UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 1  SEPTEMBER 1991

UW recognizes four outstanding alums during Homecoming 1991

Board finds no violation

UW News Service — A UW Civil Rights Review Board ruled last month that the director and associate director of the UW Student Educational Opportunity (SEO) office did not discriminate or retaliate against the former Indian Education Office (IEO) director when she was terminated in May.

Former IEO Director Roberta Wilson had filed charges of discrimination with the UW Employment Practices Office, alleging that SEO Director Fuji Adachi and SEO Associate Director Dolores Cardona had terminated her because of her tribal affiliation. According to Adachi, Wilson was terminated because she failed to meet the conditions associated with her one-year probation, a requirement for all UW staff employees.

"All along, our concern has been to make sure that the Indian Education Office was operated efficiently and effectively in the best interests of the Indian students," according to Associate Provost Jim Hurst.

According to Employment Practices Officer Jesse Vialpando, Wilson’s complaint was given top priority in his office. In addition to her allegations of discrimination, Wilson claimed that SEO had mismanaged IEO funds. Adachi responded, saying that those allegations were unfounded.

In late May, at the request of SEO, an independent accountant reviewed IEO financial statements and documents for the years 1986-91. Richard Ortiz, an enrolled Arapaho and director of the Office of the Wind River Tax Commission for the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes, found no "fraud, mismanagement of funds, embezzlement, theft and commingling of funds."

Additionally, on July 12, Adachi formally requested that the U.S. Department of Education conduct a financial and program audit of IEO’s Project NATIVE.

Hurst says that he hopes the board’s finding, the recent financial review and the requested federal audit will restore confidence in the Indian Education Office.

"Ever since we founded the IEO, with the help of the Arapaho and Shoshone tribes, IEO and the management team in SEO have enjoyed the trust and the confidence of tribal leaders and students," Hurst says. "Recent allegations have raised some concerns among some of the Arapaho and Shoshone people. I sincerely hope that today’s finding starts a genuine healing process on the reservation and on our campus, so that we can make the Indian Education Office even stronger and more responsive to the educational needs of UW’s Indian students."

Hodgson named research VP

Derek Hodgson has been selected UW vice president for research.

Hodgson is a professor of chemistry and has served as UW’s interim vice president for research since July 1, 1990. During that time, the university received a record $26,013,040 in external grants and contracts in support of research and other projects.

Hodgson was one of three finalists for the position identified during a national search. He replaces Ralph DeVries, who was vice president from 1985 until his resignation last July.

New HS dean hired

UW News Service — Martha Williams is the new dean of the UW College of Health Sciences, effective Aug. 27.

Williams comes to UW from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was School of Social Work dean since 1981. She takes over from Philip Catalfamo, dean since 1986, who retired effective Sept. 3.

"I am looking forward to joining the UW faculty and serving as dean of health sciences," Williams says. "My first visit to the campus convinced me that I had found the perfect academic environment. Also, Wyoming is a beautiful state with a quality of life that is very appealing and special."
UW holds special place in trustee Dick Brown's heart

For 1991 Medallion Service Award winner Dick Brown, the decision to attend UW was an easy one.

"I had my heart and my goal set early in high school to attend the University of Wisconsin; so, naturally, I didn’t consider anywhere else," the Chetek native says.

Pleasant experiences at UW’s smaller music camp back in 1944 sparked Brown’s desire to attend college in Laramie. He was impressed with both the campus and the music program, two critical factors in his plans to originally enroll as a music education major.

That desire began his 40-plus year relationship with the institution. Brown, now living in Casper, has maintained strong ties to the university. His dedication of time and talents are recognized as this year’s Medallion Service recipient.

Brown’s pursuit of a degree (social studies education, with a music minor) took a slight detour through the military and the Korean War. He took time off from studies after his first two quarters and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. Shortly after his initial tour was completed, Brown (then a private) fished himself being sent to Korea.

His military experience was a good one.

"I loved every minute that I served in the Marine Corps," Brown says. He arrived in cold, snowy Korea as a replacement in the machine gun section of a battalion that had been nearly wiped out. An old gunnery sergeant took 28-year-old Brown and his friends under his wing and "made men out of us."

Before returning to the states in 1952, Brown distinguished himself in the Corps. He earned a Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Combat "V" and a Korean Service Medal with three stars.

