

Missouri State

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Everything's coming up roses

Pride marches as honor band in Tournament of Roses Parade
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Showing Our Pride

The Missouri State University Alumni Association began the 2007 *Wild with Pride* Homecoming with an expedition honoring seven Missouri State alumni and former faculty members, whose Bear Pride roars.

At the Homecoming Dinner and Awards Ceremony on Oct. 26, 2007, at the University Plaza Hotel in downtown Springfield, the Alumni Association recognized (pictured from left) Kenneth E. Meyer, Dr. Nancy L. Curry, John E. Patton, Edward D. Chapin, Dr. Dennis W. Smith Jr., David L. Lenox and Alex N. Paradowski.

The Award of Appreciation, honoring retired faculty and staff members for achievement in their professional or academic fields and loyalty to the University, was presented to Dr. Nancy L. Curry and John E. Patton.

Dr. Dennis W. Smith Jr. was recognized as the Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient for his professional endeavors

that have brought honor to the University.

The Outstanding Alumni Award was presented to Edward D. Chapin, David L. Lenox and Alex N. Paradowski for their extraordinary personal and professional achievements.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes an alumna or alumnus of Missouri State whose life and accomplishments have earned the respect of their industry, profession or community, was given to Kenneth E. Meyer.

The following pages highlight these deserving award recipients and why the Alumni Association recognized their successes.

If you would like to nominate an alumna/alumnus of Missouri State for the Alumni Association Awards Program, please send your letter of nomination, biographical information and any supporting materials available to the attention of: Julie Ebersold, Missouri State Alumni Association, 300 S. Jefferson, Suite 100, Springfield, MO 65806 or to alumni@missouristate.edu. Nominations are accepted year-round, with selections being made during the summer months of each year. The next Homecoming Dinner and Awards Ceremony will be held Friday, Oct. 10, 2008.

Country boy to super lawyer and everything in-between

By Andrea Starks

Edward Chapin has come a long way from the one-room schoolhouse where he first began his education. In fact, he was recently awarded the Outstanding Alumni Award during Homecoming 2007 to recognize his many accomplishments.

A 1964 history graduate, Chapin was actively involved in the ROTC program, Sigma Tau Gamma social fraternity, and numerous other activities and events. After graduating, he was commissioned as a U.S. Army infantry second lieutenant and entered active duty. Chapin received the Bronze Star for valor in combat during his time in Vietnam.

Upon fulfillment of his

commission, Chapin

entered law school at

the University of

Missouri, where

he earned a

Doctor of

Jurisprudence

degree. He

served as a

prosecutor in the

San Diego City

Attorney's office before

entering private practice. In addition to

serving as senior trial counsel and managing

his law firm, Chapin has held leadership

positions in several professional

organizations at the local, state and national

levels, including the San Diego County Bar

Association, San Diego Defense Lawyers and

the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Chapin was named one of The Best Lawyers

in America, and designated as a Super

Lawyer in 2007 by *Law & Politics* magazine.

Originally from West Plains, Chapin

became the founding member of what has

become a rather extensive Missouri State

family. His sister, Jean Chapin Mullen, '68, was

the next to graduate from Missouri State,

followed by four first cousins, who grew up

on a farm near his. Chapin's mother, Allene

Chapin, attended the University as well.

"After raising my sister and me and

seeing us through college, my mom, now 92

and living on our farm at West Plains,

attended college to get the coveted degree she was denied during the Depression years," Chapin said.

Chapin's mother and family were at the awards ceremony to see him accept his newest accomplishment.

"I was humbled by the recognition given to me," Chapin said. "It felt good to see acquaintances from long ago and be introduced to Missouri State as it is today. I think I understand how the prodigal son must have felt coming home. After a hiatus of 43 years, it was a wonderful experience for me and my family."

In addition to being excited

about his award, Chapin

also enjoyed

experiencing the

campus again.

When he began

school in 1959,

there were

between 2,500 and

3,000 students, so he

remembered many of

his former classmates when

he returned for the ceremony.

"The campus was small back in the '60s.

You could traverse it from end to end in

less than 10 minutes," Chapin said. "Now,

the growth is exciting. Progress has been

active at Missouri State over the years. I

congratulate the leadership. Hopefully,

they will not become complacent. I doubt

that is a danger given the dynamic

members of the administration I have been

fortunate to meet."

Upon accepting his award, Chapin noted

his life has been filled with educational

opportunities, however one lesson is still

with him today. During his freshman year as

a Bear, Chapin went out for the football

team. After that first year on the team, he

quit. To this day he still remembers and

regrets the feeling of quitting.

Even though he might have quit on the

football field, he never gave up on what he

wanted professionally. Chapin has come a

long way from that one-room schoolhouse

and country boy image. Overall, his integrity

and professionalism helped him fulfill his

goals and make him an outstanding Missouri

State alumnus. ■



EDWARD CHAPIN, '64

Partner
Chapin Wheeler, LLP

B.S., Missouri State University, 1964

J.D., University of Missouri-Columbia, 1972

Lead counsel for the chemical manufacturer
featured in the film *Erin Brockovich*

Named One of The Best Lawyers in America,
since 1987

San Diego Defense Lawyer's Lifetime
Achievement Award, 2000

Daniel T. Broderick Award, 2001

Super Lawyer, 2007, *Law & Politics* magazine

Chapin and his wife, Debbie, reside in San Diego,
Calif. They have two adult sons: Ed Jr. and Russell.

Andrea Starks is a former university communications graduate assistant at Missouri State University.