



# NEWS

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## **2007 Mesa State College Distinguished Alumni**

### *First year as a scholarship fundraiser*

Grand Junction – The 2008 Distinguished Alumni Banquet will be held Friday, Sept. 26, in Liff Auditorium, in the W.W. Campbell College Center of Mesa State College. The social hour begins at 5:30 pm, the dinner at 6:30 pm and the program and awards at 7:00 pm.

For the first time, the banquet is a fundraiser for the Mesa State College Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. The scholarships go to Mesa State students for their senior year and are awarded based on both merit and financial need. The number of awards and the amount of the awards vary from year to year as it is an endowed fund. The minimum award is \$500. Last year, two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded.

The Distinguished Alumni are selected by the Mesa State College Alumni Association from a pool of nominees submitted by alumni and the community. The recipients were selected because they had distinguished themselves in their professional career, or in service to their community, or been recognized by the professional community for leadership abilities or as a role model.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor the Alumni Association can bestow on an individual. This year's recipients are richly deserving of this tribute, carrying on a tradition that began in 1963. Recognizing these individuals not only brings attention to their high achievements but also displays the quality of education provided by Mesa State.

For the fourth consecutive year, the banquet is being sponsored by Bank of the West,

This year's recipients are:

**Susan J. (Seely) Brown**

Associate of Science in Nursing  
Mesa College, 1965

Sue's nursing career has encompassed various capacities such as critical care nurse, Administrative Director of Women's and Children's Services and Director of Nursing. She has

worked at Presbyterian, Saint Joseph's and Kaiser Permanente Hospitals in Denver, as well as St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction.

She started a home health program for a privately owned home care agency that was recognized by the Denver Business Journal as the fastest growing small business in health care. In 2002, Sue was hired to start Home Care of the Grand Valley, Inc. The organization has proven successful receiving awards for quality and excellence such as #1 in Colorado and the Top 100 award for Excellence from HomeCare Elite.

Sue has just completed her term as President of the Home Care Association of Colorado and serves on several Boards and Commissions including the Mesa State College Nursing Advisory Committee. Recent awards include being chosen as a Bighorn Center Healthcare Leadership Fellow in 2005 and receiving the Johnson-Theos Bridge Builder Award for Commitment to Collaborative Problem-Solving in developing the CLUB 20 Health Care Reform Proposal, 2008.

### **Maurice L. Dale**

Associate of Science  
Mesa College, 1951

After serving in the U. S. Air Force, Maurice spent 33 years as a conceptual mechanical design engineer. At North American Aviation, Inc., he designed experimental military aircraft and the first commercial nuclear power reactor. Later, he designed the first nuclear powered reactor in space, the internal configuration of the Apollo Command Module, and eleven of the twelve F-1 and J-2 engines on the Saturn Five rocket to the moon.

At Lockheed Missiles and Space Corporation he designed rockets to put satellites in orbit, deep-diving search and rescue submarines, deep-ocean oil drilling service modules, Vietnam air base security systems and a spy plane to be used specifically for tracking night troop movements of the Vietcong along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. He finished his career at Lockheed designing an unmanned aircraft for the U. S. Army Artillery to replace the forward artillery observer. This unmanned aircraft saved many observers' lives.

He is now retired in Paonia, Colorado. He has been Paonia Rotary Club President twice. Currently, he is treasurer of the Paonia Masonic Lodge, receiving his 50 year pin in 2003.

### **Daniel W. MacKendrick**

Associate of Arts  
Mesa College, 1956

Receiving his B.A and M.A. degrees at Western State College, Dan taught 39 years, five in Delta County and 34 at Mesa where he also was assistant baseball coach from 1964-1975 and assistant athletic director from 1980-1990. Mesa's baseball team won ten conference championships and appeared in eight JUCO World Series tournaments. At Delta his team won two state championships (1963 and 1964) and finished as state champion runner-up in 1962. As Jay Jefferson's assistant athletic director, Dan worked with eligibility, fund raising, game management, coaching selection and public relations.

Dan returned to Mesa in 1964 and taught English and education classes throughout his career. He was a professor of English over 20 years. As a faculty member Dan served as president of the faculty council, faculty athletic representative, and wrote the North Central Self-Study which

resulted in Mesa State's first baccalaureate accreditation. Other committee assignments included chairing Mesa State's inaugural ranking committee and the chairmanship of the evaluation committee (for promotion and retention) for the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

**Daniel M. Roberts**

Attended

Mesa College, 1977-78

Dan has worked in the field of retail and cost accounting for the past 38 years, of which the last 25 years has been with Mays Concrete, Inc. as Vice President of Finance and Administration.

He is an active member and former President of Grand Junction Rotary Club. He currently retains the position of District Treasurer for Rotary International District 5470.

Dan is involved in numerous community organizations including St Mary's Hospital & Medical Center Executive Committee and various sub-committees of the Board. He is a current Board Member of Industrial Developments, Inc, an organization devoted to viable economic development for Grand Junction by helping to attract commercial enterprises. Other boards he serves on include President Foster's Community Advisory Council for Mesa State College and the Grand Valley Board of Cooperative Education Services.

Dan is a former board member of the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. (National) and Past President and Director of the Western Colorado Chapter. He is Past President & board member of Western Colorado Education & Training Fund, Inc. He is a Past Secretary of the Riverside Task Force, Inc, and also a Past President of the Mesa State College Foundation. In 2006, Dan was named Grand Junction's Citizen of the Year by the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Robert G. Wilson**

Diploma

Mesa College, 1961

Bob began his career as a CPA working for the Big 8 accounting firm, Arthur Andersen. He returned to Grand Junction in 1970 and became a partner in Dalby Wendland & Co.

In 1977 he joined The Daily Sentinel as business manager and CFO. In 2003 he was one of the co-founders of The Grand Junction Free Press.

Starting in 1973 he served as a financial consultant and Board member for the startup Rocky Mountain HMO, one of the earliest and most successful in the nation. In 1986 he joined the HMO full time until his retirement in 2005. During that time he served as Vice President, interim CEO, Chief Operating and Chief Financial Officer.

The firm honored him for his years of exemplary service by naming one of their major buildings "The Wilson Building" and by creating an accounting scholarship in his name at Mesa State College.

Bob has supported many economic development activities, organizations and charities. He has served on the boards of Community Hospital, Hilltop Community Resources, IDI, The State Board of Accountancy, the Victims Compensation Fund and the Centennial Care Choices

Advisory Panel.

He was on the founding Boards of Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado and Quality Health Network. The latter is a community based organization devoted to the electronic accumulation and transmission of individual medical histories, with the goal of improving the quality of care by having this data instantly available to any treating provider at the time of treatment.

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Note to editors: Photos are available of each of the recipients. Contact Dana Nunn at 640-0421 if you would like them.