

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION

COWBOY LEGACY

SPRING/SUMMER 2015



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COWBOY LEGACY

Cowboy Legacy is published twice a year and sent to friends and donors to the University of Wyoming. We encourage you to share with us your questions or comments regarding this newsletter.

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His Heart is

Jack Cassari loved Wyoming and its university. He used his estate to create the Jack and Lynnette Cassari Memorial Law Scholarship, which helps law students who have financial difficulties attend school, in the hopes that they will stay in Wyoming and benefit the state with their knowledge.

“Jack always had an affinity for the area,” says Jack’s widow Cherri. “He grew up in Wyoming, and it was in his heart. He was concerned about Wyoming losing so many resources, both natural and the people.”

Jack was born and raised in Superior, Wyoming, 20 miles outside of Rock Springs. He graduated from Rock Springs High School in 1960, then attended Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, on a basketball scholarship. In 1973, he received a law degree from the South Dakota School of Law.

He worked as a labor lawyer for 8 years, then in 1980, he joined Waste Management Inc., where he stayed for 20 years. He traveled all over the country and worked in offices in Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, Denver, and Scottsdale. But through it all, his heart remained in Wyoming.

“He lived and breathed through the Cowboys,” says Cherri. “He really enjoyed football immensely and really

s in Wyoming

respected the law school.”

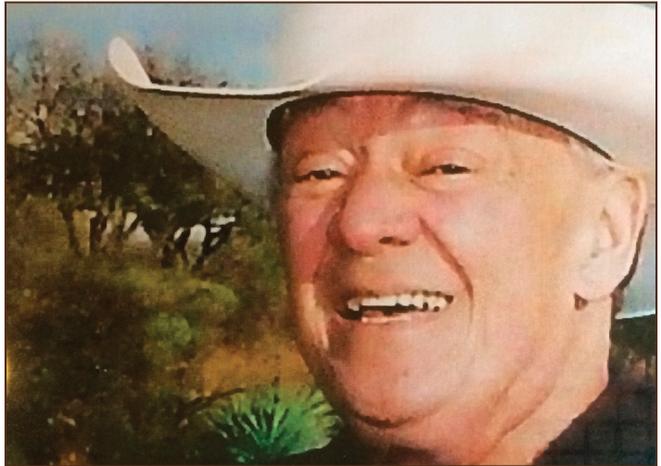
Jack was a member of the Cowboy Joe Club for over 25 years and a season ticket holder for football and basketball. Cherri still holds season tickets for football. He also enjoyed fly fishing, so he and Cherri made time to go to Saratoga or

to fish the Laramie River. His home was always decorated with oversized photographs of Wyoming.

Jack loved UW and wanted to help financially challenged students become successful. When he had the opportunity to give back, he jumped at the chance.

“He wanted people who were interested in law to be able to have the opportunity to experience law school and complete their degree,” explains Cherri.

The Jack and Lynnette Cassari Memorial Law Scholarship was created for students who may not be able to attend law school because of



financial constraints. It allows them the opportunity to get a great education and move on to successful and rewarding legal careers. He knew what it was

“He was concerned about Wyoming losing so many resources, both natural and the people.”

—CHERRI CASSARI

like to face financial issues going to school—he had to work while he attended school—and his goal was to support and encourage future generations to become critical thinkers and leaders. Because of this scholarship, they have the opportunity to make an impact on the world and in law.

Cherri explains that Jack’s life as a lawyer “was very worthwhile and satisfying for him, and he just wanted to give people that need a little help with funding a chance to do the same thing.”

REAL PROPERTY, REAL IMPACT

A Charitable Gift of Real Estate.

What do you plan to do with your cabin in the Big Horns or that building lot you purchased in Arizona as an investment years ago? Did you know that in 24 states (including Wyoming) you can transfer your real estate to your loved ones or the charity of your choice without the costly and time-consuming process of probate? Assets—a home or other real estate, retirement and investment accounts, vehicles, and retirement, investment, and bank accounts—can be passed on without court approval. With a mechanism in place such as a transfer-on-death deed for real estate or a pay-on-death beneficiary designation for financial accounts, a beneficiary such as a loved one or charity need simply provide certified proof of death in order to receive the asset. This saves time, expense, and frustration on both the giving and receiving side.

