



1993

Honored Alumni Banquet

University of
Northern Colorado

October 15, 1993

1993 Honored Alumni

Mary Jo Drew

BA-1979

Little Rock, Arkansas

Outstanding Young Alumna Award

Thomas Hernandez

BA-1959

Garden Grove, California

Inspiration to Youth Award

Reuben Albert "Al" Isberg

BA-1935

Wilsonville, Oregon

Alumni and Foundation Entrepreneur Award

Michael "Scott" Manley

BA-1969, MA-1970, EdD-1977

Littleton, Colorado

Humanitarian Award

Mary Golda Ross

MA-1938

Los Altos, California

Trail Blazer Award

Michael Weiker

BA-1962, MA-1965

Littleton, Colorado

Music Educator Award

William H. "Bill" Welsh Jr.

BA-1935

Los Angeles, California

Contribution to Communication Arts Award

Program

Welcome

Kent Glassman
President, Alumni Association

Invocation

Verlee North-Shea
Assistant Pastor,
First Congregational Church of Greeley, UCC

Dinner

Introductions

Bryan Stuart
Executive Director, Alumni Association

Entertainment

Members of the Golden West Symphonic Band
Thomas Hernandez, Director

Student Welcome

Paul Rosin
President, Student Representative Council

Award Presentations

Herman Luján
President, University of Northern Colorado



Mary Jo Drew graduated summa cum laude from UNC in biological science. She went on to earn a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and worked in Florida and Arkansas, where she has won praise from her colleagues for her hospital work and teaching skills.

Honored as UNC's Outstanding Young Alumna, Drew earned the American Board of Pathology certification in clinical pathology in 1989 and in transfusion medicine in 1991. Since 1990, she has been with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, where she serves as medical director of the University Hospital of Arkansas Blood Bank and assistant professor in the Department of Pathology.

Edmund A. Richards, a UNC physiology professor says, "As an undergraduate student, Dr. Drew stood out as a trend-setter with enormous aptitude, energy and enthusiasm. . . . These qualities carried through her medical school years, during which she maintained one of the highest academic records and was selected by her colleagues to present their graduation address. Dr. Drew chose to specialize in pathology and immediately became fascinated by the need for better research in the pathology of blood and the need to update our blood bank practices

"She continued this specialization during her residency and became one of the first to see the incidence of HIV increasing in donor blood due to poor testing procedures for AIDS. Dr. Drew became known for her expertise in setting up precise screening techniques for donor blood, and also initiating an education program for fellow physicians to alleviate their fear against contamination from blood or HIV-positive patients."

Drew has shared her research at international meetings, as well as in scientific and medical journals. She was a visiting professor in pathology during the 1986-87 academic year at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in Mexico.



Thomas Hernandez began playing the trumpet at age five and is now conductor of the Golden West College Symphonic Band from Huntington Beach, California. His more recent accomplishments include a concert tour through Spain and Portugal as conductor and soloist with the band.

Other guest performances by Hernandez, winner of UNC's Inspiration to Youth Award, include appearances with the Orange County Symphony, with the El Camino College Symphony, and on the Trinity Broadcasting System telecasts.

Hernandez studied with the internationally acclaimed Maurice Andre at the Paris Conservatory of Music and with the late trumpet virtuoso Raphael Mendez. He has received recognition for his style of interpreting classical, sacred and popular music.

Patrick James Donadio of Springfield, Missouri, one of those who nominated Hernandez for UNC recognition, said: "I feel that Tom is one of the foremost trumpeters in the world. His talent in his profession ranks him among the very best there is. He plays with the same enthusiasm and dedication whether it be in a small country church or for the president of the United States. And I happen to know that he has played for both."

Hernandez and the Golden West band performed in 1988 for President Ronald Reagan. Two sacred music cassettes, "Trumpet Praise" and "Overshadowed," feature his trumpet solos. The conductor and teacher also has been cited for his role in inspiring his students as they begin their careers.



Al Isberg is president of his own consulting engineering and electronic development firm. The recipient of UNC's Alumni and Foundation Entrepreneur Award, Isberg has contributed more than five decades of his engineering skills to the development or operation of everything from scientific equipment to broadcasting.

He worked as an electronic engineer, developing geophysical seismograph equipment before joining KOA as a radio engineer. He left the Denver station to join the NBC Engineering Development Group in Radio City, New York, and was one of the first 50 television engineers who worked on the experimental station W2XBS. In 1941, the station became WNBT, the first commercial television station.

During World War II, Isberg was a project supervisor for the Airborne Instruments Laboratory, Division of War Research, Columbia University. The laboratory developed airborne devices to locate submerged enemy submarines.

