

Distinguished Alumni to be honored

By Erich Kirshner

During Homecoming festivities, October 6th, Donna Boone, William Clevenger, Norman Gunderson and Frederick Reckling, will be presented the Distinguished Alumni awards for 1979. The Distinguished Alums will also take part in many of the Homecoming festivities including riding in the parade, being the guests of honor at a pre-game luncheon, being introduced during half-time at the football game and finally attending the President's dinner. This marks the 26th anniversary of UW's Distinguished Alumni program.

Donna Clausen Boone

"If nobody else does it, I do. That's always the way it seems to work."

This attitude is what drove Donna Boone to become the pioneer in physical therapy she is today.

After discovering that victims of deadly hemophilia were going virtually untreated by other physical therapists, she did the natural thing, she treated them herself.

The long-time California resident discovered that no one had ever done the research to figure how the normal peripheral joint functioned as compared to the joint of a hemophilia patient. She did it herself.

Mrs. Boone was originally interested in physical therapy while working towards her Bachelor of Arts degree in zoology at the University of Wyoming. "I was doing some work for the Natural Resources Research Institute, when I noticed a physical therapy handbook. After thumbing through it, I was interested enough to send for some information. At the time I was too poor to go into medical school so physical therapy seemed like the next logical choice."

After receiving her degree from UW, she went on to get her physical therapy certificate at Northwestern in Chicago.

Mrs. Boone specializes in the treatment of hemophilia patients. "I became interested in hemophiliacs quite by accident," comments Boone. While working at the California Hospital, in Los Angeles as Senior Physical Therapist, she was assigned a 12-year-old boy who was suffering from obesity and hemophilia.

"At the time I don't even think I knew how to spell hemophilia," comments the UW graduate. She put the youth on a standard exercise program. "Well I soon found out that hemophiliacs aren't fit to do regular exercise due to excessive bleeding and

I quickly took him off the program," explains Boone.

This incident sparked Mrs. Boone's interest enough to encourage her specializing in the treatment of hemophilia patients and to lecture nationally and internationally to encourage development of comprehensive care centers for hemophilia patients. As well, Mrs. Boone has trained therapists throughout the world in the rehabilitation of persons suffering from hemophilia.

Mrs. Boone's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed, she is in no less than 12 biographical listings (Who's Who). Besides being named a Distinguished Alum she has also received the Dr. Murray Thelin Award of The National Hemophilia Foundation "in recognition of the outstanding contribution in the rehabilitation of hemophiliacs."

When she gets out of the office, she pursues her hobby of restoring old cars and, would you believe, tractors?

"My husband, Robert Boone, and I met a lady who was trying to get a good home for her husband's prize possession: his 1920 Fordson Tractor. The museum wouldn't take the old tractor, so we did. We are now in the process of restoring it along with a 1962 Jaguar Roadster."

Mrs. Boone lives with her husband in Pasadena, Calif.

William Clevenger

While working in the dusty iron mines of Wyoming, Bill Clevenger couldn't have dreamed that he one day would be the president of the powerful American Consulting Engineers' Council (ACEC) and Chairman of the Board of Woodward and Clyde Consultants.

One thing the Sunrise, Wyoming, native doesn't suffer from is indecision.

"While growing up in Sunrise, I became friends with a mining engineer who fostered my interest in engineering and got me several jobs in the field. At that time I knew I wanted to be an engineer."

And that's exactly what he did.

Since graduating in civil engineering in 1943, Clevenger has been responsible for pre-bid evaluation for contractors for some of the largest earth dams in the world, including Tarbella Dam in West Pakistan and Oroville and San Luis Dams in California. More recently Clevenger has been involved with the Gray Rocks Dam project in Wheatland, Wyoming.

Clevenger served as president of the ACEC for a one-year tenure during 1977-78. Clevenger said he took the post, "In hopes of returning to the

profession what it has given to me and to help the image of the consulting engineer." In retrospect, Clevenger commented, "I have a good feeling about the year I spent as ACEC president. I did what I could to help the profession."

Clevenger specializes in earth dams and has authored several books and articles on the subject.

The biggest problem facing the consulting engineering profession according to Clevenger is the image that engineers give of themselves as magicians. "Engineers often give their customer the impression that by throwing out a few numbers they're going to make everything alright. It just doesn't work that way," explains Clevenger.

Despite the fast pace of the engineering profession, Clevenger still manages to make it back to Wyoming once a month to see friends and relatives and to pursue his hobbies of fishing, hunting, and white water floating. "Every fall I get together with some friends and we float the Platte from Saratoga to Fort Steele," added the sportsman.

