Calendar of Events

Sept. 5, 2015 Cowboys vs. North Dakota Pokes Pre-Game Pep Rally, Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center

Sept. 11, 2015 25th anniversary celebration of the Alumni House

Sept. 10-12, 2015 UWAA board meeting, Laramie, Wyo.

Sept. 12, 2015 Cowboys vs. Eastern Michigan Pokes Pre-Game Pep Rally, Marian H. Rochelle, Gateway Center

Sept. 18, 2015 Alumni and friends gathering, Spokane, Wash

Sept. 19, 2015 Cowboys vs. Washington State football tailgate, Pullman, Wash.

Sept. 25-27, 2015 Family Weekend (uwyo.edu/cowboyparents)

Sept. 26, 2015 Cowboys vs. New Mexico Pokes Pre-Game Pep Rally, Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center

Oct. 2, 2015 Alumni and friends gathering, Boone, N.C.

Ott. 2-3, 2015 Sigma Chi 85th anniversary reunion

0tl. 3, 2015 Cowboys vs. Appalachian State football tailgate, Boone, N.C.

Oct. 9, 2015 Alumni and friends gathering, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Oct. 10, 2015 Cowboys vs. Air Force football tailgate, Colorado Springs, Colo.

00.17, 2015 Homecoming: Parade and Cowboys vs. Nevada Pokes Pre-Game Pep Rally at the Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center

Oct. 23, 2015 Alumni and friends gathering, Boise, Idaho

Oct. 24, 2015 Cowboys vs. Boise State football tailgate, Boise, Idaho

00.29, 2005 Alumni and friends gathering, Salt Lake City, Utah

Oct. 30, 2015 Cowboys vs. Utah State football tailgate, Logan, Utah

Nov. 7, 2015 Cowboys vs. Colorado State Pokes Pre-Game Pep Rally, Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center

Nov. 13, 2015 Alumni and friends gathering, San Diego, Calif.

Nov. 14, 2015 Cowboys vs. San Diego State football tailgate, San Diego, Calif.

Nov. 22, 2015 Cowboys vs. Montana State basketball pre-game reception, Billings, Mont.

Nov. 28, 2015 Cowboys vs. UNLV Pokes Pre-Game Pep Rally, Marian H. Rochelle Gateway Center

Chadwick Deaton

UW Distinguished Alumnus



Growing up in Byron, Wyo., Chad Deaton (B.S. '76) knew he would work in the oil and gas industry someday. Many members of his family had good careers doing that, including his father. Deaton says his dad had two years of college but then entered the military to serve in World War II. Afterward, he married and didn't continue in college, though he still worked in the industry. Deaton followed his father's advice to "go to college and be a boss one day." That's what led him to the University of Wyoming in pursuit of a geology degree.

His path to UW was not completely direct, however. A high school football player, he pondered a few scholarship offers from small colleges. "I knew football wouldn't be my career, and I knew kids going to Laramie, and I knew it had a good geology program. It is hard to believe when you are 18 you could have any logic, but I did. I chose UW."

Like his father, Deaton's college career might have been interrupted by military service. The Vietnam War was winding down when Deaton's college career was starting up. His draft lottery number was 31. "Here comes this letter: 'Greetings, You've been drafted.' "he recalls. That was enough to take his focus off academics just a bit during his first year at UW. But once he realized he wouldn't be drafted as the war ended, he focused on his geology studies, joined Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, got married, finished up school and left Wyoming to start his career. He worked for major companies such as Schlumberger Oilfield Services, both internationally and domestically. From there, he served as CEO of Hanover Compressor Company. Finally, he served as the CEO of Baker Hughes Inc. until 2012, when he retired.

"I'm officially retired in the sense that I have stepped down as chairman and CEO, but I'm still on the board," Deaton explains. Reducing his workload to about half what it was allows him to focus on UW, where he serves on the UW Foundation board and on the Governor's Energy, Engineering and STEM Integration Task Force. Deaton jokes that he is its "token geologist" among engineers. He accepted the appointment because he believes in UW. "What all of us on the committee want is to give back. Our Wyoming work ethic is why we have succeeded. It isn't that we are geniuses or brilliant. It is that we got a great education. Corporations around the world look at that, and that's why many of us have done well."

After living internationally for most of his career, Deaton now makes his home in Jackson, Wyo. Although he comes to Laramie often, he has not been to a Homecoming event for many years. He looks forward to that event and to continuing to deepen his relationship with UW.

"I'm making up for lost time."