

# COWBOY Legacy

SPRING 2024



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## Supporting the Things She Loves

# CORRINNE STEELE

**A**lum Corrinne Steele loves dogs. She walks her Border Collie Daisy Duke and Australian Kelpie Kiera in the Black Hills near her farm in Whitewood, South Dakota. They also do Dog Agility together. Corrinne still mourns the loss of her first dog Pretty Girl, a Mini Aussie, who died of canine ALS.

Corrinne loves children. Over the course of her life, she fostered about 25 kids mostly under the age of 5, including two sets of twins. “They’re such little sponges,” she says with a big infectious laugh. “I enjoyed it. I had a ball with them.” She also adopted her great-niece.

Corrinne loves agriculture. She grew up on a poultry farm near Cheyenne. They sold eggs and broilers. Now Corrinne has a farm of her own. She was able to buy 14 acres outside of town and to build her dream home. She also has 320 acres of summer pasture nearby. Currently, she’s down to just two cows, one of which tends to have twins.

When Corrinne came to UW, she went into pre-veterinary studies as well as accounting. “I have an insatiable appetite to learn, and I love messing with numbers,” she says. “I have a minor in math.” She didn’t get her degree in accounting because, as she says, “I couldn’t see myself sitting at a desk for eight hours a day.” She went on to get a medical technology degree.

Corrinne has worked a lot of jobs in her life, often at the same time. She worked on the family farm, and she worked at Crane-Hill Cafeteria to put herself through UW. She worked as a med tech for hospitals in Deadwood and Sturgis and then as an accountant for H&R Block. Now she does the books for three construction companies, an engraver, and a veterinarian.

Corrinne has been supporting UW with annual gifts for over 50 years, and her love of children, agriculture, and



*Corrinne with her first agility dog, Pretty Girl.*

UW prompted her to have her will create two endowments that support students in very specific ways.

The first—the Corrinne Steele Agriculture and Natural Resources Childcare Support Fund—helps students with children to pay for preschool at the UW Early Childhood and Education Center. The second—the Corrinne Steele Agriculture and Natural Resources Opportunity Scholarship—is for students in the College of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Natural Resources.

These gifts are part of Corrinne’s will. With the help of her attorney and the UW Foundation, she created a retained life estate with her beloved home. She is able to live there for the rest of her life without fear that it will be sold to pay for nursing home expenses, and she also can take care of her adopted daughter. She is thrilled to be able to support UW students in meaningful ways.

“There are people out there who really want to go to school,” says Corrinne. “They are the ones who need help.”

*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

# Legacy <sup>COWBOY</sup>

### WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE UW TRADITION OR EXPERIENCE?

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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 Gift Supports STUDENT SUCCESS

**L**ois 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 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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