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Distinguished Service Alumni Award to be recognized during Homecoming

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY, OCT. 24

Five graduates in the classes of 1916, 1918 and 1929 at the University of Montana will be recognized for outstanding achievement at University Homecoming Oct. 29 and 30.

The University Alumni Association's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Alumni Award, will be bestowed on Frank Brutto, 1929, Associated Press correspondent; M. C. (Mike) Gallagher, 1918, retired Billings school superintendent; George M. Gosman, 1916, retired Dillon pharmacist and former lieutenant governor; William G. Long, 1916, retired Seattle Superior Court judge, and S. R. (Si) Smith, 1929, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Consumer and Marketing Service.

Norm Claypool of Great Falls, alumni president, will present the awards at Singing-on-the-Steps of University Hall Friday at 7:15.

Brutto, a journalism graduate, joined the Associated Press in 1937 and was Rome correspondent for the news service from 1940 to 1962 with the exception of three years during the war when he was in Bern, Switzerland. Following the war he became Vatican correspondent until his appointment in 1962 as bureau chief in Rio de Janeiro in charge of all AP operations in Brazil. He was reassigned this year to the New York bureau after 25 years of service abroad, much of the time away from his family.

Because of his skill Brutto has been described as a man able "to chat with the prime minister's charwoman who speaks no English as well as with the prime minister who speaks it fluently."

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Gallagher began his career in education as a chemistry teacher in Billings soon after his 1918 graduation in chemistry. He taught and was high school principal in Minnesota, Billings and Great Falls, then was named Billings Superintendent of Schools in 1937, a post he held until his retirement in 1965. In the meantime he earned a master's degree in education from UM in 1943.

A Chamber of Commerce dinner honoring Gallagher, a C of C member, on his retirement, "recognized the role education has played in Billings...and its continued growth and quality during his (Gallagher's) tenure." Montana State University in Bozeman recognized Gallagher's service in education in awarding him an honorary doctor of laws degree at the end of the summer session in 1962.

Gosman, honored as the first Pharmacist of the Year by the Montana Pharmaceutical Association in 1957, combined his career as a Dillon pharmacist with a career in politics. The 1916 pharmacy graduate served as Montana lieutenant governor, Beaverhead County Senator and chairman of the state Republican central committee and as a member of the Montana Highway Commission, the Montana Board of Pharmacy and the Dillon city council.

Judge Long returned to Montana this August as speaker at the 50th anniversary of the Arlee Methodist Church for which he helped raise funds to build while a University undergraduate. The judge had spoken at the church's dedication as a student pastor in 1915, the year before he received his bachelor of laws degree.

Judge Long retired a year ago from the Seattle Superior Court after hearing more than 225,000 cases. He took particular interest in youth and served 30 years as juvenile court judge. The outdoorsman was appointed special assistant attorney general in 1939 to organize the Washington State Game Commission. He has carried hunting and fishing license No. 1 reserved for him annually ever since.

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S. R. (Si) Smith heads a department that affects the lives of every person in this country at least three times a day—the USDA Consumer and Marketing Service formed Feb. 8, 1965. The service underwrites the quality and wholesomeness of much of the nation's food supply.

Smith began working with the USDA in 1934 as an economist with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Since then he has held administrative positions in charge of price support, regulatory and service programs for fruits, vegetables and related products. In 1956 he received a Distinguished Service Award initiated by President Eisenhower to honor outstanding government servants.