Distinguished service awards will honor five University of Montana alumni

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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Recommended Citation
Five alumni whose careers have brought recognition to the University of Montana will be honored with the presentation of the Alumni Association's highest accolade, the Distinguished Service Award.

Hugh Edwards, executive secretary of the association, announced the presentation will be made as one of the highlights of Homecoming, Oct. 7, in connection with the traditional observance of Singing on the Steps in front of University Hall.

Four of the five award recipients will be on hand for the occasion. The fifth, Ann Wilson Haynes, is with the Ford Foundation in New Delhi, India, and she will be unable to attend, Edwards said.

The honorees include:

Dr. Arnold Wedum, who was graduated in 1925 with a B.A. degree in economics, he continued on to an M.S. in biology at the University. He was later granted a Ph.D. in bacteriology at Northwestern University, and in 1936 earned an M.D. degree from the same institution.

After teaching medical subjects at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Colorado, he became Chief of the Industrial Health and Safety Office at Fort Detrick, Maryland. He has received numerous awards for his work in microbiology and is an international consultant on microbiological safety.

Aline Mosby was awarded a B.A. degree in journalism by the University in 1943. Following graduation, she joined United Press International in the Seattle office, became night manager of the bureau, then transferred to Los Angeles where she was the UPI Hollywood correspondent for six years. She was assigned to Moscow in 1959 and three years later moved to the UPI Paris bureau.

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During her Moscow stay she was the only permanent feminine correspondent in that city from the United States. Two years ago she was awarded a fellowship in the Columbia University advanced international reporting program. She is currently assigned to New York UPI headquarters.

Oakley E. Coffee, graduate of the Class of 1923 and a Missoula businessman for many years, earned a combined degree in business and pharmacy at the University. Subsequently, he won his M.A. degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

Extremely active in civic endeavors in Missoula, he served Kiwanis, the Missoula Chamber of Commerce, United Givers, Labor-Management Board, St. Patrick's Hospital, the Montana State Pharmaceutical Association and as the president of the UM Foundation, a post he currently holds.

He was on the advisory board of the NYA, was a member of the State House of Representatives and a 10-year member of the State Liquor Control Board. He is president of the A and E Corporation and serves in several other business capacities.

Dr. Raleigh Gilchrist earned his A.B. in chemistry at the University in 1915 and attained his Ph.D. in 1922 at Johns Hopkins University. He started what turned out to be a life career with the National Bureau of Standards in 1919. He became chief of the Bureau's inorganic chemistry section in 1948. He represented the United States in various technical conferences and congresses. He was a specialist in the chemistry of the platinum metals and gold. He also conducted extensive research on the purification of iridium, ruthenium, osmium, rhodium, platinum, palladium and gold. He was an officer of the Chemical Society of Washington for many years and was a recipient of the Department of Commerce Meritorious Service Award.

Ann Wilson Haynes was graduated with a B.A. in journalism in 1922. Following graduation, she became the editor of a labor weekly in Great Falls, later becoming a teacher of English, history and journalism at Havre.

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After a period as reporter for the Great Falls Tribune, she went to San Francisco and became public relations director for the Community Chest. Later she served with the California State Department of Public Health and eventually became Chief of the department's Bureau of Health Education.

In 1964, she went to New Delhi, India, for the Ford Foundation to help central and state officials develop resources for job centered training of staff.