

COWBOY Legacy

FALL 2024



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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION

Spreading Poke Pride with CHUCK AND KATIE BROWN

It's the fall of 1959, and school's just started. The air is crisp, and the trees are beginning to turn. Katie and Sandy are friends in UW's Pi Phi sorority. Sandy is dating Terry, who is friends with Chuck Brown, a veteran of the Korean conflict who's just returned to campus to resume his studies.

Chuck has his eye on Katie, who is very popular. She serves as Commander of the Air Force ROTC women cadets who performed during basketball halftime. She is a member of the influential women's honorary, Mortar Board. She is elected Homecoming Queen.

"I feel so blessed and fortunate because I had a wonderful college experience," Katie says, looking back to that time, while Chuck adds, "She was Miss Everything, and I was Mister Nothing."

One night at the Sigma Chi house, Terry says, "Chuck, I hear Katie Kugland isn't dating anyone right now. You better get her called for the Homecoming Dance." And so, Chuck screws up his courage and phones, and then phones again, and again—it takes a few tries, since there is only one phone and a lot of girls living in the Pi Phi House.

"You probably don't know me," Chuck says, "but I know who you are. I know it's early, but I'd like to ask you out for the Homecoming Dance." At the time, Chuck explains, moms told their daughters to go with the first guy who asked you, so he was trying to be the first to ask. There's a pause, and then Katie says, "Well, yes, I'd like that very much."

They chat, and Chuck offers to go before Homecoming on what is called a Coke date—where you met for sodas and get to know each other. Katie agrees. Chuck is over the moon when they hang up, but then doubts begin to creep in. Did she really know who he was? And so, he retraces his steps and calls her back, dialing repeatedly until he gets past the busy signal and then waits as Katie returns to the phone. "So, are you sure you know who I am?" he asks. "Yes," she says. Chuck is elated.

And now Chuck and Katie Brown have been married for over 60 years, living in Wheatland and running their business—

C.H. Brown Co., which first sold farming equipment and then transitioned to helping operators finance that equipment. They raised their two girls, Brenda and Kristi. They held season tickets to UW Athletics for over 50 years. And through it all, their lives have been closely intertwined with their alma mater, the University of Wyoming.



Chuck and Katie have restored a vintage manure spreader for the express purpose of spreading Poke Pride. It is part of their tractor and buggy collection. You can see it at Homecoming and parades around the state.

The Browns have served UW in many ways, as well as on many other boards and commissions. Katie served on the UW Library Board, and Chuck served as president of the UW Board of Trustees and of the Alumni Association Board. Chuck also served on the Federal Reserve Board in Denver.

In fact, the Browns became lifetime members of the Alumni Association right after they graduated. Their first support of UW was Alumni Association dues in 1966, and the first UW fund they contributed to was a general scholarship. Since then, they've given generously to areas across campus such as their

colleges—Education and Business—the Alumni Association, UW Athletics, and much more.

"We've tried to do a good job of running our businesses, and we've just tried to give back and be good citizens," Chuck says. "We both received what we thought were outstanding educations, and they have served us so well throughout our lifetimes."

And now the Browns have gone even further to use their family trust to set up an estate gift to benefit UW. The endowment is very flexible and benefits Athletics, the colleges of Business and Education, UW Libraries, and the Alumni Association.

"We have purposely left those gifts wide open—for the best use," Chuck says. "There are others closer to the need who can better determine where the trust proceeds should go. As far as we're concerned, it's money well spent."

A gift that you create while planning your estate is a great way to have a huge impact on UW students and the faculty and programs that support them. Contact us to find out more!

What's your Wyoming Legacy?



Year-End GIFT OPTIONS

At the end of the year, we reflect on the past twelve months and make plans for the future. We think about the impact we've had and our impact on into the future. One way you can make a impact that ripples down through generations is by supporting the University of Wyoming. Here are some ways to do just that.

- **Give Now** – Cash is the simplest and most popular form of charitable gift. Cash gifts are deductible up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income, and any portion of the deduction not used in the year of the gift can be carried forward and used on tax returns for the 5 succeeding tax years. Sometimes, a cash gift simply makes the most sense and allows you to achieve your charitable goals in the most prompt, direct, and impactful fashion. Go to uwyo.edu/giveonline to make an immediate impact.
- **Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD** – If you are 70½ or older, you may be able to use your IRA to make tax-smart charitable gifts to UW. By requesting a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA, you can direct up to \$105,000 each calendar year to charities such as UW. The benefits to using your IRA for charitable giving include lowering your taxable income, counting the distribution toward your Required Minimum Distribution, and providing support to the program at UW that is meaningful to you. Go to uwyo.edu/giftplanning to find out more.
- **Appreciated Securities** – By making a gift of appreciated securities—stocks, bonds, or mutual funds that have increased in value—you can take a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the shares, avoid capital gains taxes, and make a gift to support the area or areas of UW that you are most passionate about. The charitable tax deduction applies to the full value of the security, not just the original cost, and these gifts are deductible up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income.

To talk over your options, contact Brett Befus, Associate Vice President for Development, at (307) 766-4259 or bbefus@uwyo.edu.

Tax Implications That May Affect YOUR ESTATE

The amount you can pass on to your family without a significant tax burden may be significantly reduced by the end of 2025. This applies to both gifts made during your lifetime and those included in your estate.

Passed in 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act more than doubled the maximum that families can give to their beneficiaries—cumulatively during their lifetime and in their estate—without incurring considerable federal gift or estate taxes. As a result, in 2024 a single taxpayer can claim a federal estate and lifetime gift tax exemption of \$13.61 million for gifts to beneficiaries, and couples can double that amount.

However, unless Congress passes new legislation, this law will sunset at the end of 2025. That means that the amount a single taxpayer can claim, cumulatively, for federal estate and lifetime gift tax may be approximately \$7 million in 2026.

This may be a good time to talk to your financial advisor or contact us to discuss your options. Feel free to contact Brett Befus, Associate Vice President for Development, at (307) 766-4259 or bbefus@uwyo.edu.



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IF MAILED
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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
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LARAMIE WY 82072-9801



We want to hear from you!





UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
FOUNDATION
Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center
222 S. 22nd Street
Laramie, WY 82070

WHY IS SUPPORTING UW IMPORTANT TO YOU?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Name:

Phone:

Email:

- ☐ Please send me more information on giving a gift in my will.
- ☐ 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>.

A special thank you to our Legacy Society members who have documented a legacy gift. Eager to make an impact today? Contact Brett Befus at bbefus@uwyo.edu.

Legacy ^{COWBOY}

Legacy Gift Supports **STUDENT SUCCESS**

Lois Mottonen was a pioneer in the field of accounting. She was the second women in Wyoming to be granted a certified public accountant (CPA) license and was a lifelong advocate for women. In 1976, she was *Good Housekeeping* magazine's list of women leaders in the U.S. and was invited to the White House for tea. Lois supported her alma mater from 1963 until her passing in 2017, including a gift in her will that established the Lois Mottonen Business Scholarship and helped support the Student Success Center in the College of Business.

Gifts made from wills can transform the lives of UW students by opening up opportunities for students who might otherwise be unable to afford higher education or experiential learning opportunities. For many students, these gifts mean the difference between being able to go to college or not. Have you ever considered a gift in your will to support UW? If so, the following is example language you can use.

SAMPLE WILL LANGUAGE

"I give to the University of Wyoming Foundation (a nonprofit corporation located at 222 South 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: 83-0201971



CONTACT US

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