Today, Bill Clevenger and his wife find their home far from the dusty iron mines of Wyoming in the woods around Sequim, Washington.

Norman O. Gunderson

"I was very pleased to have been named a Distinguished Alum. I have always had a close association with the University of Wyoming through friends and relatives," comments UW Alum Norman O. Gunderson in a business-like voice.

Currently Gunderson lives in San Jose, Calif., and works as a professor of engineering and cybernetic systems at San Jose State University and as a consultant for the Transportation Agency of Santa Clara County.

The father of two specializes in cybernetic systems. Cybernetics is based on the theory that communication and control is essential for the solving of societal problems, according to Gunderson.

"Cybernetics involves getting together teams of people who are appropriate for solving problems. Rather than using people from the same field, we gather professionals from a diversity of fields to solve a particular problem," explains Gunderson.

Presently Gunderson's "main thrust" is in analyzing legislation to see what impact it will have on the Bay Area. In addition to his academic work, his main interests have been in planning and transportation, areas in which he serves governmental agencies in consultant roles.



Donna Clausen Boone, BA '56



William Clevenger, BS '43



Norman O. Gunderson, BS '39, MS '46

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During his time at San Jose State University, he served as Dean of Engineering from 1955 to 1970 and as director of the Interdisciplinary Master's Degree Program in cybernetic systems which he conceived, developed, and directed from its conception in 1968.

Besides being named a Distinguished Alum, the San Jose resident has also received honors from the California Society of Professional Engineers, California Council of Civil Engineering, Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, and the Engineer's Club of San Jose.

The husband of UW education graduate, Bonnie Davis, said that his association with the Dean of Engineering, H.T. Persons, brought back his fondest memories of UW. "He had a very personal interaction with his students," commented Gunderson.

When not involved in something else, Gunderson likes to spend his time gardening. "This summer I'm constructing a fence in my backyard for the garden," comments Gunderson with an air of purpose. When asked if he uses his work in cybernetics to help plan his garden, the Laramie native amusingly remarked, "Yes, I find that using a team works well in the garden also."

