UW recognizes four outstanding alums during Homecoming 1991

Board finds no violation

UW News Service — A UW Civil Rights Review Board ruled last month that the director and associate director of the UW Student Educational Opportunity (SEO) office did not discriminate or retaliate against the former Indian Education Office (IEO) director when she was terminated in May.

Former SEO Director Roberta Wilson had filed charges of discrimination with the UW Employment Practices Office, alleging that SEO Director Piji Adachi and SEO Associate Director Dolores Cardona had terminated her because of her tribal affiliation. According to Adachi, Wilson was terminated because she failed to meet the conditions associated with her one-year probation, a requirement for all UW staff employees.

"Although, our concern has been to make sure that the Indian Education Office was operated efficiently and effectively in the best interests of the Indian students," according to Associate Provost Jim Hurst.

According to Employment Practices Officer Jenee Vlahos, Wilson's complaint was given top priority in his office.

In addition to her allegations of discrimination, Wilson claimed that SEO had mishandled SEO funds. Adachi responded, saying that those allegations were unfounded.

In late May, at the request of IEO, an independent accountant reviewed IEO financial statements and documents for the years 1988-91. Richard Ortiz, an enrolled Arapaho and director of the Office of the Wind River Tax Commission for the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes, found no "fraud, mismanagement of funds, embezzlement, theft and misappropriation of funds."

Additionally, on July 12, Adachi formally requested that the U.S. Department of Education conduct a financial and program audit of IEO's Project NATIVE.

Hurst says that he hopes the board's finding, the recent financial review and the requested federal audit will restore confidence in the Indian Education Office.

"Ever since we founded the IEO, with the help of the Arapaho and Shoshone tribes, IEO and the management team in SEO have enjoyed the trust and confidence of tribal leaders and students." Hurst says. "Recent allegations have raised some concerns among some of the Arapaho and Shoshone people. I sincerely hope that today's finding is a genuine healing process on the reservation and on our campus, so that we can make the Indian Education Office even stronger and more responsive to the educational needs of UW's Indian students."

Hodgson named research VP

DEREK Hodgson has been selected UW vice president for research.

Hodgson is a professor of chemistry and has served as UW's interim vice president for research since July 1, 1990. During that time, the university received a record $26,013,040 in external grants and contracts in support of research and other projects.

Hodgson won one of three finalists for the position identified during a national search. He replaces Ralph DeVries, who was vice resident from 1983 until his resignation last July.

New HS dean hired

UW News Service — Martha Williams is the new dean of the UW College of Health Sciences, effective Aug. 27.

Williams comes to UW from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was School of Social Work dean since 1981. She takes over from Philip Carolino, dean since 1986, who retired effective Sept. 3.

"I am looking forward to joining the UW faculty and serving as dean of health sciences," Williams says. "My first visit to the campus convinced me that I had found the perfect academic environment. Also, Wyoming is a beautiful state with a quality of life that is very appealing and special."
For 1991 Medallion Service Award winner Dick Brown, the decision to attend UW was an easy one.

"I had my heart and my goals set early in high school to attend the University of Wyoming; so, naturally, I didn’t consider anywhere else," the Cheyenne native says.

Pleasant experiences at UW’s trimmer music camp back in 1944 sparked Brown’s desire to attend college in Laramie. He was impressed with both the campus and the music program, two critical factors in his plans to originally enroll as a music education major.

That decision began his 40-plus year relationship with the institution. Brown, now living in Casper, has maintained strong ties to the university. His dedication of time and talents are recognized at this year’s Medallion Service recipient.

Brown’s pursuit of a degree (social studies education, with a music minor) took a slight detour through the military and the Korean War. He took time off from studies after his first two quarters and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Shortly after his initial tour was completed, Brown (then a reservist) found himself being sent to Korea.

His military experience was a good one.

"I loved every minute that I served in the Marines Corps," Brown says. He arrived in cold, snowy Korea as a replacement in the suakinse gun section of a battalion that had been nearly wiped out. A howler grenade went off 15 years ago and Brown’s buddy under his wing and "made men out of us."

Before returning to the states in 1952, Brown distinguished himself in the Corps. He earned a Purple Heart, Bronze Star with combat "V" and a Korean Service Medal with three stars.

The experience also gave Brown the maturity he needed to return to college and succeed. While at UW, he was actively involved in several organizations. Among those were Omicron Delta Kappa, Iron Skull and Phi Mu Alpha.

Brown’s affiliation with Sigma Alpha Epulion social fraternity was one of his most satisfying UW experiences.

"The fraternity meant a great deal to me, because there I met many longtime friends," he says.

During these years, one of the most important responsibilities Brown took on was that of UW student body president (1954-55).

"More than anything, that prepared me to go out into the role of a citizen," he says. "It gave me a good deal of confidence."

Brown’s daughter, Martha, followed in his footsteps many years later when she ran for, and won, the ASUW presidency in 1979-80.

"That’s probably one of the proudest moments I’ve had," Brown says. "My only response to her was, ‘Martha, go for it!’" Martha Brown was the first female student body president since the war years, reopening the door for others in the 1980s. She and her father were also the only parent-child combination to serve as president in ASUW history.