The experience also gave Brown the maturity he needed to return to college and succeed. While at UW, he was actively involved in several organizations. Among those were Omicron Delta Kappa, Iron Skull and Phi Mu Alpha. Brown’s affiliation with Sigma Alpha Epsilon social fraternity was one of his most satisfying UW experiences.

"The fraternity meant a great deal to me, because there I met many long-time friends," he says.

During these years, one of the most important responsibilities Brown took on was that of UW student body president (1954-55).

"More than anything, that prepared me to go out into the role of a citizen," he says. "It gave me a good deal of confidence."

Brown’s daughter, Martha, followed in his footsteps many years later when she ran for, and won, the ASUW presidency in 1979-80.

"That’s probably one of the proudest moments I’ve had," Brown says. "My only response to her was, ‘Martha, go for it.’" Martha Brown was the first female student body president since the war years, reaping the door for others in the 1980s. She and her father also are the only parent-child combination to serve as president in ASUW history.

Professional Experiences

Following his 1955 graduation, Brown zipped a year of law school, then moved on to a management training program at Mountain Bell.

Two years into that job (1958), he received a call from UW President George Duke Humphrey asking him to take over the reins of the Alumni Office. Brown accepted the challenge and, with the help of a supportive board, set up UW’s first attempt at fund raising — the alumni development fund. That project was the precursor to what has since evolved into the UW Foundation.

This didn’t mean Brown was tied to the office. In fact, he spent a lot of his time on the road, visiting every community in the state, as well as making trips to alumni constituencies throughout the country.

During his tenure as UW alumni director, Brown learned about working with the Wyoming Legislature. In January 1959, Humphrey took him to Cheyenne, bought him a cowboy hat and announced that "now you’re a lobbyist."

Lobbying for the university was relatively easy in those years. The institution enjoyed tremendous support from the legislature, and Humphrey was popular with state lawmakers. Brown primarily just made himself available to answer their questions.

His lobbying skills would play an important role in Brown’s professional future. He left UW in 1969 to work for his former history professor, U.S. Sen. Gale McGee. Brown set up permanent offices for McGee in Cheyenne and Casper.

He helped Wyomingites resolve problems with federal programs, such as Social Security and Veterans Affairs; and he represented McGee at various hearings, meetings and conferences around the state and accompanied the senator on his visits to Wyoming.

In 1976, following McGee’s loss to Malcolm Wallace, Brown began his 15-year career with Pacific Power. He worked as the company’s Wyoming lobbyist for two years, then transferred to a similar position in Oregon.

Five years into that job, Brown received a promotion that brought him back to the Cowboy state. He served one year in operations training, then became vice president and region manager, a position he held for the past six years.

Brown is in charge of all aspects of Pacific’s operations in Wyoming and Montant.

Continued UW Service

Through the years, Brown’s links to UW remain strong. A large part of his service is in an official capacity. He serves on the UW Trustees, the UW Foundation Board of Directors, UW Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute Steering Committee and the UW EPCorre Steering Committee. He also served as honorary chairman of the university’s Annual Fund.

Serving as a UW trustee has been an eye-opening experience for Brown. This job involves significantly more than anticipated; but he knows it’s important work, shaping policy and guiding the university into the 21st century.

Despite countless hours of work, "we’ve barely scratched the surface in the things we’re doing right now," he says. "It’s a great place."

Word of the Medallion Award was a pleasant surprise. As alumni director, Brown helped institute the Medallion program to recognize numerous service to UW. He did not suspect, however, he’d be added to the list of recipients.

"I’m overwhelmed, because I didn’t think it would ever happen to me," Brown says of notification he’d won. "Aside from my family, when it comes right down to it, the university has been among my first loves."

Brown and his wife, Marty (the former Martha Baum), also a UW graduate, have six children. Two — Martha and Betty — graduated from UW. Sarah attended UW for two years before earning a degree from the University of Idaho. May graduated from Colorado College. Charles, a law student at the University of Puget Sound, graduated from the University of Oregon. Katie has a degree from Oregon State University.

Guthrie’s love of people, profession marked legal career

When Rodney Guthrie retired from the Wyoming Supreme Court in 1978, he closed the book on a distinguished legal career that began in 1922 in Sheridan County.

Guthrie, JD ’31, died June 8, 1991, in Cheyenne. He is honored posthumously as a 1991 UW Distinguished Alumnus. A Wyoming native, Guthrie grew up in the Moorcroft area. After graduating from Moorcroft High School in 1926, he moved on to Laramie and the university, where he received his degree from the UW Law School.

