One of UW Professor Emeritus Donna Marburger’s heroes is Babe Didrikson. It’s easy to see why. Babe was named the 10th Greatest North American Athlete of the 20th Century by ESPN for her accomplishments in golf, basketball, and track and field. “She was a one-person track team,” Donna says.

Through the inspiration of her own mentors and teachers, Donna has paved the way—in physical education and in teaching—for the generations that followed in her noteworthy footsteps.

Donna always knew that she wanted to be a teacher, and when she came to UW from Glenrock, she majored in physical education in order to teach. “At our small high school at Glenrock, I did not know that a girl could major in physical education,” says Donna. “So it was a delight to find out I could do that.”

She adds, “I think we go back to the idea of the ancient Greeks—the scholar-athlete is the ideal citizen, and I think probably that is still true.”

Under the mentorship of UW faculty members Ruth Campbell and Louise Thouin, Donna received her bachelor’s in 1954 and then went on to get a master’s at the University of Colorado and a doctorate at the University of Northern Colorado. She then returned to UW, and from 1967 until her retirement in 1992, she taught in the College of Education Department of Physical and Health Education (now the Division of Kinesiology and Health), teaching teachers to teach, inspiring undergrads with the love of movement, introducing innovative programs, and performing service. In 2012, she received the College of Education’s Distinguished Former Faculty Award.

“I tried to instill the joy of movement and a love for sports and games so that students would participate throughout their lives,” says Donna. “I wanted to make classes fun for students.”

And her service to UW continues to this day. She established the Ruth Campbell – Louise Thouin – Donna Marburger Physical Education Scholarship to honor her mentors, and she is remembering her alma mater in her estate plans.

“I think it’s important to realize that we’re going to die—we don’t know when but some time we’re going to die—and to make plans ahead of time for our estate if we want to have control over it,” says Donna.

Her advice to others who are considering estate gifts? “I’d say do it now. For one thing, it’s fun to get thanked for doing something of that nature. Doesn’t happen when you’re dead. I think it’s good to give if you can while you’re still living and to set up something in an estate to whatever causes are dear to your heart.”

Please see our website at www.uwyo.edu/plannedgiving to see a video interview of Dr. Marburger.
Wyoming and its only university are thriving, and the same can be said about our fundraising programs. In FY 2011, the UW Foundation set a new private support record with total gifts and commitments of $43.1 million from 24,018 donors. Planned giving also saw a tremendous jump in support and donor awareness, with $12.5 million in newly documented estate commitments and another $4.1 in realized bequests.

This year many of our generous alumni, friends, and donors have supported UW in remarkable fashion through their long-term plans. Among the many generous individuals who have remembered UW in their estate plans this year are George Willson and Allan and Sharon Weber. With his estate gift, George will be establishing the George B. Willson Memorial Scholarship to support graduate student scholarships in the Department of Civil Engineering. “I wanted to encourage engineering students to pursue an education in civil engineering for the wide range of very rewarding careers that it led to for myself,” says George.

The Webers will be establishing the Allan E. and Sharon J. Weber Family Memorial Scholarship for the School of Pharmacy, which will support students in their third or fourth year of Pharmacy School with aspirations to be involved in research in pharmaceutics, pharmaceutical/medicinal chemistry, or pharmacology. “Because of the positive influence of the several School of Pharmacy professors who encouraged us to expand our horizons towards graduate education, we are today able to provide gifts to future pharmacy students who aspire to do research and/or educate,” says Allan. “We are grateful for the influence of the university in making us aware of possibilities of which we were previously unaware.” We cannot thank George and Allan and Sharon enough for their generosity.

We have recently launched an estate and charitable planning seminar series, with seminars in Casper and Jackson Hole featuring many talented and successful practitioners on topics such as Wyoming trust law, motivating beneficiaries, and the ever-changing tax laws. More to come.

We are also very excited to introduce the newest member of our team, Lori Tanner. Lori moved to Laramie in 2009 from New England to live closer to her family and really enjoys the Wyoming lifestyle. She especially enjoys living in a college town and being surrounded by the positive energy and ever-changing environment of UW. Her mother works as a preschool teacher in the UW Early Childcare Center and her sister is a UW civil engineering professor. “I am so excited to be a part of the planned giving team and be able to provide support to the UW Foundation,” Lori says. She loves baseball and is an avid Red Sox fan. Please join us in welcoming Lori to the UW Foundation.

All the best,

Tracy R. Richardson, JD, LLM
Director of Planned Giving
trichar6@uwyo.edu, (307) 766-3934
The Impact of Planned Gifts on the University of Wyoming

There is no doubt that charitable estate gifts profoundly impact the University of Wyoming.

