



Betty Park, Dr. Jennifer Leo (The Steadward Centre Director), Darwin Park, Dr. Robert Steadward and Heidi Fedoruk

YOUR LEGACY

Newsletter - Fall 2026



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

"It's a continuation of what we've done our whole lives."

Shortly after graduating from the University of Alberta with a bachelor's degree in physical education from the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation, Darwin Park, '67 BPE, went on the trip of a lifetime. Along with a friend, he spent the next chapter of his life hitchhiking around the world.

That trip cemented Darwin's passion for travel — and most importantly, broadened his horizons.

Later, Darwin and his wife Betty would go on many more trips with their children and into their retirement.

"One of the things that travel has done to me and our family is help us acknowledge how lucky we are in Canada. We are very fortunate," shares Darwin.

Committed to using their good fortune to support others, Darwin and Betty became actively involved in their community of Spruce Grove and at the U of A, where they learned about the impact they can have through philanthropy.

And so, for years they've been committed to paying it forward, including helping students through two awards they've established at the U of A. Darwin says, "we think that education is the most important part of a person's life. It's served us and our kids well. And therefore, we felt that we could give back, and we had some resources to do so."

When it came time to plan their estate, they decided to make a bequest in support of the U of A's Steadward Centre for Personal & Physical Achievement. Darwin is a friend of the founder, Dr. Robert Steadward, and he and Betty are dedicated to ensuring that people with disabilities have recreational programs available to them.

For Darwin and Betty, including the University of Alberta in their Wills is an extension of their lifelong values. "It's a continuation of what we've done our whole lives," shares Darwin as he reflects on his family's good fortune and their hope to pay it forward.

He goes on to say that he encourages fellow alumni to get involved and learn more about the impact they can make on the lives of students and the community through philanthropy.

"I have been involved and volunteered my whole life. It has enriched my life! And this value has been passed on to our two families," says Darwin.

Together, with admiration and support from their two children and five grandchildren, Darwin and Betty are creating a legacy at the U of A — committed to education and recreation for those who may not have these opportunities otherwise.

Twenty years later, Pat's generosity still shines.

"We as individuals can have a big impact on students at the University of Alberta," shares Pat Jacobsen, '76 BSc(Pharm).

Pat cares deeply about helping others. In fact, a highlight of her 46-year career in pharmacy was the impact she was able to have on people's lives.



Pat Jacobsen

"It's really surprising, the number of people that we impact as pharmacists," she shares. Pat noticed this during her work in primary care networks and at medical specialty clinics. "We were able to develop long-term relationships with individuals coming back for chronic disease management. You got to know them and their families."

Today, in her retirement, Pat is still having an impact on people's lives by annually funding the Patricia Jacobsen Award at the U of A. This award has been helping students, preferably from a rural community, in the third or fourth year of an undergraduate degree program in the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences for over 20 years.

Pat also decided to further support her award by donating her Life Insurance policy to the University of Alberta. She provides a donation annually to cover the policy premiums and for which she receives a charitable tax receipt each year.

"It's not difficult to do and it doesn't have to be expensive. Million dollar donations make the big news, but much smaller donations together quietly make a significant impact. The university handles a lot of the details, and you can choose the amount that you're comfortable with," says Pat, who adds that her two sons are supportive of her generous gift.

The policy will be used in the future to establish an endowment to support her award in perpetuity. And for now, Pat can see the impact of this award in her lifetime.

"I receive a note from the university sharing the recipient's name. And I often receive a thank-you card from the student as well," she shares. "Awards, bursaries and scholarships are very important to students. Whatever size they are – they make a difference in helping students, as I know they did for me."

For Pat, her award is a way to pay her good fortune forward. "It's a way to give back for everything I've received over the years. Not just financially, but personally, what I've received from pharmacy as a profession."

As an advocate for supporting students, Pat encourages her fellow alumni and U of A supporters to consider how they can help. "Think of the impact that you can have on another individual. Even with a small contribution, the benefit goes a long way."

Establishing a Student Award with an Estate Gift

You can support future U of A students through scholarships, awards and bursaries with a gift from your estate. We can work with you now to create terms of reference for your award and ensure that the university can honour your wishes in the future. You may also choose to fund an award in your lifetime and ensure its lasting impact by designating a future gift from your estate. This can provide distinct tax savings for your estate while significantly maximizing your charitable impact.

