

## Distinguished Alumni

## Lanny Reimer



You could say that rural health care needs, to which he has devoted his working life, affected Lanny Reimer from a very early age. Because the hospital in Newcastle, Wyo., where his parents lived, wasn't yet completed when he was born, his parents had to drive to the hospital in Rapid City, SD, for his delivery.

Growing up back in Newcastle, Reimer worked in Newcastle Drug as a stockboy. He'd always had an interest in science, and he quickly became interested in pharmacy. "I enjoyed the therapeutic sort of idea," he says. "I found it interesting how plants can be used to help people." So he enrolled in the pharmacy school when he eventually came to UW and worked as an apprentice pharmacist back at Newcastle Drug during the summers.

Reimer soon realized that the practice of pharmacy was going to be too limiting for him. "Today there's clinical pharmacy, but that wasn't

going on then," he explains. "The tradition then was you worked retail or in a hospital. I felt like I wasn't going to be able to do the thing I liked: figuring out what helped people." Before Reimer had even finished his pharmacy degree, he had decided to go on to medical school.

He went to the University of Colorado School of Medicine through WICHE, an interstate agreement allowing Wyoming students to pay in-state tuition there, and graduated magna cum laude. From there Reimer went to the Sacramento Medical Center in California for his residency. He had set his sights on specializing in family practice, which would satisfy his wide-ranging medical interests. "I had a hard time being interested in just one section," he says.

Those professional aspirations coincided well with his geographical plans. "I wanted to be back in a rural area," he says. "That lent itself to family practice." He went to Sacramento because at that time there were no family practice programs in Wyoming, but he never doubted he would come back to his home state.

Reimer and his wife, Connie, had both grown up in Newcastle, and that's where they headed when his residency was over. "We thought this met all of our needs," he says. "Twenty two years later, we're still here." When they returned, the town had three physicians who were all nearing the end of their careers. They were eager for some help from a younger physician.

Reimer joined their clinic and soon started expanding its medical services. Upton, Wyo., a small town 30 miles from Newcastle, had no doctors at all; residents had to drive to Newcastle for medical attention. Reimer saw that need and opened a clinic in Upton in 1980, with the Newcastle doctors taking turns staffing it. "It's been a long-term change for that community," Reimer says. The clinic, still going today, is a model for interdisciplinary care; it brought mental health, pharmacy, dental and medical providers together under one roof.

By 1981, the other doctors at the Newcastle clinic were retired or retiring, and Reimer decided to start his own clinic. That brought the challenge of attracting new doctors to the community. "We had several years of recruiting," he says. "It was difficult to recruit rural doctors to Wyoming.

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the UW General Samuel C. Phillips Engineering Endowment program - a component of the UW Campaign for Distinction. Bob was inducted into the University of Wyoming College of Engineering Hall of Fame in 2000.

After graduating from UW, Gose joined the headquarters R&D operations of the Phillips Petroleum Company in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He returned to active duty in the Air Force during the Korean War and was requested by name to be a test pilot and weapons development officer in the Air Research and Development Command at Wright Patterson AFB Ohio.

He returned to Phillips after the Korean War and met Elaine Hebard, a new schoolteacher in Bartlesville. Gose took leave from Phillips to complete a graduate degree at the California Institute of Technology as an institute scholar in jet propulsion engineering, carrying out his graduate research work at the Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He married Elaine while at Caltech. He returned to Phillips and established an R&D office for Phillips in Los Angeles.

After more than 10 years with Phillips, Gose joined the Ramo Wooldridge Corporation (TRW) as part of a very small team conceptually designing what was to become the MINUTEMAN Weapon Systems. During his first 10 years with TRW, he managed TRW's responsibilities to the Air Force for systems engineering of the MINUTEMAN weapon systems and he also managed the technical direction of the eight major MINUTEMAN associate contractors in the design, development and deployment of MINUTEMAN, including the flight test programs on the Atlantic and Pacific Test Ranges. One of his groups carried out the early work leading to MX - later becoming PEACEKEEPER.

One thousand targeted MINUTEMAN missiles were deployed in underground silos in six wings. U. S. responses in compliance with terms of U. S. treaties with the U. S. S. R. have since reduced this number. Gose notes that our defense force continues with 500 MINUTEMAN III systems in silos. One hundred fifty of these are deployed from Warren AFB. He believes that MINUTEMAN has been possibly our most effective weapon systems development and deployment, and that MINUTEMAN is still a significant factor in our national security and deserving of significant

credit for the eventual successful end to the Cold War.

Gose's last 10 years at TRW involved leading the strategic planning and implementation of TRW diversification into petroleum, electric utility, transportation and other industrial markets. This included some of the challenging first work and systems required in drilling and production of oil and gas in deep ocean operations around the world. These diversifications were implemented through acquisitions, technology transfer, organizational development and general management of groupings of TRW wholly owned subsidiaries.

Among Gose's challenging special experiences at TRW were serving as a member of a small team that reviewed Kennedy Space Center readiness for the first APOLLO manned flights to the moon and managed the TRW Lunar Excursion Module Decent Rocket Engine. This TRW rocket engine, designed for soft-landing the astronauts on the moon, was used in a special alternative mission mode to return the APOLLO 13 astronauts safely to earth from moon orbit. He also led a TRW team in designing the program and system for the Japanese Science and Technology Agency's first communication satellites. He is the inventor on several patents.

Since retiring from TRW as a vice president, Gose continues in his challenging work by leading several technology-based business development operations headquartered in Wyoming. He served as the first co-chairman and as interim CEO of the Wyoming Business Council in 1998 during the first five months of Council startup.

Gose and his wife believe that our potentials for real upward mobility - individually, and and as an economy and society - are led by the development and application of increasingly effective knowledge and technologies. They place top priority on the education and development of our young people for serving these needs. They believe that investments through full support to the University of Wyoming and Wyoming's community colleges and public school are very critical in the educational and development processes for our young people. The Goses also believe that these resources have significant roles to play in economic developments for Wyoming and in supporting effective public policies.