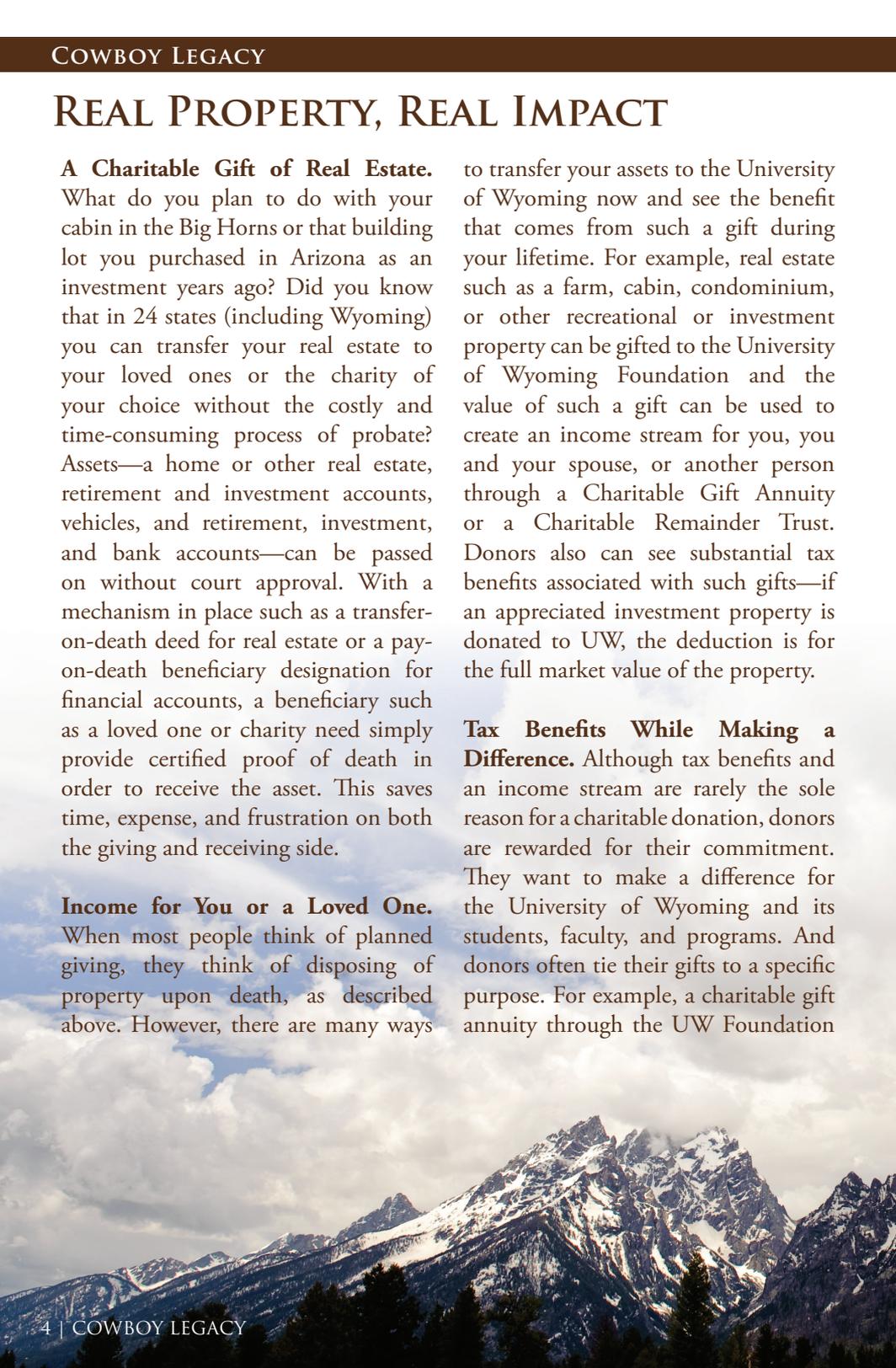
Income for You or a Loved One.

When most people think of planned giving, they think of disposing of property upon death, as described above. However, there are many ways

to transfer your assets to the University of Wyoming now and see the benefit that comes from such a gift during your lifetime. For example, real estate such as a farm, cabin, condominium, or other recreational or investment property can be gifted to the University of Wyoming Foundation and the value of such a gift can be used to create an income stream for you, you and your spouse, or another person through a Charitable Gift Annuity or a Charitable Remainder Trust. Donors also can see substantial tax benefits associated with such gifts—if an appreciated investment property is donated to UW, the deduction is for the full market value of the property.

Tax Benefits While Making a Difference.

Although tax benefits and an income stream are rarely the sole reason for a charitable donation, donors are rewarded for their commitment. They want to make a difference for the University of Wyoming and its students, faculty, and programs. And donors often tie their gifts to a specific purpose. For example, a charitable gift annuity through the UW Foundation



ultimately can support purposes ranging from an endowed scholarship to student support to an endowed excellence fund to benefit a program of the donor's choice. In this way, a donor designates how the gift is used or they can allow a university or program to apply the gift where it is needed most.

A Life Estate Gift. Another way to support the University of Wyoming is through a life estate gift. A life estate gift is when donors gift their home or another property to a charity, such as the UW Foundation, while reserving a life estate interest in the property. The donors retain access and other rights to the property during their lifetime and maintain it, and UW receives it upon the donor's death. This kind of gift eliminates the need for a personal representative or trustee to sell the home or other property and to distribute assets after a lengthy and expensive probate process. This arrangement works well in circumstances where a person's heirs live a substantial distance from them and selling a home is onerous and time-consuming.

Personal Property. Gifts of property are not limited to real estate. Gifts of personal property such as art or jewelry can also be donated to charity and qualify for substantial tax benefits. Before making any giving or estate planning decisions, we encourage you to contact a qualified attorney and financial advisor to ensure that you fully understand all the tax implications associated with your gift. We also encourage you to contact our planned giving team in order to ensure that your gift is used for the purpose you designate and also to make sure that the University of Wyoming is able to make the best use of the gift.

