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Chester H. Lauck to speak at annual School of Business Administration Awards Dinner

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A businessman who also made his mark in the entertainment field will be the principal speaker at the 11th annual School of Business Administration Awards Dinner at Montana State University, Saturday (May 10).

Chester H. Lauck, Continental Oil Co. executive, will give the address at the banquet honoring graduating seniors and outstanding students in the Business School, Dean Theodore H. Smith said. Lauck doubles as good will ambassador for the oil company and as Lum of the radio team of Lum and Abner.

The radio personality began his career as a banker. Upon his graduation from the University of Arkansas, he joined the staff of the Union Bank of Mena, Ark. He later became manager of the Citizen's Finance Corp. in Mena.

In 1931, Lauck and Norris Goff formed the Lum and Abner team and began local broadcasting in Hot Springs. In less than two months, they were signed to a national network, broadcasting first from Chicago and later from Cleveland and New York.

The Lum and Abner program made the first major network broadcast, in 1933, from Radio City, New York, the first marathon broadcast for charity, the first show for the Mutual Radio Network, and the first international broadcast by a radio team.

Because of his background, the transition from entertainer to oil company executive was an easy one for Lauck. Besides his careers in business and entertainment, he owned and operated a horse and cattle ranch in Nevada until recently. He is also a director of the American Capitol Life Insurance Co.

The awards dinner is slated for Saturday at 7 p.m. MST in the Cascade room of the MSU Lodge, Dean Smith said.