An athletic scholarship brought Paul Carlin to the University of Wyoming in 1959 — the opportunity to compete and to receive an education. It was an experience that changed his life.

Without the four-year athletic scholarship provided to me at UW, I probably would have never completed my college education, Carlin reflects. "There were so many good experiences, so many opportunities to learn and grow."

Today Paul Carlin is the Regional Postmaster General of the Central Region of the United States Post Office of the United States Postal Service, a 13-state area serving 71 million people and employing more than 180,000 people in 10,716 postal facilities.

Carlin was an outstanding and active student at UW, attaining eight varsity letters in track and cross country and winning four medals at the Skyline Conference Championships in the 440 and 880 yard run. He was named to the NCAA All American Track and Field Team in 1957; the same year he received the first ever Athletics Excellence Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. He also received a Scholarship to the University of Texas at Austin, where he continued his track and field career.

In 1961, Carlin was named "Young Man of the Year" by the State of Wyoming (1960).

Carlin left the landscape in 1961 to accept a position asmid director for Federal Ownership Problems with the National Association of Counties in Washington, D.C. He attended the Howard University Graduate School of Business Administration in 1964, graduating with his management degree and later returned to the National School Boards Association and the National Association of Counties after being named executive assistant to the postmaster general for congressional relations in 1959. In 1957 he was one of three management representatives who signed the contract that ended the 1950 postal strike.

Carlin credits much of his success to his experience at the University of Wyoming and the educational and social environment offered in the west. "The frontier, the frontier spirit still exists in Wyoming," Carlin says. "Opportunities are available to a person at any age in the area, and the campus seems to be a place where learning is a priority. The atmosphere is relaxed and the students are friendly."

Outside of his career, Carlin is a proud father of his four sons, Joseph, Robert, Thomas, and John. He is a devoted family man, "My job does not leave me time for a lot of outside interests, but I enjoy my family, traveling and sports," he says.

The University of Wyoming gave me the opportunity which I have been deeply grateful for, and my Association's Distinguished Alumni Award is something I will treasure." Carlin notes.

Rudy Anselmi

It has been forty-two years since Rudolph Anselmi first arrived on the University of Wyoming campus — and there have been forty-two good years for UW, with some of the credit going to the man who came to Laramie from Rock Springs in 1914 seeking a college education.

At the time he graduated from Rock Springs High School, Rudy (as he prefers to be called) did not know that he was going to college. "I came from a very large family, and didn't think I had too much of a chance of going to the University because there were so many of us," Anselmi remembers. "As the time I graduated, my father heard that I had received an honors scholarship, and he asked me if it was true. I hadn't been told yet, so I told him, 'Don't know.' And that's when he said, 'You're going to the University.'"

Anselmi was an active student, serving as the president of the Independent Club, which was the foot-stomper of the Gamma Xi Chapter of Sigma Chi at UW. He also belonged to the Newman Club and was a member of both Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Gamma Mu honor societies.

"Graduating from a small high school, I had learned to be involved," Anselmi says. "My high school graduating class was only 21, and I like to say that I was a basketball candidate because there were only five boys in the class, so I had to play."" According to Anselmi, his strongest connection with the University of Wyoming really took root after he had received his B.S. in Commerce in 1935.

"Most of my experiences with the University of Wyoming came during the time I served as a member of the governing faculty," he explains. During his 28 years as a member of the Wyoming State Senate, Anselmi took an active interest in education, serving on several education committees and introducing legislation which led to the establishment of UW's College of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing. He introduced the first bill proposing for a medical education program, by which students from Wyoming could attend medical schools in other states without paying high "non-state" tuition rates, laying the foundation for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, commonly known as the "WICHE" program.

All three of Rudy and Louise Anselmi's daughters — Mary Lou Ungurean, Lynn Lockhart and Jerry Kirk — attended the University of Wyoming, and grandchildren are now in school at UW.

Following his long career in the state legislature, Anselmi was appointed by Wyoming Governor Ed Herderich as Chairman of the Wyoming Tax Commission and the State Board of Equalization, a post he has been re-appointed to twice. Anselmi continues to serve on the board of directors of North Side State Bank in Rock Springs, a position he has held for 33 years, and he has a long list of offices held with major Wyoming corporations and organizations.