A brief history of planned giving at the University of Wyoming: beginning with a substantial bequest from William Robertson Coe in 1955, over $100 million from planned gifts has been realized at UW in support of our students, faculty, and programs. In FY 2011 alone, a remarkable $16.6 million in planned gifts in the form of realized bequests and new revocable deferred gift commitments were either received or documented by the UW Foundation. In addition, we currently have over 320 future gifts on record, estimated at a total dollar amount in the mid to high eight figure range. These numbers will continue to grow as more alums, friends, and donors consider how UW fits in their long-term plans. More importantly, the impact of planned gifts will continue to transform our programs and the lives of our students and faculty.

How do these numbers translate into impact? Some of the greatest impacts are on students.

Tony DeMillard is a sophomore in computer science from Rawlins, Wyoming. He is a thoughtful and sincere young man with a bright future—thanks to a close-knit family and the support of scholarships.

Tony received a Cliff Sundin Scholarship, which was created in 1962 from the estate of Cliff and Ruth Sundin. The Sundin family arrived in Rawlins in 1885 and owned a sheep ranch and a number of other ventures. This generous and long-standing scholarship is awarded to deserving and needy students from Rawlins and has provided over $960,000 to students from Rawlins since 2005. The current market value of the fund is approximately $3.2 million.

Tony was not always so sure about his future. He comes from a family of six brothers and sisters raised by a single mom who was putting herself through school to become a teacher.

“We were poor,” Tony says, “and we definitely received charity from people. What is incredible is that we have these systems in place that support people—because now that we are on our feet my family has the potential to give back. Otherwise, that would just be wasted.”

The Sundin Scholarship (among others) has had a huge impact in his life.

“Because of the scholarship, I don’t have to worry about holding down a job and all these other things that would distract me from my schoolwork,” says Tony. “I’m very blessed and thankful that I was able to get my school paid for with scholarships, and the Sundin Scholarship is a big one.”

Tony so appreciates the support he has received and the culture of philanthropy at UW: “What I like about giving is it creates a sort of system that gives opportunities to those who might not have had opportunities, and maybe those people themselves may eventually become a donor. I would definitely think of that because I was given so much. It’s something I’d like to do.”

Please visit www.uwyo.edu/plannedgiving to use our interactive planning tools today.
Cowboy Legacy

A Legislative Vote of Confidence

Gov. Matt Mead and lawmakers continue to invest substantially in UW, and we are so very grateful to the legislature and the governor for all of their support. In addition to the UW block grant—which funds approximately 45% of UW’s annual operating budget—and an additional $1.8 million in state funds for UW’s libraries, here are some of the key areas of exception one-time budget support from this past legislative session:

- Renovation and expansion of the Performing Arts Center ($14.2 million in state funds and another $14.2 million authorization for bonding and private donations)
- White Hall renovations ($10 million in bonding)
- Renovation and expansion of the Half Acre Recreation Center ($15 million in state funds and $12 million in authorized bonding)
- Arena-Auditorium expansion and improvements ($10 million in state matching funds with another $10 million in bond authorization, both conditioned upon raising $10 million in private funds first)
- An agriculture and outreach center in Sheridan ($5.3 million)
- Future renovation and expansion of the College of Engineering and Applied Science ($30 million in state matching funds)
- $2.3 million for high-performance computing
- The School of Energy Resources ($10 million to support the new strategic plan plus $15 million in state matching funds for energy partnerships)
- Infrastructure improvements ($5 million)
- Wyoming Conservation Corps ($100,000)
- Brucellosis research ($200,000)
- Major maintenance and infrastructure improvements ($19 million)
- Medical education through the Cheyenne residency clinic ($2.3 million), WWAMI ($1.625 million), and WYDENT ($228,500)

This amount of support demonstrates the commitment of Wyoming’s leadership to its only four-year institution of higher education, which plays a critical role in Wyoming’s future.

Give Online at www.uwyo.edu/giveonline

About Us

The UW Foundation is an independent, nonprofit corporation dedicated to securing, managing, and stewarding private gifts in support of the University of Wyoming's missions in teaching, research, and public service. 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 to express our sincerest thanks.

University of Wyoming Foundation
1200 East Ivinson Street
Laramie, Wyoming 82070
Phone: (307) 766-6300
Toll free: (888) 831-7795
Fax: (307) 766-4045
E-mail: foundation@uwyo.edu
Website: www.uwyo.edu/foundation

Celebrating Fifty Years of Giving

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