Guthrie’s legal career included many years of public service. He served as Crook County sheriff from his election in 1932 until January 1937. During this time, he lived in Saratoga and maintained a private practice.

In 1937, Guthrie moved to Newcastle, where he operated a private practice, Raymond and Guthrie, until 1958. While in the community, he also served as Newcastle city attorney from 1958-53.

Guthrie became a member of the judicial branch in August 1958, when he was appointed to an unexpired term of District Judge of the Sixth Judicial District. He was elected to that same position in November and served through December 1971.

In January 1972, Guthrie stepped up to the Wyoming Supreme Court as a justice on that body. He was elected to serve a six-year term in November of that year and served until Dec. 31, 1978, when he retired at age 70. He was chief justice from Jan. 22, 1975, until his retirement.

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Well-Respected Professional

Friends and colleagues who nominated Guthrie for the award recall his fair-mindedness and professionalism.

"He is a dedicated jurist, conscientious and fair in entrenching his judicial authority," one nominator wrote.

"Although he never felt doubt as to who was presiding, he was always courteous and kind to witnesses, litigants and their (Continued on page 12)
People

Harold Kester...
(Continued from page 7)
he lettered on UW’s first wrestling
team. The extracurricular activities took
a back seat — Kester says he rarely
practiced in preparation for competi-
tions. Former UW President H.T. Person
was one of the first people Kester met,
and one of the most influential.
“He was the finest professor that I
ever knew,” Kester says of Person, then
head of the Civil Engineering Depart-
ment. Person instilled in his students an
enthusiasm for whatever subject was
under study. “It was almost impossible
to not to learn in his class,” according to
Kester.
His respect for Person prompted him
to serve on the H.T. Person Endowment
Initiating Committee. This group is help-
ing to raise funds for a chair in the
College of Engineering, and members are
“well on the way” to achieving that
goal.

Repaying a “Debt”
Kester’s work on the Person Commit-
tee is just one service obligation to UW
that he maintains as a member of the
UW Foundation Board of
Directors and the benefactor of several
civil engineering scholarships. Some
might consider his extensive work and
dedication to UW above and beyond the
call of duty, but Kester says it’s simply
returning a favor.
“It is a good opportunity for me to pay
back something that the university
certified to me,” he says. “It seems like
when you owe a debt, you ought to pay it
back.”

Fund-raising for the university in tight
economic times is a challenging
assignment, according to Kester. He
finds broad support for UW, but not
everyone can show if financially.

Kester is one individual who has been
able to do that. His contributions
provided 24 scholarships last year to
deserving students. Half of his contribu-
tions also went to help fund a new
master’s program starting this fall.
Word of the Distinguished Alumni
Award left Kester “dumbfounded.” He
says he never believed he could have
qualified for recognition, but he is
appreciative.

Kester and his wife, the former Bonnie
Jane Reynolds (BA ’41), have four
children: Patricia Mueller, Rebecca
Weisert, Scott Kester and Martin Kester.