This year's Distinguished Alumni Award marks the third time Anselmi has been honored by the University of Wyoming. In 1964 he received the College of Commerce and Industry's Distinguished Alumnus Award, and in 1956, the University awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws. Anselmi's response to being recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus is typical of the man: "My first reaction was that I hadn't done enough to be considered for the award, but my family and friends must have considered otherwise," he said. "My wife and I just count our blessings, and the award, well, there is a feeling of wonderment about receiving it. I'm very grateful and honored."
84 Distinguished Alumni

Bruno Hanson

It’s a word that means something special to everyone in our country — a sense of being on your own, responsible to yourself, finding your own way. For 23 years, Distinguished Alumnus Bernold M. (Bruno) Hanson has been doing just that, and doing it extremely well.

Hanson came to the University of Wyoming in 1953 with a diploma in hand as an engineering geologist. After being accepted into the graduate programs at six colleges, Hanson had chosen the University of Wyoming. “I chose Wyoming because I wanted to work in the Rocky Mountains, and UW had one of the nation’s highest rated graduate schools in geology,” Hanson remembers. “It was tough going to school then, but I was a laboratory assistant in the petrology lab, and I did odd jobs around the department. Dr. Knight and Dr. Blackstone were a tremendous help to me — those two gentlemen were very kind and gracious, and I owe them a great deal. It was a learning experience, a character building experience and a maturing experience for me.”

Following graduation, Hanson spent five years with Humble Oil and Refining Company (now Exxon) working as a district geologist and as geologist in charge of the company’s Alaska project. In 1966 he went “independent,” organizing Hanson Corporation and working as a consulting geologist. “Basically, the corporation is an exploration company,” Hanson explains. “We purchase oil and gas leases and raise the capital to build wells. We put together oil and gas prospects here in the southwest and sell the crude oil to producers. I guess you could call us a mini-oil company.”

Hanson is active in numerous professional organizations, including the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) and the West Texas Geological Society (WTGS). He has also been deeply involved in the Boy Scouts of America on both a local and national level, starting out as an assistant scoutmaster while in school at UW and recently completing terms as council president, regional vice president for the SSA south central region, national camping chairman and participation chairman at the World Jamboree, held in Sweden in 1979. Hanson also co-authored the 1979 revised edition of the Boy Scout Handbook. “Scouting is a lot of fun,” Hanson says, “and it keeps me young.”

Hanson and his wife Marilyn have three children: Karen Hanson Flowers, 29; Gretchen Hanson Burrow, BA ’77, ’78; and Eric Karl Hanson, 26. All three are active in the family business. In addition to his business interests, Hanson finds time to ranch and farm a 3000 acre spread in Runnels County, Texas, where he raises regrebered Brahmam cattle. He serves on the President’s Council of the University of Wyoming Foundation, and is chairman of UW’s Geology Department Advisory Board.

In 1977, Hanson established a scholarship trust for students majoring in petroleum geology. “UW helped me a great deal while I was in school there,” Hanson says. “I established the scholarship because I felt it was my opportunity to give something back.”

“I have, and always will have, a great love for the University of Wyoming,” Hanson says. “To be honored by one’s alma mater is, I think, one of the greatest things that can happen to an individual, and I am overjoyed at the thought of being named a Distinguished Alumnus of UW.”

Dr. Charles Lein

“It’s a super honor.”

That was Dr. Charles Lein’s initial response when he learned he had been named a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Wyoming. “I spent three great years at UW — earning my masters and my doctorate, and I consider it extremely fine honor to be named a Distinguished Alumnus. I know already that I will be in some very distinguished company, and it’s very humbling experience for me.”

Charles Lein has had a remarkable career for a man who won’t celebrate his 42nd birthday until this November. He currently serves as chief executive officer of Black Hills Jewelry Manufacturing Company, makers of Landstrom’s Original Black Hills Gold Creations, a company in existence since 1919. He is also chairman and president of The Golden Spectrum, Inc., a retail chain of jewelry stores in the Pacific Northwest. Prior to his current responsibilities, Lein served as president of the University of South Dakota and USD-Springfield for five years. “When I first took the job in 1977, I was the youngest University president in the United States,” Lein remarks. “When I left in 1982, I was still the youngest!”

Lein came to UW in 1963, after receiving a BS in economics and business administration from Augustana College. He was awarded the MS in business administration from UW in 1964, and returned to receive his EdD in education and business administration in 1970. Meanwhile, his wife Susan earned her second bachelor’s degree at UW, a BS in music education, and she also received her MEd with emphasis in music in 1972. “The atmosphere at UW was academically stimulating. The hunting and fishing weren’t bad either. I like to say that the first time I went to UW, it was to get my bear, elk and marmot degree, although not necessarily in that order. The second time was to get my moose and doctorate. I finally had to go to the Yukon to get the moose — I never drew a permit in Wyoming,” Lein says.

