Tracy R. Richardson, JD, LLM
Director of Planned Giving
Jim Ehernberger has worked his whole life on what he is passionate about, and now he wants to pass it on to others.

Jim loves the railroad. He saw his first train at age four and has never looked back. As a kid, he hung out at the depot and started collecting train schedules. He got his first job at age 16 for the Union Pacific Railroad in Cheyenne and stayed on for thirty-four years.

“I loved what I did,” Jim says.

He is a world-renowned photographer of trains, and he has amassed one of the largest collections of Union Pacific and transportation-related material—a collection that he wants to share with others. And so, since 1995 Jim has been working with Rick Ewig, Associate Director of the American Heritage Center (AHC), to organize and donate his collection.

“I thought at the time that, such a large collection, unless it sees some funding, they would not want it or it wouldn’t remain active,” says Jim. “That’s why I wanted to fund it: to keep it active.” This endowment supports not only this collection but also other future transportation-related collections.

“Unlike some archives,” says AHC Director Mark Greene, “we never require monetary donations in order to accept and preserve an important collection. But our entire program relies heavily on private funding, so the generosity of individuals such as Jim makes a huge difference to our overall operations. We are tremendously grateful for his foresight not only philanthropically but just as importantly by donating his amazing collection for the use of generations to come.”

“Having money available is important,” Jim says. “If you want a collection preserved and made available through cataloging and other means, it is important that money is considered.”

To fund the collection, Jim set up a retained life estate. Under this agreement, Jim’s house is donated to the University of Wyoming, yet he is able to live in it for the remainder of his life, and he realizes a sizable income tax deduction. In addition, because the State Matching Program was still in effect at the time of the gift, Jim was able to double his donation with state dollars. Jim would also like to invite others to support this worthy area of collection.

At the end of the life estate term, the title of the house will be transferred to UW, which is then able to sell it and use those funds to support the area Jim cares about—his wonderful railroad papers and photographs at the AHC. An added bonus: because he was able to take advantage of state matching funds, the AHC is able to use the expendable on the state-match portion of the funds now.

Setting up the retained life estate was very easy and flexible, Jim says: “You do need to plan. The first time you think about it, it will feel odd. It’s a funny feeling to plan for the hereafter. But once I did it, I felt relaxed. If you make plans, you can relax. I felt good about that—goal accomplished.”

You can tell that Jim spent part of his working life as a clerk—and you can tell that he was really good at what he did. All you have to do is take one look at his basement. He is in the process of organizing the tens of thousands of photographs and negatives he has taken and collected.

Neatly labeled filing cabinets line the walls and are filled with carefully aligned file folders. Negatives in professional-grade sleeves are labeled and associated with prints, which are also in protective envelopes. Some cabinets are organized alphabetically and some by subject, depending on the best way to access them.

Jim’s collection is truly remarkable. At present, the AHC holds 631 boxes, or 424.9 cubic feet, but it does not yet contain all of Jim’s invaluable collection, including the photographs he’s working on.

“It would be such a shame to destroy it all,” Jim says. “It would be more than a shame,” echoes AHC Associate Director Rick Ewig, “it would be an historical tragedy. Jim’s collection is unparalleled.”

Now, Jim is making all this amazing material available for everyone, and that ends up being what he is passionate about—passing it on to others. He loves to do the research and know the history and then be able to tell people the exciting story of their relatives, such as the 1949 blizzard or perhaps running a train from Cheyenne to Denver.

Union Pacific Extra 3992 West near Archer, Wyoming, August 17, 1957
(photo by J. L. Ehernberger)
UW Building an Incredible Energy Future

The University of Wyoming is building toward an incredible future, including its energy-related programs. Energy is the cornerstone of Wyoming’s economy, and UW is poised to extend Wyoming’s energy wealth far beyond today’s expectations.

UW’s energy programs have received nearly $53 million in gifts from individuals and corporations, which includes nearly $25 million in State of Wyoming matching funds. In total, the State of Wyoming has invested more than $226 million since 2004 for activities related to energy teaching, research, and outreach. Many of these projects are supported by private gifts and partnerships with industry.