Education opens doors for students and alumni.

Sylvia Chalmers, '76 BSc(HEc), enjoyed a fulfilling career after graduating from the University of Alberta 50 years ago.

Her first job was with the Edmonton YWCA as a residence counsellor, looking after the needs of the women who were staying there. She eventually became the director of the cafeteria, starting her role in food service.



Sylvia Chalmers

Years later, she worked as a program consultant for a provincially funded lunch program. She managed 12 kitchens in Indigenous communities. "I loved the job. No two days were the same. I even flew into northern Alberta, landing on skis in the winter and pontoons in the summer. Just me, the bush pilot and 1,000 pounds of food," she remembers fondly.

After taking a leave to care for her mother, Sylvia decided to change careers and become a travel consultant. She's enjoyed this role for the past 23 years.

Sylvia remains deeply grateful for the doors that her education helped open for her. And after discussing the tax benefits of including charity in her Will with her lawyer, she decided to name the U of A in her estate plans. Her bequest is in support of nutrition and food science students in the Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences.

Today, Sylvia continues to love to travel. And we are thrilled that she stays in touch with us at U of A events including the Alumni Awards, brunches and our annual QVHS luncheon in Edmonton.

"I enjoy going back to the university. I'm always amazed at what the students are doing with research and where the technology is taking us. And I enjoy chatting with other donors about what they've done in life," she shares. Sylvia goes on to say, "I believe that staying active and engaged with the university promotes longevity."



When you support the University of Alberta with a legacy gift, you help build the future of the university and contribute to a better society for everyone.

And by letting us know of your decision to leave a legacy gift, you help the U of A ensure your wishes can be fulfilled the way you want them to be. You'll also be invited to join the Quaecumque Vera Honour Society (QVHS), a like-minded community committed to world-changing research and the education of future generations.

AS A VALUED QVHS MEMBER, YOU WILL RECEIVE:

- **a special pin;**
- **invites to university events where you'll meet our students, faculty and/or university leadership, including our annual Edmonton luncheon celebrating QVHS donors;**
- **opportunities to connect with and be inspired by other legacy donors with complimentary tickets to events in cities across Canada and in the USA; and**
- **updates related to your area of support and stories about how donors like you are making a difference.**

To celebrate this year's 30th anniversary of QVHS, from now until December 31st, all new QVHS members will receive complimentary tickets to the University of Alberta Botanic Garden.

We would be delighted to learn more about your philanthropic goals and the lasting impact you'd like to make through the U of A.

Planning a Legacy Gift.

With careful planning, a legacy gift can help you make a much larger gift than you otherwise could, while still taking care of your loved ones. And your gift can help minimize or eliminate your estate taxes. There are many ways to give a legacy gift, including through:

Gift in Will: Through a gift in your Will, you can make a significant gift to an area of the University of Alberta that matters most to you. A bequest is one of the most common types of legacy gifts that the U of A receives from its alumni and friends. And your estate is entitled to a charitable tax receipt for the gift's total value. You may prefer to make a blended gift and accomplish your philanthropic goals through a gift in your lifetime and a bequest for the future.

Gift of Life Insurance: Gifting a policy, or a portion of it, is a powerful and simple way to support the U of A for a relatively modest cost. You'll receive a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value of the policy and for any subsequent premium payments. Or if you choose to retain ownership of the policy and name the U of A as a beneficiary, your estate will receive a charitable tax receipt.

Gift of Securities: By gifting appreciated publicly traded securities — including shares, stocks, bonds and mutual funds — you can have an impact at the U of A while taking advantage of major tax benefits. Your gift can go towards a program that means the most to you.

To learn more about the different ways to plan a future gift to the U of A or receive a FREE Estate Planning Organizer, you can contact a member of our team or visit us online at uabgive.ca/legacy.

“There can be tremendous tax benefits when you include a charity in your Will. And once your family is well taken care of, a gift of any size — even a small amount — would be a lasting legacy for a lifetime of hard work.”

– Greg Yacyshyn, legacy donor and QVHS member

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