After the war, Isberg held a variety of engineering positions in the broadcasting industry, including posts at KRON-TV and KRON-FM in San Francisco. His diverse career also included serving as an adviser on magnetic tape recording for the development of videotape recorders, preparing plans for the operations of nine television stations, and testifying at Federal Communications Commission hearings.

Isberg also held a variety of communications engineering positions with the University of California, and contributed his expertise as a consultant to hospitals, architects, municipalities, schools, businesses and advertising agencies. His professional honors include recognition from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers.



Scott Manley, senior vice president at Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colorado, has been honored with UNC's Humanitarian Award for applying his expertise to both professional and volunteer issues. For example, Manley joined other volunteers in Winter Park to prepare a camping area and trail for use by the disabled. He worked with Craig Hospital to contribute funds for the project, which was sponsored by the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.

Manley has developed a stronger national insurance alliance for Craig by working directly with major insurance companies to educate them on the benefits of providing acute rehabilitation management for catastrophic cases. "Fortunately, the outcome of those discussions has been beneficial for Craig, as well as for quality rehabilitation hospitals that can provide cost-efficient managed care for individuals with traumatic spinal cord or brain injuries," he said.

Other issues Manley and Craig personnel have addressed include alternative housing for the disabled, and the many challenges of aging with a spinal cord injury. Craig has sponsored speakers, hosted a national conference and produced a book, *Perspectives on Aging with a Spinal Cord Injury*, to educate people on such issues.

Manley serves on the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury Center and chairs the Clinical and Community Service Providers Committee. He also serves as a representative on the Board of Advisors for the Colorado Head Injury Foundation.



Mary Golda Ross earned a master's degree in mathematics/engineering in 1938 when few women were entering the field. She then became the first woman engineer to work at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company when she responded to a wartime call for mathematicians.

According to Lockheed, "Ross and 39 male engineering colleagues made up the select group responsible for the earliest studies of satellites in orbit for both defense and civilian purposes. Their research pioneered theories and concepts in orbital mechanics, astrophysics and ballistic missiles."

Ross also formulated concepts for a manned orbital space system and for fly-by missions to Venus and Mars. Her research was crucial to the development of the Agena rocket, a key forerunner of the Apollo program to land on the moon.

In 1992, Ross was inducted into the Silicon Valley Engineering Hall of Fame. Along with her work as an engineer, Ross also was commended for promoting careers in science among young women and American Indians. Her great-great-grandfather was John Ross, chief of the Cherokee Nation during the forced march to Oklahoma known as the "Trail of Tears."

Ross, who is now retired, has a host of achievements to her credit. She is a life member of both the Society of Women Engineers and the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. She received the 1961 Woman of Distinction Award from the *San Francisco Examiner*, the 1961 Women of Achievement Award from the California State Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and 1985 achievement awards from both the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and the Council of Energy Resource Tribes.



Michael Weiker, who holds two music education degrees from UNC, is recipient of UNC's Music Educator Award. Weiker has taught vocal music for 30 years at Bear Creek High School in Lakewood.

He serves as president of the Colorado Music Educators Association, chairman for the Colorado Coalition for Music Education, and chair for the Colorado High School Activities Association's Music Committee.

A clinician and adjudicator in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska, Weiker also has served on the Committee on Musical Excellence in Colorado and on the Colorado Vocal Affairs Council.

His choral groups have been recognized for superior achievement at state music festivals, and in 1991 Weiker was named Conductor of the Year by the Colorado affiliate of the American Choral Directors Association. In 1987 he was named Denver's Channel 9 "Super Teacher," and in 1986 he was a finalist for Colorado Teacher of the Year.

His community service includes serving as conductor of the Evergreen Chorale and directing the Temple Sinai Choir.



Bill Welsh specialized in history, political science and athletics at UNC. Such diverse expertise served Welsh well as he went on to distinguish himself in the fields of sports broadcasting, community service and commerce.

The recipient of UNC's Contribution to Communication Arts Award, Welsh has served in a variety of leadership positions with the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, including president, and continues to remain active with the organization. Welsh also served as Hollywood chairman for United Way.

He was instrumental in establishing the Community Redevelopment Agency in Hollywood, and has been recognized by the entertainment industry with a star bearing his name on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Hollywood Academy of Television Arts and Sciences awarded him its prestigious Governors Award, which recognizes contributions to the advancement of television.

Welsh, who has held a variety of radio and television broadcasting positions, continues to serve as director of sports and special events at KTTV. Highlights of his career include televising the Pasadena Rose Parade every year since 1948, announcing the first telecast of a Rose Bowl game, and inaugurating the first comprehensive television coverage of sports at the University of Southern California and University of California at Los Angeles.

He is founder and past president of the Southern California Sport Broadcasters, and is president of the William H. Parker Memorial Foundation, an organization that raises funds to provide additional educational opportunities for Los Angeles police officers.