- The mission of the School of Energy Resources is to ensure that Wyoming fulfills its promise to be a global leader in building a secure and sustainable energy future through academics, research, and service.
- Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI) is a center of excellence and knowledge regarding the implementation of Enhanced Oil Recovery techniques in Wyoming.
- Coal Bed Natural Gas Center focuses on cost-effective extraction of natural gas while minimizing environmental impacts and stimulating additional natural gas production through sustainable biogenic production.
- Wyoming Reclamation and Restoration Center provides research, education, and outreach on land reclamation and restoration based on theoretical and applied principals.
- Clean Coal Technologies Center supports the development of improved technologies for the extraction of energy from coal.
- Fundamentals of Fluid Flow Research Center models the movement of fluids in porous media, which has application for the extraction of oil and gas.
- Wind Energy Research Center provides the experimental and computational capabilities and the intellectual resources to aid the nation’s goal of enhancing energy security while reducing energy-related environmental impact through wind energy.
- Carbon Management Research Center is crucial to monitor and assess the state of CO2 at the surface and subsurface, as well as to predict its movements and chemical behavior over time.
- Center for Energy Economics develops empirically based energy-economy models to estimate the economic impacts of energy policies.
- The vision of the College of Engineering and Applied Science is to be recognized nationally and internationally for excellence in education and research and for its central role in the economic development of Wyoming. Its education, research, and service encompass all the energy disciplines—from chemical and petroleum engineering to earth systems engineering and atmospheric science.
- The Haub School, a model in interdisciplinary learning, provides students with applied learning experiences that prepare them to solve natural resource issues. The Ruckelshaus Institute, a leader in the collaborative process in environmental decision-making, produces scientific reports and convenes events on natural resource issues.

Please welcome our new members

The University of Wyoming Foundation Legacy Society has been established to recognize and thank the many alumni and friends who have so generously made an estate commitment or a deferred gift to the University of Wyoming Foundation.

Anonymous
Anonymous
Larry D. Baccari
Shirley N. Bessey
Richard T. and Joyce L. Clark
John J. and Eleanor L. Corbett
John M. Dunn and Deanna Baker
Cecile A. Elliott
Kurt C. Feltner
Kenny N. Griffin
Rev. Loy H. and Colleen C. Harris
Catherine M. Howard
Michael C. Humphreys
Richard W. Lang
Anne Siren Levig
Charles and Emma Jean Mader
Charles J. McKinley
John Patrick Michael and Mary K. Murphy
J. C. Rhodes, Jr.
Tracy R. and Cebee M. Richardson
Terry P. and Beverly R. Roark
Barbara J. Young
Gwendolyn L. Whallon
Recent UW Successes and Highlights

- The University of Wyoming is ranked among the nation’s most environmentally responsible colleges, according to the Princeton Review’s Guide to 286 Green Colleges, a comprehensive guidebook solely focused on institutions of higher education published by the Princeton Review and the U.S. Green Building Council. The ranking is awarded to institutions that have demonstrated “an above average commitment to sustainability in terms of campus infrastructure, activities, and initiatives.”

- UW’s American Heritage Center has been awarded the Society of American Archivists’ 2010 Distinguished Service Award, which is the most prestigious honor that can be bestowed on an institution by the nation’s primary organization dedicated to ensuring the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value.

- The UW/CC Center honored 15 Myra Fox Skelton scholarship recipients and the foundation that established the award during a luncheon. This award is 10 years old and provides a monthly payment for single parents trying to balance classes with family and work.

- Research on undersea lava flows by UW associate professor Kenneth W. Sims, along with former student J.J. Standish of Harvard, has been published in the prestigious international science journal Nature Geoscience.

- Professor Greg Brown, head of the Department of Botany and former associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has been appointed to a three-year term as director of the Robert and Carol Berry Biodiversity and Conservation Center at the University of Wyoming.

- UW’s collaborative process efforts were boosted with the hiring of Steve Smutko as the new Wyoming Excellence Spicer Distinguished Chair in Environment and Natural Resources—a first of its kind in the nation devoted to collaborative decision-making.

- In late May, UW Libraries formally dedicated the B. Oliver Walter Group Study Room, which was established by UW alum Douglas Reeves “to acknowledge a man who has inspired countless UW students with his wit, scholarship, and encouragement.”

- Ernest Lawson (a student in American Studies and the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources) received the Wyoming National Science Foundation EpSCoR Undergraduate Research Fellowship and a Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium Award.

Ask Tracy

Ask Tracy is a feature in which people ask questions about annuities, charitable remainder trusts, bequests, and other planned giving opportunities.

