



YOUR LEGACY

Newsletter - Fall 2024



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

Giving students an opportunity to go to university.

Candace Turner-Dressler, '87 BA(Spec) and Rubin Dressler, '89 BCom, share happy memories of their time on campus at the University of Alberta.

Originally from British Columbia, the couple met at a community college in Fort St. John, eventually coming to the U of A to pursue their bachelor's degrees.

"We always enjoyed watching the men's and women's basketball and volleyball," shares Rubin. Candace adds that the various activities and clubs on campus, including her involvement in Pi Beta Phi fraternity, were a tremendous benefit.

Since graduation, Candace and Rubin have thought about supporting students at the U of A through a gift in their Will. "This is a way that we can help somebody go to university," says Candace.

The couple are committed to improving access to education.

Both had successful careers, and they saw firsthand the important role of a university education.

Rubin says, "I wouldn't have been able to work in my field without my degree in commerce. It taught me how to focus and how to think and approach things differently."

For Candace, she noticed that the people she worked with who had degrees took the initiative to seek the knowledge they needed for their respective roles.

When it came time to establish their bursaries, Candace and Rubin said it was simple.

"We just put in our Will that we are giving a percentage of what we have left to the U of A. We worked it out so that the university would get stocks. And there will be tax benefits for our estate."

Their gift will provide financial support for students in need in the Faculty of Arts and the Alberta School of Business.

"If all alumni gave something, it would be so much easier for the students," Candace notes.

We are incredibly grateful for Candace and Rubin's generosity. Their bursaries will remove financial barriers that impede student academic success and potential.



Candace Turner-Dressler and Rubin Dressler

Supporting her passions now and into the future

“I was the youngest of four children in a family with Ukrainian heritage. My father instilled in me the importance of women being able to support themselves, regardless of their life circumstances,” says Mary Whale, '78 BA, '83 BScN.

Following his advice, she completed two degrees at the University of Alberta – first a bachelor of arts with a fine arts major, then a bachelor of science in nursing with a specialization in gerontology (the study of aging).

Mary devoted three decades to nursing, specializing in gerontology for the past two decades. She feels grateful for the choices she's been able to make in her life, thanks to her nursing career.

“I try to pass on the values my dad taught me to my three daughters. The importance of being self-sufficient usually means getting an education. But actions speak louder than words. So, I decided to make the U of A a benefactor in my estate.”

Mary has provided a bequest to assist the Faculty of Nursing. She has also established an award in her lifetime to support graduate studies in gerontology.

She is passionate about breaking stereotypes related to aging.

“Interestingly enough, my two professions came together and informed each other,” says Mary, who left nursing in 2019 to work on *Between the Lines* – a collection of stories and portraits of older adults.

Her motivation came from years of working with seniors. “While working in nursing, I noticed the complex nature of ageism. I became interested in “internal ageism” that often manifests as low self-esteem in many older adults.” According to Mary, the project aims to foster conversations about aging,

ageism, and stereotypes. Awareness is the first step to changing biases.

All proceeds from her art project will go directly into Mary's award.

“I feel grateful for the opportunity to make these small contributions. I mean, I'm not rich. But I can choose where to put the resources I have.”

Her award supports the field and study of gerontology because there's so much we don't understand about healthy aging. As our elder population grows, that's an ever more important gift.



Mary Whale

As Mary says, “It's about empowering individuals and making them feel valuable. Providing them with the necessary resources and opportunities to contribute to their communities. All of us have to feel we're doing something important.”

She adds, “It's amazing growing older. Yes, there's that downside of the physical decline part of it. But the spiritual part of yourself keeps growing.”

Thank you, Mary, for your generous support and your life's work helping older people in our community.

A legacy gift in memory of her grandmother, Rosie Day Rider

“You start thinking about these things more as you age. We always knew that we would probably leave our estate to charities. And, of course, I couldn’t forget my faculty. They’re like my family.”

Carolyn Wagner, '06 BA(NativeStuHons) and Russ Oswald, '85 BSc(MechEng), have set up a bequest to establish an endowment at the University of Alberta's Faculty of Native Studies.

“There is a feeling of comfort knowing that whatever is left will be looked after in a good way. Who knows when we’re going to pass? But whenever that time comes, I have a lot of confidence that the faculty will put the money to best use,” says Carolyn.

The endowment is in memory of Carolyn's grandmother, Rosie Day Rider.

“My grandmother ‘adopted’ me in 2000. She was a highly respected Elder in Blackfoot country and all over.” Carolyn adds, “she worked a lot with families. She was a ceremonialist and a leader of máoto'kiiksi (Buffalo Women's Society). Her maternal line has all been leaders of this society. Having her name on the endowment speaks to women's issues and women's work and the importance of women in Indigenous cultures.”

After working for the government for most of her adult life, Carolyn returned to school in 2003 to get a degree at the U of A's Faculty of Native Studies. “I've had a lifelong interest in Indigenous cultures.” She adds, “my family and other Elders have given me so many teachings. These really helped me in my undergrad studies.”

After graduating, Carolyn worked in various roles, including at the Faculty of Native Studies.

Carolyn and Russ' endowment is designated to support initiatives that preserve, celebrate and share the rich heritage, history and knowledge of the



Carolyn Wagner whose Blackfoot name is awanáánaakíí (Rattle Woman).

Treaty 7 First Nations communities. “We hope the endowment will help spread the news about Truth and Reconciliation. And that people become more interested in Indigenous cultures because they are so beautiful.”

She adds, “in Indigenous cultures, they talk about the seven generations — thinking about the people that come after us and how we can support them. Since we don’t have children, we want to support future children and adult learners.”

Carolyn and Russ' legacy gift will have a tremendous impact. It will support research, scholarships, awards, bursaries, Elders and knowledge keepers, curriculum development and more.

Thank you, Carolyn and Russ, for your commitment to Indigenous peoples and Truth and Reconciliation. Your legacy will provide space for reconciliation through the empowerment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, faculty and community members.

More than 100 years of impact. For over a century, University of Alberta alumni have had a positive effect in Alberta, Canada and the world. Your investment in U of A students and research is far-reaching. See the 2024 Alumni Impact report at uab.ca/alumimpact.

Bequest Gifts

The most common types of bequests are:

Residual bequests: You can designate part or all of your estate to the U of A. The advantage is that there is no need to update that part of your Will as your estate adjusts in size.

Specific bequests: Designate a fixed dollar amount or property to the U of A. The advantage is that the size of the gift remains fixed. Once all debts and expenses are paid, it is the first to be distributed among beneficiaries, including family and charities.

How it works:

A donor leaves \$150,000 to the University of Alberta in their Will.

Let's assume the total net income on their final tax return was \$100,000. And their net income in the previous year was \$75,000:

1. A donation of \$100,000 can be claimed on their final tax return.
2. A donation for the remaining \$50,000 can be claimed on their previous year's return.
3. Their estate receives a total tax credit of \$75,000 between their final two tax returns*.

Charitable bequests can also include cash, publicly traded securities, real estate or tangible personal property.

*Tax credits depend on a donor's income and specific circumstances.

Gifts of Securities

Maximize tax benefits:

Donate appreciated securities and eliminate capital gains tax.

Amplify your giving power:

You can give more without affecting your cash flow.

Support a better future:

Uplift students and researchers.

Learn more: uab.ca/shares

With your legacy gift, you will be invited to join the University of Alberta Quaecumque Vera Honour Society.

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