

1969

Distinguished



Distinguished Alumnus Marlin T. Kurtz



Distinguished Alumna Mrs. Thyra Thomson

GRADUATES OF THE University of Wyoming who received the coveted Distinguished Alumni awards for 1969 were Marlin T. Kurtz in business and industry, Mrs. Thyra Thomson in the humanities, and M. Clare Mundell in education.

Recipients were announced and awards were made at the conclusion of the Homecoming Sing in the Fieldhouse.

A 1928 graduate, Kurtz has long owned and operated the Pawnee Supply Co. in Cody. His son Donald, BS '53, is interested in the business with him. The distinguished alumnus received an honorary degree from UW in 1963.

His greatest contributions to the state of Wyoming and to the nation are in the field of water conservation. He and his son have pioneered in the development of sprinkler irrigated agricultural lands by developing a large project on the Big Horn River.

He received both the Upper Missouri Water Users Association plaque for his outstanding contributions to the field of water development and the Headgate Award from the Four States Irrigation Council. These awards came in 1968 and early 1969.

His long time work with the National Reclamation Association, and the Wyoming Water Development Association led up to his receiving these awards.

During his long service in the Wyoming legislature—seven terms—he served on the Water Problems and Public Lands Committees, the Regional Council of State Governments and the Agricultural Committee. He was speaker of the House of Representatives in the 1963 session and the special session in 1964.

Kurtz is active in educational affairs, having taught in Cody for several years after his graduation and being a past president of the Northwest District Wyoming Education Association.

He and Mrs. Kurtz, the former Lois Ingraham, BS '27, have two daughters besides a son Donald. Both of the daughters also graduated from UW.

In the position of Wyoming Secretary of State Mrs. Thomson, who took her degree from UW in 1939 with honor, holds the highest elected executive position held

Graduates

by any woman in the United States. This is true because she is next in line of succession to the governor and is acting governor when the chief executive is out of the state.

In addition she sits on 19 state boards and commissions and is chairman of five. She also serves in a number of national and regional capacities.

Mrs. Thomson has recently been selected Woman of Distinction for 1969-71 by Alpha Delta Kappa, honorary sorority of women educators. Other honors include membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, commerce honorary, at UW in 1968; chairman of the Western Interstate Committee for the Western Conference of the Council of State Governments, 1966-68; membership in Omicron Delta Epsilon, honor society in economics, 1966.

She served on the United Kingdom's Marshall Scholarships Committee for the Pacific Region, 1964-68 and was a delegate to the 72nd International Wilton Park Conference in England, 1965.

In addition to her degree from Wyoming Mrs. Thomson has done graduate work at the American University in Washington, D.C.

The widow of the late Keith Thomson, LLB '41, she is the mother of three sons, the oldest two of whom have attended the University of Wyoming. Her son Bill received his law degree at UW and is now working in Washington, D.C.

Dean of Commerce and Industry at UW, Mundell has been a member of the faculty since 1935 and has held the deanship since 1949. He took his bachelor's degree with honor from UW in 1928 and his master's in 1939. He has done graduate work at the University of Maryland and participated in seminars at Williams College in Massachusetts, New York University Graduate School of Business, and the University of Virginia.

Mundell is now serving on the board of directors of the Mid-Continent Research and Development Council and as chairman of the Midwest Association of Colleges and Departments of Business Administration. He is a past president of the Wyoming Society of CPAs and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, the American Ac-



Distinguished Alumnus Dean M. Clare Mundell

counting Association, and the National Council for Small Business Management Development.

He is 1969 chairman of the Awards Committee of the Alpha Kappa Psi Foundation, Wyoming director of the Federation of Rocky Mountain States, and a member of the Committee on Professional Responsibility, American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business.

Other responsibilities are as a member of the standards committee and on several visitation teams of the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business; as a state and regional representative on the Small Business Administration Council; chairman of the Division of Business Administration of the Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges; and president of Wyoming Alpha Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma.

A 1966 winner of the Leffingwell Award by the Denver Chapter of the Administrative Management Society, he also received the Alpha Kappa Psi Silver Award for Distinguished Service, and the Boss of the Year Award from the LaRamee Chapter of the National Secretaries Association.

His military service was as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy from 1942-46 and 1951-52. With the Navy he was in materials and production control for the Bureau of Ships.

He is married to the former Edith Morgan, BA '28. The Mundells are active in the United Presbyterian church of Laramie and both are life members of the UW Alumni Association.