Professional Experiences

Following his 1955 graduation, Brown zipped a year of law school, then moved on to a management training program at Mountain Bell. Two years into that job (1958), he received a call from UW President George Duke Humphrey asking him to take over the reins of the Alumni Office. Brown accepted the challenge and, with the help of a supportive board, set up UW’s first attempts at fund raising — the alumni development fund. That project was the precursor to what has since evolved into the UW Foundation.

This didn’t mean Brown was tied to the office. In fact, he spent a lot of his time on the road, visiting every community in the state, as well as making trips to alumni constituencies throughout the country.

During his tenure as UW alumni director, Brown learned about working with the Wyoming Legislature. In January 1959, Humphrey took him to Cheyenne, bought him a cowboy hat and announced that “now you’re a lobbyist.”

Lobbying for the university was relatively easy in those years. The institution enjoyed tremendous support from the legislature, and Humphrey was popular with state lawmakers. Brown primarily just made himself available to answer their questions.

His lobbying skills would play an important role in Brown’s professional future. He left UW in 1969 to work for his former history professor, U.S. Sen. Gale McGee. Brown set up permanent offices for McGee in Cheyenne and Casper. He helped Wyomingites resolve problems with federal programs, such as Social Security and Veterans Affairs; and he represented McGee at various hearings, meetings and conferences around the state and accompanied the senator on his visits to Wyoming.

In 1976, following McGee’s loss to Malcolm Wallop, Brown began his 15-year career with Pacific Power. He worked as the company’s Wyoming lobbyist for two years, then transferred to a similar position in Oregon. Five years into that job, Brown received a promotion that brought him back to the Cowboy state. He served one year in operations training, then became vice president and region manager, a position he held for the past six years.

Brown is in charge of all aspects of Pacific’s operations in Wyoming and Montana.

Continued UW Service

Through the years, Brown’s ties to UW remain strong. A large part of his service is in an official capacity. He serves on the UW Trustees, the UW Foundation Board of Directors, UW Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute Steering Committee and the UW EPSCOAR Steering Committee. He also served as honorary chairman of the university’s Annual Fund.

Serving as a UW trustee has been an eye-opening experience for Brown. This job involves significantly more than anticipated; but he knows it’s important work, shaping policy and guiding the university into the 21st century.

Despite countless hours of work, “we’ve yet to scratch the surface in the things we’re doing right now,” he says.

Service is Important

For Brown, time spent serving his alma mater is a pleasurable job.

“If it hadn’t been for the advantage of attending the University of Wyoming, and then having the opportunity to work there, I certainly wouldn’t have been able to do everything I’ve been able to do,” he says. “It’s a great place.”

Word of the Medallion Award was a pleasant surprise. As alumni director, Brown helped institute the Medallion program to recognize outstanding service to UW. He did not suspect, however, he’d be added to the list of recipients.

“My wife and I were overwhelmed, because I didn’t think it would ever happen to me,” Brown says of notification he’d won. “Aside from my family, when it comes right down to it, the university has been among my first loves.”

Brown and his wife, Marty (the former Marsha Bauess, also a UW graduate), have six children. Two — Martha and Betty — graduated from UW; Sarah attended UW for two years before earning a degree from the University of Idaho; Mary graduated from Colorado College; Charles, a law student at the University of Puget Sound, graduated from the University of Oregon; and Katie has a degree from Oregon State University.

Guthrie’s love of people, profession marked legal career

When Rodney Guthrie retired from the Wyoming Supreme Court in 1978, he closed the book on a long, distinguished legal career that began in 1945.

Guthrie, JD ’31, died June 8, 1991, in Cheyenne. He is honored posthumously as a 1991 UW Distinguished Alumnus.

A Wyoming native, Guthrie grew up in the Moorcroft area. After graduating from Moorcroft High School in 1926, he moved on to Laramie and the university, where he received his degree from the UW Law School.

Guthrie’s legal career included many years of public service. He served as Crook County sheriff from his election in 1931 until January 1937. During this time, he lived in Sundance and maintained a private practice.

In 1937, Guthrie moved to Newcastle, where he operated a private practice, Raymond and Guthrie, until 1958. While in this community, he also served as Newcastle city attorney from 1938-58.

Guthrie became a member of the judicial branch in August 1958, when he was appointed to an unexpired term of District Judge of the Sixth Judicial District. He was elected to that same position in November and served through December 1971.

In January 1972, Guthrie stepped up to the Wyoming Supreme Court as a justice on that body. He was elected to serve a six-year term in November of that year and served until Dec. 31, 1978, when he retired at age 70. He was chief justice from Jan. 22, 1975, until his retirement.

Well-Respected Professional

Friends and colleagues who nominated Guthrie for the award recall his fair-mindedness and professionalism.

“He is a dedicated jurist, conscientious and fair in enunciating his judicial authority,” one nominator wrote.

“Although he never felt doubt as to who was prevailing, he was always courteous and kind to witnesses, litigants and their (Continued on page 12)