Quealy honored for decades of contribution

By Marty C. Padilla
Alumnus News Editor

Patrick J. Quealy, Jr., 1989 Medallion Service Award Recipient says the driving force behind his enthusiasm and loyalty for the University has been a desire to see a better and constantly improving University.

For more than 30 years Quealy has unselfishly devoted his time, his talents and his support to the University of Wyoming. That time is highlighted by a tenure on the Board of Trustees beginning in 1969 and lasting through 1985. His days on the board would coincide with the University’s emergence as a well-respected state university. He contributed greatly to the direction of its growth. He has supported policies and practices which led to an ever-improving quality of instruction. Quealy’s term on the Board of Trustees spanned a period through which the University saw four different administrations, those of President’s Carlson, McFadden, Jennings and Veal. Quealy served as President of the Board from 1975 to 1977 and again from 1982 to 1983. He also served as chairman of the Budget Committee from 1968 to 1975. “When I was on the Board, there was always an outstanding group of people to work with,” he said.

A nominator wrote of Quealy’s service to the Board of Trustees, “of most significance was his in-depth understanding, appreciation, and active encouragement of the existing and future academic excellence in the University of Wyoming.”

One highlight of Quealy’s days at UW was capped off by a student protest and strike in a period when student tuition was not the norm. He also recalled the country undergoing a dim economic crash of a stock and trading market. Quealy said he was enrolled in elementary economics at the time. The day after the market crash his economics class discussed the issue at length. “Long philosophical discussions took place in the residence halls,” Quealy recalled, “for a long time after the crash.”

A lifelong resident of the town where his father helped found, Kemmerer, Wyoming, Quealy received his BA ‘53, and went on to earn his juris doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1937.

While attending the University of Wyoming he was a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, Associated Students of the University of Wyoming (ASUW) serving as vice-president in 1933-34, and as president of Theta Alpha Phi, a dramatic society. He was also named “Best Actor” during his senior year.

After earning his law degree Quealy set up shop as an attorney in Utah and Wyoming before taking over the management of various family business interests in 1941. He has continued to manage operations in oil, finance and various other fields. He is currently president of Western Oil Refining Company.

All the while he was out of school Quealy was contributing financial support to the University by providing scholarships each year to graduates of Kemmerer High School. Quealy has been a member of the UW Foundation since 1972, a life Member of the UW Alumni Association, and is a member of the Cowboy Joe Club.

He has also served as director of First Wyoming Bank - Kemmerer, formerly the First National Bank of Kemmerer, from 1943 until January 1983, and was chairman of the board from 1973 until his retirement. He has been director of the Wyoming Bank Corporation from 1975 until his retirement in May 1983. He has served as director of San Francisco Chemical Company during the 1950s and 60s. He was a member of the advisory board for the Wyoming Division of Mountain Bell and a Trustee of Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

Among his many accolades received throughout his association with the University of Wyoming is being selected as a “UW Distinguished Alumni” in 1981. He was also a recipient of the Casper Kiwanis “Distinguished Service Award” in 1968; and recipient of the “Melvin Jones Fellowship” from the Kemmerer Lion’s Club in 1988.

Quealy has been a member of the Wyoming and Utah Bar Associations since 1937 and has been involved in several civic and community activities including serving as Mayor of Kemmerer from 1952 to 1962; he is co-founder and has served as president of the Wyoming Association of Municipalities from 1955 to 1958; president of the Wyoming TaxpayersAssociation from 1965 to 1974; director of the Cowboy Hall of Fame, from 1971 to 1974; and a member of the Order of the Colt.

“...that many others share a high regard for the nominee is attested by his election to numerous corporation offices and to leadership of many political and citizen groups,” one nominator writes.

Former Wyoming Governor Stan Hathaway said Quealy has given his life to the betterment of the University of Wyoming. As one of Wyoming’s outstanding business leaders Quealy served as a link between the University and the business community of Wyoming.

“It was my great pleasure to appoint him twice to the Board of Trustees...”

Patrick J. Quealy, Jr., and son, Patrick J. Quealy, III, at work in the family business in Kemmerer. Photo by Marty C. Padilla