Frederick W. Reckling

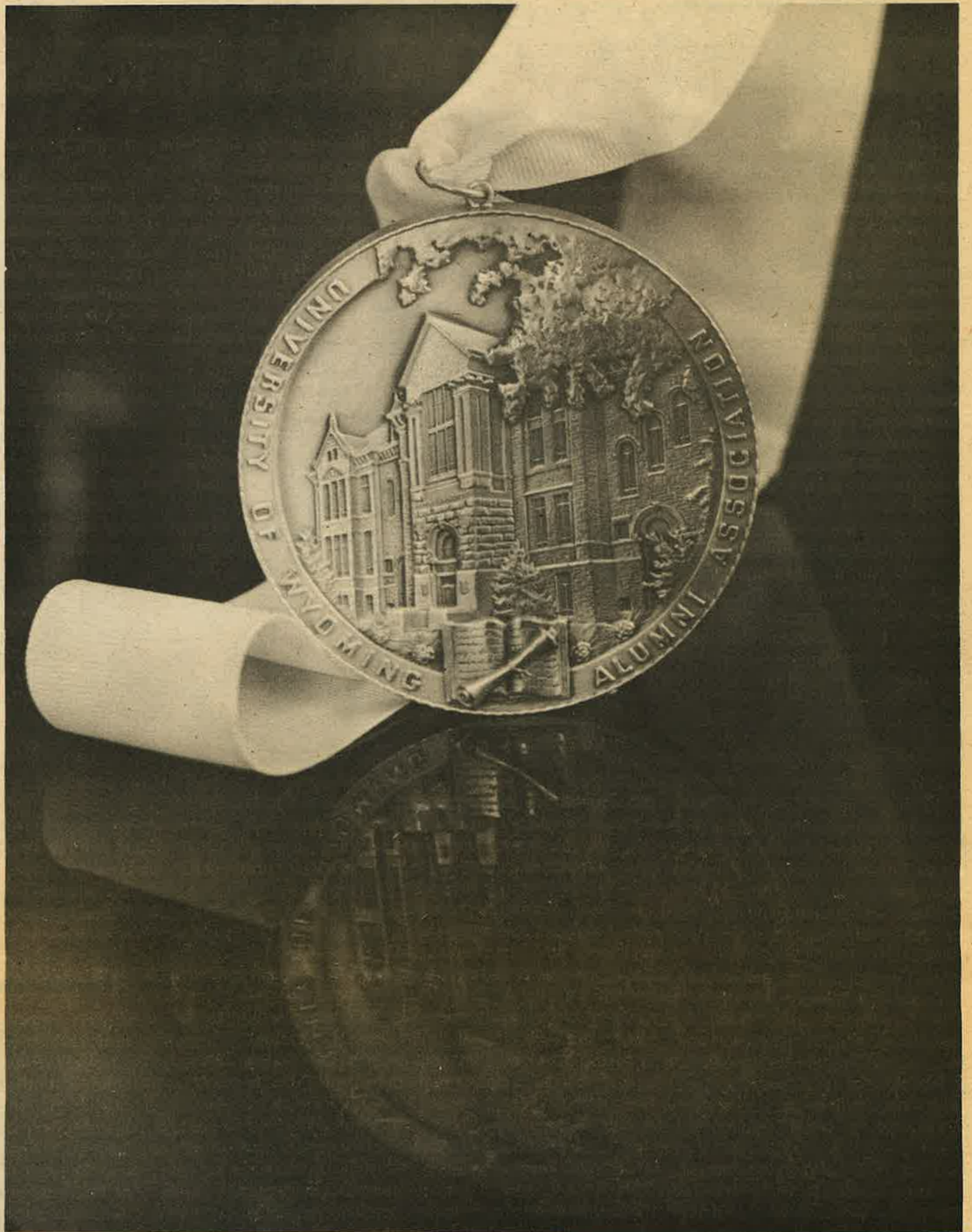
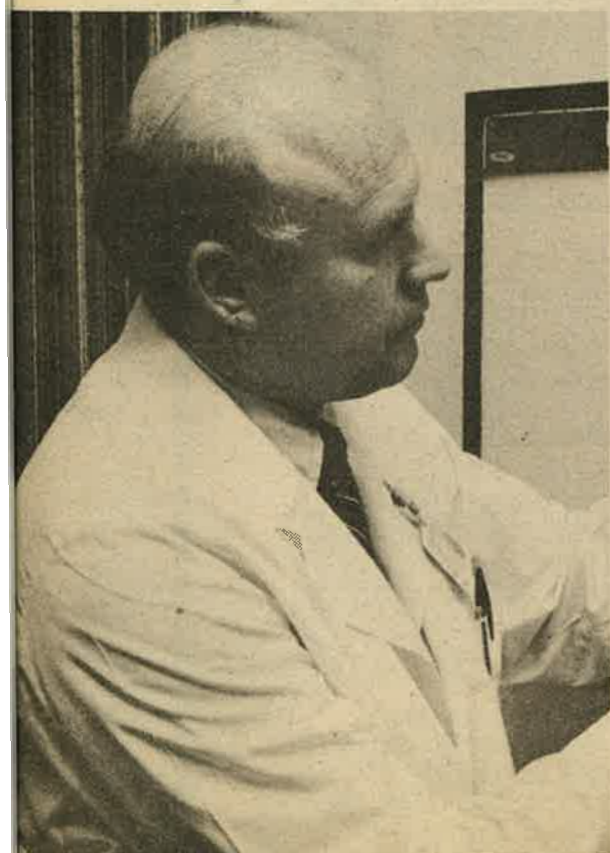
"I think Wyomingites are a very proud bunch of people and are very willing to let others know they are," comments Doctor Frederick Reckling.

Even though it has been over two decades since Reckling graduated from UW, he still recalls the "camaraderie" that existed between the faculty and students. "It was a small school then and professors really got a chance to know their students," recalls Reckling.

Reckling now serves as Professor and Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City. "Going into medicine was really a natural for me. My father and brother were in medicine and I had always done well in biology and physiology in school," explains Reckling.

After graduating from UW in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree, the Lusk, Wyoming native moved on to the University of Rochester in New York where he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1959.

In 1964 Reckling joined the United States Air Force. He served as Chief of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the hospital on Eglin Air Force Base in Florida until 1966.



During his long and distinguished career in the medical profession Reckling has given numerous lectures on everything from the "effects of rigid mechanical fixation on vertebral growth in young rats" to wound management. He has also written numerous publications on an equally wide topic area.

Reckling feels that government regulation is the biggest problem facing the medical profession today. "Through regulation the government can say that you can't have open heart surgery if you're over 55. This is because statistically most people don't live for more than a few years after such an

operation. It's not efficient from a monetary point of view," explains Reckling. "Now, because of government regulation, there is less free interplay between doctor and patient," adds Reckling. "These are all very serious problems."

When Reckling has a chance to "get away" he likes to take his family skiing. "My two children are both very good skiers," adds the outdoor enthusiast.

Reckling lives with his wife, JoAnn, and their two children, William and Anne, in Prairie Village, Kansas.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is given to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers, and in turn brought honor to the University of Wyoming.