Witzenberger...
(Continued from page 7)
key lawmakers, which fostered an
interest in the political process that later
helped him in his own career as a state
official.
During the Vietnam war, Witzenber-
ger served as chief of staff of Air
Force. Busted in Saigon, he arrived
in 1965, just before President Lyndon
Johnson authorized the introduction of
yet another — eventually — ground
forces into Vietnam.
Vietnam was “terribly frustrating,”
according to Witzenberger. Tight
talons over military activities from
Washington took away valuable time and
lost many opportunities in the field.
Witzenberger didn’t know about public
sentiment regarding the war until he
returned to the U.S. 1 1/2 years later; he
says he wasn’t surprised that Americans
eventually lost faith in the country’s
efforts.
“It was important that I let people
know as much as I possibly could about
what was happening,” he says. “As an
active member of our armed forces, I
cried to do as tactfully as possible, but it
was still difficult to explain to the
American people.”
Witzenberger, a four-time recipient of
the Legion of Merit and numerous other
cornerations, retired in March 1970, after
30 years military service. He had
contacted then UW President William
Carlson about returning to Laramie as
the university’s director of development,
but that opportunity was not available
that fall. So the Witzenbergers toured
Europe for four months and adjusted to
civilian life.
When funding problems delayed his
return to campus, Witzenberger and his
wife, Eleanor, moved to her family’s
home in Lusk. There, the couple helped
neighbor Jim Griffith with his campaign
for state treasurer. When Griffith won
that post, he asked Witzenberger to join
him at the capital in Cheyenne.
As deputy state treasurer, Witzen-
berger successfully revamped
Wyoming’s investment practices. For
example, through the use of short-term
repurchase agreements, he used the
state’s short-term cash reserves more
effectively and earned an additional
$75,000 for the state.
Witzenberger turned his energies to
the state auditor’s office after two years,
when Gov. Doug Walberg appointed
him to fill the unexpired term of Everett
Copenhaver. Witzenberger won the
state treasurer’s office in 1974 and
served a four-year term, during which
time income from state investments
continued to increase significantly.
At the end of that period, he tried his hand
at national politics, competing against
Dick Cheney and Jack Gage in the
Republican primary for Wyoming’s lone
House seat. When Cheney won his
party’s nomination, Witzenberger took
the job of Republican state chairman.
He held that post for two years.
Illness forced the Witzenbergers to
move in 1986 to California, where Ed
could be in a warmer climate. He took a
break from political life when he
moved. Today, Witzenberger plays “a
lot of golf” and works on several
philanthropic projects.
Witzenberger is a lifetime member of
the Wyoming National Guard and a
member of the Wyoming Heritage
Society and Order of DeMolay. He
served for eight years as campaign
chairman of the American Cancer
Society, at the city, county and state
levels (including three as state chair-
man). Witzenberger chaired fund-
raising projects for the Cheyenne Young
Men’s Christian Association (YMCA)
and helped raise funds for the Cheyenne
Civil Center.

Guthrie...
(Continued from page 6)
attorneys.”
Another nominator said that, “as a trial
judge, he was highly respected for his
keen intellect and sound judgement in
resolving controversies at the trial court
level. On the Supreme Court, he has
been recognized as a fine legal scholar
and a justice whose opinions are well
respected, not only in Wyoming but in
the nation as well. Common sense and
sound judgement have been the hall-
mark of his judicial work.”
An associate added,” Rod Guthrie was
exceedingly bright, honest, moral, kind
and fair. It was always a pleasure to deal
with him.”
“There are few citizens of this great
date who have contributed more in so
many ways than has Rod Guthrie,” that
same person wrote. “In the field of law,
he has excelled in the most respectable
and noble manner. With his fellow man,
Rod Guthrie has always had helping
hand ready to aid and assist. And he is a
true patriot in the most meaningful sense
— a person of strong ethical and moral
convictions, religious belief and
attachment to his beloved state of
Wyoming and the University of Wy-
oming.”

“Fisher’s ‘forte’ wasn’t so much his
love of, and devotion to, the ‘law,’ but
his skills and extraordinary talents as a
‘people’ person,” said Nancy
Hinckley says.
Family meant the most to Guthrie.
“Through all of this — his life on an
unusual ranch with unusual parents,
his career as a lawyer and a judge, member-
ships, recognitions, etc. — the most
important thing in his life was my
mother, his children and his two
grandsons,” Hinckley says.
UW sits deep in the Guthrie family.
Guthrie’s father, the former Mary
Belle Pemberton, received her BA in
1932. All three Guthrie children, Mary
Bell Guthrie, Nancy Hinckley and
William Guthrie, are UW alumni.
A grandson, Bartley, is currently attending
UW.
Guthrie was a member of the Wy-
oming State Bar. He chaired the Wy-
oming Civil Jury Pattern Instructions
Committee in 1982 and 1983 and co-
authored the Wyoming Civil Pattern
Jury Instructions.
He was a member of the Episcopal
church, Young Men’s Literary Club of
Cheyenne and the Masonic Order and
Shrine. Guthrie received a 50-year pin
from the Upton Lodge #28 AF &AM in
1981.

Champoux to speak at UW Oct. 15-16
Nationally recognized speaker and
trainer Tom Champoux returns to
Laramie for another University of
Wyoming seminar on “Developing
Effective Interpersonal Dynamics.”
Champoux’s sessions Oct. 15 and 16
are open to the public. Cost is $50 per
person per day. A savings of $5 is
possible by registering for both days
before Oct. 1. Each day’s seminar runs
from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at Crane-Hill
Cafeteria (across from the intersection
of 18th and Grand Avenue). Check-in
is between 7:30 and 8.
The UW Bookstore is sponsoring
Champoux’s appearance. For more
information, and to register, contact the
UW Training and Development Office.
Box 3422, Laramie, WY 82071 (phone