The University of Wyoming Distinguished Alumni awards for 1977 will be presented to Gov. Ed Herschler, Charles M. Hardin, Alfred M. Pence and Lawrence W. Woods, during Homecoming activities on October 1.

Biographical forms (available through the Alumni Association) are filled out by anyone that feels they can recommend a person worthy of the honor. 75 applications are received in an average year.

The Distinguished Alumni Committee, comprised of ten representatives of the Alumni Board and alumni from around Wyoming, review each biography and narrow the field to five. These are then researched and final review is made by the Alumni Board of Directors.

Wyoming Governor Ed Herschler received his LLB degree from the University of Wyoming in 1949. He served in the United States Marine Corps from January 10, 1942 to September 31, 1945, as a platoon sergeant. He spent 22 months in the South Pacific and received the Purple Heart and the Silver Star.

Herschler became Lincoln County Prosecuting Attorney in 1961, and served in that position until 1969. He was State Representative from 1961 to 1971.

July 1971-1973 he was on the Wyoming Board of Parole, and from 1973-1974 was on the Wyoming Judicial Nominating Commission.

Herschler was elected Governor of Wyoming in 1974 and took office the following January.

Herschler served as President of the Wyoming State Bar in 1968. He also was a member of the staff of the American Legion’s Wyoming Boys’ State from 1963 to 1972. He served three terms as American Legion, Judge Advocate.

Herschler is a member of the Wyoming State Bar, American Bar Association, National Society of Barristers and has been a Director of the American Judicature Society since 1975. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Wyoming Lung Association, the Wyoming Heart Association, and the Götische Rehabilitation Foundation.

He and his wife Kathleen (Casey) have two children, a son James and a daughter, Kathleen Hunt.

Charles M. Hardin, Professor Emeritus, Political Science, University of California, Davis, received his BA from the University of Wyoming in 1930. He received his MA from the University of Colorado in 1938, and his PhD from Harvard in 1942.

After teaching in Lander from 1934 to 1937, Hardin attended the University of Colorado on a fellowship. He was a teaching fellow and instructor at Harvard from 1940 to 1945.

From 1945 to 1960 he served on the faculty of the University of Chicago. He was Associate Director of the Ford Foundation from 1961 to 1964.

In 1964 he joined the faculty of U.C., Davis as Professor of Political Science, a position he held until 1976. While at the school, he served as Director of the International Agricultural Institute, from 1965 to 1970.

Hardin has been a visiting fellow at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions; a Visiting Professor at the University of Colorado, Texas A&M University, Penn State University; and a guest lecturer at 18 other universities and colleges.

He has served as a consultant at various times to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Extension Service and the Production Marketing Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture. He has also worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority and the World Bank.

In 1946, he received honors for the Best Article by the Journal of Farm Economics, he has been the Political Science Advisor for the Encyclopedia Britannica from 1958 to the present. He had the Ford Professorship in Political Science at the University of Chicago in 1960.

He has a number of publications to his credit. Among them are; “The Politics of Agriculture,” 1962; “Food and Fiber in the Nation’s Politics,” 1967; and “Presidential Power and Accountability: Toward a New Constitution,” 1974. He has also authored approximately 30 articles for professional journals, and 12 contributions of chapters to symposia.

Hardin and his wife Sara Jane “Sallie” Gibson, have a daughter, Julia Harding Hansen. The Hardins live in Davis, California.

Alfred M. Pence received his LLB from the University of Wyoming in 1929. He has been the senior partner in the Laramie law firm of Pence, Millett and MacMillan since then.

He served in the Army Reserve until retirement age. Seven of those years he was an active duty, four of which were during World War II. He received the Army Commendation Ribbon, the Army Commendation Medal, Selective Service Medal, the Victory Medal, Reserve Distinguished Service Medal, the American Theatre Medal.

He was a graduate of the Infantry School and the Command and General Staff School. He achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

For the past 22 years, Pence has been a member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association, and for the past three years, he has been on the ABA’s Board of Governors. He is also a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and the American Bar Foundation.

Pence was named by President Carter to the Chairman of the U.S. Circuit Judge Nominating Commission for the Tenth Circuit Court.

He was a member of the Wyoming Legislature from 1935 to 1937. He also served for seven years on the State Higher Education Council, and for six years on the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming. For two years he was President of the Trustees.

Pence has served as President of Wyoming State Bar in 1962, the Western States Bar Conference in 1963, and of the Wyoming Reserve Officers Association.

He served for 19 years as Laramie City Attorney, 1937-39 and 1946-65. He also has been District Court Commissioner for 35 years.

He and his wife, Mary Lou (Stone) ex ’35, live in Laramie.

Lawrence W. Woods, Executive Vice President, Mobil Oil Corporation, graduated with honors from the University of Wyoming in 1930. He received his MA and PhD from New York University in 1937 and 1938.

After graduating from U.W., Woods joined the firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. as an accountant. He became a Certified Public Accountant in 1954, and was admitted to the bar the following year.

He served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1956. He was the supervisory auditor for the Army Audit Agency from 1954 to 1956.

After leaving the Army, he became an accountant with the Mobil Producing Company. He served in that position from 1956 to 1969.

He was named planning analyst by Socony Mobil Co. in 1959, and planning manager in 1963. He served as planning manager until he became Vice President, North American Division of the Mobil Oil Corporation in 1966.

He was named General Manager, Planning and Economics for Mobil in 1967, and served in that position until 1969. Woods was Vice President of Mobil Oil Corporation from 1969 to 1976.

Woods was made a director of Mobil Oil Corporation in 1976, a position he still holds. He was named Executive Vice President of Mobil Oil Corporation and Director of Mobil Corporation, earlier this year.

He is also a director of Marcon, Inc., Montgomery Ward & Co., Container Corporation of America and Hydro Conduit Corporation.

He received an honorary degree from Wagner College in 1973.


Woods is a Matador native. He and his wife Joan have one daughter, Laurie. They live in Briarcliff Manor, New York.