The Leins have four sons: Kent, ’97; Keith, ’77, Steve, ’12; and Greg, 11. “Right now I’m trying to convince Keith to go to UW and try out for the track team,” Lein says. “He’s quite a runner.”

So is Chuck Lein. Lein made 37 road races last year, and was the 1982 South Dakota Road Race Series State Champion for men 40-44.

“We did a lot of skiing in Wyoming and other places, but South Dakota is not known for its skiing, so we all took up running,” Lein says. “It’s a great thing that the family can do together, and the time I spend running is good ‘think time’ as well.”

In addition to his responsibilities with Golden Spectrum and Black Hills Jewelry Manufacturing, Lein serves on the board of directors of Albertson’s, Inc. and is active in the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce and the Rapid City Rotary Club. He has received numerous honors for teaching, and has been named an Honorary Alumnus of the University of South Dakota, as well as receiving Augustana College’s Distinguished Alumnus award in 1978. Lein’s company is ranked in the top 2 percent of all jewelry manufacturers in the U.S., with its jewelry distributed throughout the world. “I didn’t used to own any jewelry, with the exception of my UW class ring,” Lein says, “but now I do wear a little of it. But I’m no Sammy Davis Jr., I’ll tell you that!”
John Raper

John Raper recently celebrated his 70th birthday in a unique way — by retiring as a Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court. "Once a justice finally retires, the court is glad to get rid of us, so they gave me a big sendoff," he jokes.

Raper has completed an outstanding career in Wyoming law, one that has taken him from a 1936 graduate of the UW Law School to state attorney general and finally to the Wyoming Supreme Court as Chief Justice. "Although I officially retired last June, the state constitution provides that a retired justice of the Supreme Court can sit when and wherever needed. It isn’t a formal retirement, as I will still be available whenever they need me. I’m not through yet!"

Raper came to Wyoming at the age of one from Mapleton, Iowa, settling in Lander, where his father was involved in the furniture business and undertaking. "Back in those days, the furniture companies built the caskets, so the two professions went hand in hand," Raper explains. The family then moved to Sheridan, where Raper’s father took a correspondence course in law and passed the Wyoming State Bar examination. "You can’t become a lawyer that way today, but it worked for my father, and it turned out to be pretty good training for him. It was his interest and activity in the profession which got me interested in becoming a lawyer and brought me to UW."

Raper first came to the University of Wyoming in 1931. Not one to waste any time, he took two years of pre-legalese coursework and went straight into UW’s law school without stopping for a bachelor’s degree along the way. "I went to school during the Depression, and times were pretty difficult," he remembers. "I wanted to graduate as quickly as possible and get on with earning a living. Not that there was much of a living out there to earn back then. But I do remember that tuition at the University was $20 a quarter."

By 1936 Raper had earned his LLB (later converted to a JD by the University), passed the Wyoming bar and opened a private practice in Sheridan. That private practice was then interrupted by World War II and the Korean conflict, and two years after he returned from Korea, Raper was named U.S. Attorney for the District of Wyoming, a post he held for eight years. After another year and a half of private practice in Cheyenne, Wyoming Governor Cliff Hansen named John Raper attorney general for the state of Wyoming. In 1966 he was appointed district judge of Wyoming’s 1st Judicial District, and in 1974 Governor Stan Hathaway appointed him to the Wyoming Supreme Court.

Raper and his wife Nell have four sons, three of whom are graduates of the University of Wyoming; Thomas, BS ’63, Larry, BS ’68, Robert, BS ’76 and Charles.

Last fall Raper had the opportunity to sit with the court while it convened for a special session held in the moot courtroom of the University of Wyoming College of Law. "I think it is an excellent idea to take the court out of Cheyenne on occasion and bring it to UW and other locations around the state," Raper said. "It’s a good experience for the court, and it is a great learning opportunity for the students."

While he will continue to serve as a 'justice on call' for the state judicial system, Raper plans to enjoy his retirement by gardening and boating, and the distinguished alumnus award is "icing on the cake."

"The award came as a big surprise to me," he says. "In the beginning I didn’t even know that I had been nominated. I was very flattered by the recognition."

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