Q. What is probate and when is my estate subject to the probate process?

A. In my experience as an estate planning attorney and now as the Director of Planned Giving at the UW Foundation, one of the most commonly misunderstood terms is “probate.” One of the most frequent questions I’m asked is this: “If I have a will, I won’t have to go through probate, right?” Wrong—in fact, having a will that directs to whom and how your property will pass upon your death virtually guarantees that your estate will be involved in the probate process. Another common misconception is that probate is awful and should be avoided at all costs. Again, this is not true and, depending on your state of residency and the particular laws and procedures of that state, the probate process can be a fairly smooth and seamless transition that takes no longer than a non-probate administration. Indeed, it is rare that an estate is not somehow subject to the jurisdiction of the probate court.

Probate is formally defined by Black’s Law Dictionary as the procedure by which a will is proved to be valid or invalid. Informally, it is the process by which someone’s assets are gathered, accounted for, and distributed to heirs and beneficiaries—this is true whether or not you have a will or die intestate (without a legally valid will). During the process, creditors are identified, and final debts and expenses are paid from the probate assets. As you can imagine, the process takes some time and involves an attorney and the court. It is also a public proceeding in which the will and all of the related probate documents can be reviewed by anyone.

With that said, probate is a process that usually can be easily navigated with the assistance of a qualified probate attorney. Thus, any time an individual owns property in his or her individual name on date of death, his or her estate is going to be subject to the probate process. The only sure, known way to effectively avoid probate—and to implement a comprehensive and sound estate plan—is by implementing a revocable living trust as your primary disposition vehicle.

For More Information Contact:
Tracy Richardson, Director of Planned Giving
University of Wyoming Foundation
(307) 766-3934 or trichar6@uwyo.edu
uwyo.giftlegacy.com
A Simple Way to Create a Lasting Impact

Even though gift planning tools such as charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities are useful in many situations, they can be quite complex and time-consuming to implement. A much more common way to leave a gift is through a bequest. A charitable bequest is simply a gift of money, real estate, securities, or other property to the University of Wyoming through one's will or revocable trust.

The charitable bequest is the life-blood of planned giving programs—or any fundraising program for that matter. Many of the largest personal gifts to UW and other charitable organizations each year are in the form of bequests. Bequests span all dollar amounts and are from people from all walks of life. Indeed, for each multimillion-dollar charitable bequest you read about in the paper, countless other smaller gifts are made as well. These smaller gifts, too, make long-lasting impacts on the lives of UW’s students.

Common Types of Bequests

Giving a Specific Dollar Amount – One way to implement a charitable bequest is simply to state a dollar amount in your will or trust that you would like to gift to the University of Wyoming. If you plan to update your will on a regular basis and are certain that the funds will be available to satisfy this specific bequest, giving a specific amount may be a good option.

Example language: “I give one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000) to the University of Wyoming Foundation (or its successor) located in Laramie, Wyoming, a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wyoming, designated for the benefit of graduate scholarships within the College of Business.”

Giving Specific Property – If you know that the UW can make use of a particular item or asset to further its mission, you may want to bequeath that property. However, we recommend that you always check with us or the specific college or unit that will ultimately benefit from the gift to make certain that the property can be accepted and put to its best use. Of course, if you sell or dispose of the property during your lifetime, there will be no gift to UW unless you direct otherwise in your will or trust.

Example language: “The rest, residue, and remainder of my estate shall be paid over and delivered to the University of Wyoming Foundation, a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wyoming located in Laramie, Wyoming, for the benefit of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and for the following uses and purposes: University of Wyoming Football Excellence Fund.”

Giving a Percentage of Your Estate – One method to ensure that the UW receives a gift through your estate is by bequeathing UW a percentage of your estate. In this type of bequest, your charitable gift will automatically adjust with the total value of your property that passes under your will or trust.

Example language: “I hereby give my collection of Warhol paintings to the University of Wyoming Art Museum to be added to and become a component part of the museum’s permanent collection.”

Giving the Residue of Your Estate – You can provide for family members and loved ones with a pre-residuary clause and then leave all or part of what is left to one or more charitable organizations. This type of giving assures that your family members will receive what you want them to have before any assets are distributed to UW.

Example language: “The rest, residue, and remainder of my estate shall be paid over and delivered to the University of Wyoming Foundation, a non-profit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Wyoming located in Laramie, Wyoming, for the benefit of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and for the following uses and purposes: University of Wyoming Football Excellence Fund.”

