

2023 Medallion Service Award Winner

Charlotte Hearne Davis

By Micaela Myers

When Charlotte Hearne Davis retired as associate director of student life for the University of Wyoming in 2000, the students she served threw her a party, stating, “In UW’s 114-year history, there are few people who have had such a positive impact on the institution and its students as Charlotte Davis.”

“That meant more to me than anything ever could — to know that impact and caring meant a lot to them,” she says.

In total, Hearne Davis served the university for 34 years, all in mentorship roles for students, including associate dean of students. She advised numerous student groups on campus, including virtually all of UW’s honorary societies, the Panhellenic Council, SPURS, the Mortar Board chapter, the Associated Students of UW, the first UW Minority Student Leadership Initiative and Freshman Senate. She also served her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, as academic adviser for over 40 years.

“I was so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with students and student organizations at UW,” she says. “I couldn’t have had a more rewarding and fulfilling career.”

Hearne Davis was born in Hanna but moved to Laramie in high school. She and her six siblings all attended UW, with Hearne Davis earning her bachelor’s degree with honors from the College of Commerce and Industry in (1960) and her master’s degree in counselor education (1964).



“UW was a wonderful place to be as a student,” Hearne Davis says. “My coursework, the people I met and the opportunities UW provided really prepared me for life and career.”

Aside from a six-year stint as a high school teacher and counselor in Glendora, Calif., her entire career was based in Wyoming.

“You know people care about their university, and you know they care about the state of Wyoming,” Hearne Davis says. “You felt that everywhere you went in the state, and I felt it in the work I did with students.”

The recognition Hearne Davis received from those she mentored meant the most to her. Her accolades include a Distinguished Lifetime Member Award from National Mortar Board, Mortar Board Alumni Achievement Award, Mortar Board “Top Prof,” the Each Student a Person

Award, the Associated Students of UW Distinguished Service Award, Division of Student Affairs Outstanding Professional Staff Member Award, Service Award for Exceptional Service and Dedication to UW, the Greek Achievement Awards for Outstanding Chapter Advisor, and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the College of Education. Two scholarship funds were created in her honor: the Charlotte H. Davis Scholarship and the Charlotte H. Davis Leadership Fund.

“That was the most important thing I could have spent my life doing — encouraging, mentoring and supporting students,” Hearne Davis says.

Her commitment to women’s leadership development went beyond UW, with roles in Zonta International, the Philanthropic Educational Organization, the Colorado Wyoming Association of Women in Education and the National Association of Women in Education. She hopes to inspire students to also serve.

After retirement, Hearne Davis worked as a volunteer for the Andros Dental Project alongside her husband, Maron, also a UW graduate, to provide dental hygiene education and services to children on Andros Island in the Bahamas.

Her life of service earned Hearne Davis the 2023 UW Alumni Association Medallion Service Award.

She says, “I’m humbled and appreciative to be recognized by the university that I have loved and served for over 60 years.”