The examples included above are for illustrative purposes and represent only a portion of creative ways that you can meet your charitable giving goals while providing for yourself and your loved ones. For more information about donations of real or personal property and associated benefits, please contact Clayton M. Melinkovich, Associate Director of Planned Giving, at 307.766.4259 or clayvich@uwyo.edu.



MEET CLAYTON MELINKOVICH

Clayton Melinkovich has always dreamed of working for the University of Wyoming. He wants to help students get an education, and what better way than with the assistance of donors.

“Helping out the university and the state was really intriguing to me,” says Clayton. “And I wanted to give back to my community. I thought that working here at the foundation would be a good way to do that.”

Clayton Melinkovich is the new Associate Director of Planned Giving at the UW Foundation. In addition, he is the major gift officer for the College of Law.

Clayton was born in Rock Springs, then moved to Pinedale when he was young. When he was 8, his family moved to Laramie so his dad could attend UW. Since 1990, he has lived in Laramie off and on, spending a few years in Riverton, Anchorage, and Utah—but always coming home to Laramie.

Clayton loves the outdoors, especially backpacking in the Wind Rivers. He also enjoys spending time with his wife and two daughters. He is a third-generation UW alum and fourth generation Wyomingite who has deep Wyoming roots and strong ties to the University of Wyoming. He is proud of his Wyoming

heritage and is excited for the opportunity to support his beloved alma mater.

He graduated from UW in 2007 with an

undergrad degree in criminal justice, then graduated from the UW Law School in 2010. Previously, he worked at the law offices of Brown & Hiser LLC. Prior to that, he was a staff attorney with the legal assistance program at the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Clayton’s background in law gives him legal expertise in estate and tax planning. His experience counseling clients naturally transfers to helping donors understand complicated giving mechanisms and empowers them to make important decisions regarding their donations to UW. He looks forward to helping donors with their estate planning and charitable giving.

“I’m interested in getting to know people,” explains Clayton. “I’m anxious to meet as many people as I can and get to know them and hear their stories.”



HARRY C. VAUGHAN PLANETARIUM

Thanks to a generous gift, the upgraded and renovated Harry C. Vaughan Planetarium is open for business.

Visitors can zoom through space at warp speed, fly by Jupiter and the other gas giants in our solar system, and travel past Pluto and through the outer asteroid belt. Cosmic tours can reach beyond our own Milky Way and explore distant supernovae, gigantic black holes, and the formation of galaxies in the farthest reaches of the universe.

Full-dome shows provide immersive 3-D media experiences, and traditional star shows have been replaced with far more interactive presentations, similar to an IMAX theater.

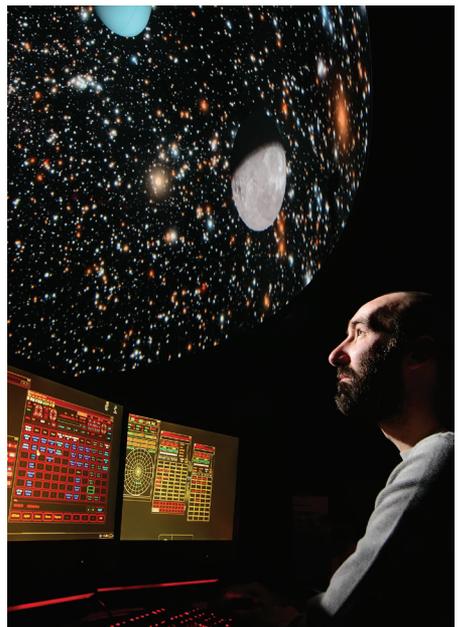
Constructed in 1969, refurbished in 2000, and completely renovated in 2014, the 58-seat Harry C. Vaughan UW Planetarium serves astronomy enthusiasts of all ages. It is part of the UW Department of Physics and Astronomy and is located beneath the east side of the UW Classroom Building and in the basement of the Physical Sciences Building.

The planetarium was renamed the Harry C. Vaughan UW Planetarium in honor of the generous donor who made the transformation possible through his Windy Ridge Foundation. The Windy Ridge Foundation gift of \$875,000 for the facility, plus a \$350,000 endowment that is doubled with state matching

dollars, has advanced the technology to a digital planetarium, which includes more creative educational and entertainment possibilities.

Harry Vaughan was a professor of meteorology in the Iowa State Department of Geological and Atmospheric Sciences. Upon retirement, Vaughan moved to Laramie, where he befriended a number of faculty members in UW's Department of Atmospheric Science. He devoted his time to his love of astronomy and built a personal observatory in his backyard to make his own astronomical observations. He also mentored UW students.

For the planetarium schedule, visit www.uwyo.edu/physics/, call (307) 766-6150, or email physics@uwyo.edu.



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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.

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.

CONTACT US

To learn more about your options for estate planning, please contact:

Clayton Melinkovich

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