Coordinating Your Bequest

The University of Wyoming Foundation sometimes receives an estate gift that we didn’t know about—these gifts are always exciting because they simply appear on the university’s doorstep. More often, we are able to work with donors during their lives to assist them in implementing a gift or endowment agreement that specifies the programs and purposes they wish to benefit with their estate gift. We are not here to do your estate planning for you or to take business from the many qualified professional advisors that donors work with to implement their plans. Rather, we help donors through the process and answer any questions they may have, in coordination with their estate planners.

This is rewarding for the planned giving and development staff as it enables us to better understand the donor’s intent and to get to know the donor on a more personal level, and it gives us an opportunity to personally thank donors for including UW in their plans in such a personal and meaningful way. If you have already made a bequest to UW or in the event you are considering a bequest, we would encourage you to contact us to learn more about how we can help with the process.
Tom Stroock...

Continued from page 1

incredibly able group of officers. I was very fortunate to work with so many talented civil servants.”

In 1996, Tom won the Distinguished Visiting Professor Award in recognition for the classes he taught as a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Public Policy. “That title gets me into all kinds of places,” Tom said and laughed. For his many years of public service, in 1995 Tom was awarded an honorary Doctor of Law degree.

Tom was born in 1925 in New York City. “I was used to playing in the streets,” Tom said. “Public School 6 where I went and Public School 8 in Harlem used to have regular gang fights, and I thought that’s what you did after school.”

At age 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in World War II. With the help of the GI Bill, he attended Yale University, along with future President George H. W. Bush, and received a B.A. in economics. He then worked for Stanolind Oil and Gas Company, who sent him to Casper in 1949, and soon after he married his college sweetheart Marta Freyre de Andrade, who was born and raised in Cuba.

He immediately fell in love with Wyoming: “I get out here, and everything I’d always read about and heard about was right where I live.” He mentioned backpacking, skiing, duck hunting, fly fishing, and the big game in his back yard. “That’s something that a city boy never knew could happen, and when I found out it could and I could stay and take part in it, when the company wanted to transfer me to Tulsa, I said, sayonara, I’m staying here.” He then founded the first of his own companies, Stroock Leasing Corporation.

In 1960, he began his long career of public service after he was elected to the Natrona County School Board. He went on to the Wyoming State School Board Association, Representative to the Wyoming State Senate from Natrona County, Western State Chair of the Republican Party, and then regional coordinator for both senior President Bush’s campaigns. His public service culminated in his appointment as Ambassador to Guatemala.

“I was raised to give back,” said Tom. “And I served in the Marine Corps during the war, and that was an incredible growing experience. I hated it. I was dirty and cold and scared most of the time. But it was good for me and it taught me a whole bunch about myself and the people around me. So I got the idea from there that you had to do more than just sit there and collect your pay.”

Tom’s life was a testament to this belief. He was known for his honesty and “breathtaking candor,” as well as his good-natured humor, and he supported the things he believed in with enormous contributions of dedication, time, and funding. Tom passed away on December 13, 2009, and he will be tremendously missed, but his legacy will live on at UW and change the lives of countless students for generations to come.

Photos courtesy of Margaret Stroock
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Other Ways to Give

Retirement Plans – Retirement plans are often great assets to leave to UW because of the tax inefficiencies of passing them on to family members.

Life Insurance – Annual gifts to the UW Foundation that fund life insurance premium payments are tax deductible and are a great way to maximize your charitable giving and your impact on the future of UW.

Charitable Gift Annuities – With a charitable gift annuity, you give cash, securities, or real estate to the University of Wyoming Foundation in exchange for fixed annuity payments for the rest of your life while also significantly impacting the future of UW.

Charitable Remainder Trusts – The charitable remainder trust is one of the most flexible and effective charitable and retirement planning tools available and can be used to enhance retirement income, defer taxes, and make a significant impact on your university.

Cash – Cash gifts are deductible up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income and can be carried forward for an additional five years for tax deduction limitation purposes.

Securities – By gifting long-term securities (those owned for more than one year) to UW, you are entitled to a charitable contribution deduction for the full value of the security, not just original cost.

Real Estate – Giving real property to UW may help you with capital gains issues, and in some instances you may continue to occupy the property for the balance of your life.

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A Simple Way...