

# Legacy

COWBOY

SPRING 2024



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UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION



## An Unforgettable Scholarship

# MORT DRURY

**M**artin “Mort” Drury was a lover of adventure and forever grateful to the University of Wyoming. Born and raised in Appleton, Wisconsin, Mort grew up playing baseball and could never have imagined the impact this passion would have in the far-away land of Wyoming.

In 1954, Mort took a bold step into the unknown and came to UW on a four-year full-ride scholarship to play baseball. A left-handed pitcher, Mort quickly became an integral part of the team.

At the end of the 1956 season, the Cowboys qualified for the College World Series—the only team in the history of UW to do so. With just 16 players in uniform—compared to the other teams’ 25-man rosters—the Cowboys were one of only eight teams to qualify for the tournament. Although they would lose to the eventual champion Minnesota, the Cowboys proved they had what it takes to compete with the nation’s best.

Mort and the rest of the ’56 team were inducted into the UW Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 2006 on the 50th anniversary of their trip to the World Series.

Mort graduated from the UW College of Education in 1958, thanks in part to his baseball scholarship. He would go on to utilize his experience at UW to create a life dedicated to education, adventure, and serving the youth of his community. Mort was a long-time high school guidance counselor in Wisconsin where he was raised.

Mort and his wife Nancy were married for 62 years and raised five children—a son and four daughters. At the age of 75, Mort wanted to know if he could still throw a baseball across the plate, so he enrolled in the Milwaukee Brewers Fantasy Camp and proved that, yes, he could still throw strikes.

Mort never forgot his baseball scholarship. It opened doors for everything he wanted to accomplish in life, and in his eyes, none of what he accomplished would have been possible without the scholarship he received to attend UW.



1956 UW Baseball Team

After realizing the opportunities a scholarship provided for him, Mort wanted to provide scholarships for others attending UW. In 2021, Mort, Nancy, and their kids established the Mort Drury Scholarship in his honor. This endowed scholarship gives grants to UW student-athletes with financial need.

“He and my mom had been talking about the scholarship as a way of giving back to UW for five or six years,” recalls daughter Pamela. “He really believed he owed everything to that baseball scholarship. There’s no doubt he wouldn’t have had the effect he did on so many had that not happened. He was the first of his family to go to college.”

In 2021, Mort passed away peacefully in his Wisconsin home. He was just shy of his 85th birthday.

Mort left a legacy not only for his family but also the University of Wyoming. He was a Cowboy through and through, and thanks to his endowed scholarship, student-athletes at UW will benefit from his generosity just like he did so many years ago.

Have you ever considered including the University of Wyoming in your will? Your gift can be tailored to honor or memorialize the people or programs that are most important to you. For more information, please contact Brett Befus at (307) 766-4259 or [bbefus@uwyo.edu](mailto:bbefus@uwyo.edu).

*What’s your Wyoming Legacy?*



# Smart Ways to GIVE

A smart way to leave a Wyoming legacy is through a gift of assets. These are noncash assets such as gifts from your retirement account, real estate, securities, collections, and much more. Your support makes a big impact in advancing student success and faculty excellence at the University of Wyoming. Not only that, but you may benefit from tax savings.

Here are smart ways to give to UW.

- **IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution** – If you are 70½ or older, you may be able to take advantage of 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 eligible charities—including UW. Benefits to using your IRA for charitable giving may include lowering your taxable income, counting the distribution toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), and providing support to the program at UW that is meaningful to you.
- **Real Estate** – A gift of real estate property such as a residence, vacation home, or commercial property can be used to make a gift to UW that may also provide significant tax benefits.
- **Securities** – By making a gift of appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, you may be able to take a charitable deduction for the fair market value of the shares, avoid capital gains taxes, and make a gift to support UW.
- **Personal Property** – Gifts of artwork, collections, or other valuables may provide significant tax benefits while enriching the educational experience for students.

Learn more at [www.uwyo.edu/giftplanning](http://www.uwyo.edu/giftplanning).



# The Impact of GIVING



*“I am so grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the Virginia Hill UW Honors Scholarship. This semester will be my first semester back on campus after winning my battle with cancer, so this means more than you may know. It will go directly toward my academic career and help me come one step closer to my future.”*

– RACHEL WOODS

Fall 2023 recipient of the Virginia Hill UW Honors Scholarship



*“This scholarship will make a significant difference in my life by alleviating the financial burden that comes with pursuing a college education. Moreover, this scholarship will provide me with the means to explore additional educational opportunities, which will enhance my academic and personal growth.”*

– CHRISTIAN ‘ZACH’ COOK

Fall 2023 recipient of the Gordon S. and Charlott Myers Nursing Scholarship



*“As a first-generation college graduate, I am both humbled and honored to be able to complete this degree that I started more than 20 years ago, and I am so grateful that these funds will reduce the financial burden on my family.”*

– MICHELLE MANSFIELD

Fall 2023 recipient of the Wyoming Women’s Foundation - Edeweiss Opportunity Scholarship for the UW Outreach School



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**We want to hear from you!**







# UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING FOUNDATION

Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center  
222 S. 22nd Street  
Laramie, WY 82070

## WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE UW ATHLETICS MEMORY?

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Name: 

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Phone: 

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Email: 

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- 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](mailto:bbefus@uwyo.edu).

# Legacy <sup>COWBOY</sup>

## Legacy Gift Supports STUDENT SUCCESS

**L**ois Mottonen was a pioneer in the field of accounting. She was the second woman 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 create 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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