"Wyoming is certainly a great place to live for so many reasons. I think its future is bright," said Distinguished Alumnus David Crum, who graduated with an Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Wyoming's College of Engineering in 1967.

Crum's focus, outside his own successful business, Crum Electric Supply, has been improving Wyoming's economy and business infrastructure. He finds himself in a position from which he can work to accomplish this goal not only through operating a successful business but also by serving on a number of boards and councils. Much of the credit, Crum says, goes to the University of Wyoming and early work experience he gained directly as a result of attending UW.

Crum, a native of Casle, Wyoming, where he graduated from high school. He entered UW with a basketball scholarship, but a knee injury in his freshman year sidelined him. Crum channeled his energies into becoming an outstanding electrical engineering student. With intercollegiate athletics no longer an option, extracurricular activities played a part in Crum's days at UW. He participated in intramural sports and enjoyed a wide range of social activities through his fraternity, Sigma Nu.

When asked if he had a particularly fond memory from his days at the University, Crum said he couldn't identify one incident as the most important. "It was such a broad experience it's hard to pin one particular thing down. I certainly had good experiences in the College of Engineering. I appreciated and enjoyed that. My experience with Sigma Nu and the relationships I developed there have been lifelong and valuable. My university standing should be spread a little more. Graduates need to spread the word about the University of Wyoming," he said.

Crum deeply appreciated his University of Wyoming education. "From my standpoint, it turned out to be invaluable," he says. "I credit UW for the foundation it gave me and my family is a real asset to the state. It's gratifying to be able to take my University of Wyoming education, couple it with experience in a startup company in Denver and come home to Wyoming as the state's first electrical equipment wholesaler."

When Crum graduated, he accepted a position with Cutler-Hammer, a major manufacturer of electrical control and distribution products. "I credit the quality of the University's engineering program with being hired," he says. That Cutler-Hammer and many other major companies recognize the value of a UW engineering degree. Major companies still come to UW to interview prospective employees because they know they'll be getting top notch employees, Crum said, adding, "it's possible to come out of UW with a great job."

After a few years with Cutler-Hammer, Crum was ready to go into business for himself. He and a partner formed Control Equipment Corporation in Denver, Colorado®. The company designed, assembled and installed electrical process systems and distributed industrial control products for automation of industrial process machines.

15% was the year Crum was able to return to Wyoming. Wyoming lacked a locally-owned electrical products distribution company and Crum took advantage of that need. He opened Crum Electric Supply Company in a small warehouse in Casper. Crum Electric provides electrical equipment to industrial and construction firms.

Mr. Crum's wife, Mary (Payne) Crum graduated from the College of Law in 1948, and his mother, Lorraine, studied music at UW, but her studies were interrupted by World War II. Crum's brother Thomas received a BS in education in 1970 and a Master's in 1972, and brother Richard earned a petroleum engineering degree in 1973.

Crum's wife, Mary (Payne) Crum graduated with a BA in education in 1967, and both their children graduated from UW. Young Dave # put his electrical engineering degree to work at Crum Electric and Stacy # earned a BA in education in 1993 and is teaching middle-school Spanish.

When asked to single out his proudest accomplishment after leaving UW, Crum didn't hesitate in answering, "Raising my family as a business owner," he says, stating that business and community involvement both take a back seat to family life.

Community involvement has played a strong part in Crum's career, as he has served national, local and state-wide organizations. He served as chair of the National Associate position, chair of the First Interstate Bank in St. Louis, Missouri, for the 1996-1997 term. NAED is made up of virtually all electrical wholesale companies in the United States and several in Canada. As chair, he was instrumental in bringing the electrical equipment distribution industry in the United States and several in Canada. He was a strong advocate of streamlining the equipment distribution chain so that suppliers could work more efficiently with their customers.

"Building the company was exciting and sometimes harrowing with Wyoming's boom and bust cycles," Crum said.

Crum's idea that a local distributor was needed in Wyoming paid off. The company soon expanded statewide, with offices currently in Casper, Gillette, Evanston, Rock Springs, Cheyenne and Cody. The company opened a new office in Colorado this August.

"It's gratifying to be able to take my University of Wyoming education, couple it with experience in a startup company in Denver and come home to Wyoming as the state's first electrical equipment wholesaler," Crum said. In fact, the company is continuing to grow and Crum happily reports that he has recently hired another UW graduate who worked outside Wyoming three years and brought his experience back to Wyoming. "My son, Dave, joined the firm in July, after gaining experience with Pacific Scientific Company in California," Crum said.

The Crum family is a UW family. Crum's parents both graduated from UW. Young Dave is putting his electrical engineering degree to work at Crum Electric and Stacy # earned a BA in education in 1993 and is teaching middle-school Spanish.

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