

## 2024 UIAA AWARDS

Each year, University of Idaho Alumni Association (UIAA) and Alumni Relations recognize outstanding alumni, friends and students through a number of awards that celebrate achievements in volunteerism, success and commitment to the university.

### ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Recognizes alumni who have achieved national or international distinction by their accomplishments and leadership.

#### Scott Kinkead '84

After Scott Kinkead graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1974 with a degree in chemistry, he then served five years in the Air Force before retiring with the rank of captain. From there, he enrolled in the chemistry graduate program at University of Idaho in 1979 and completed a Ph.D. in 1984.

The most important contribution of Kinkead's career has been his commitment to science and technology to protect the U.S. from nuclear threats and terrorist weapons. Kinkead volunteered as a civilian member of the Iraq Survey Group in Baghdad. He participated in efforts to locate nuclear detonators and gauge Iraq's capacity to develop nuclear weapons. For his efforts in Iraq, Kinkead was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal.

During his career, Kinkead received the Idaho Academy of Sciences Speakers Award and Sigma Xi (North Idaho Section) Publication Award. The Department of Energy has presented him with two Recognition of Excellence Awards and three Distinguished Performance Awards. Nationally, Kinkead was recognized by the National Academy of Sciences, including receiving the National Academy of Sciences Eastern European Exchange Fellowship. As a leader on the Isotope and Nuclear Chemistry group at Los Alamos National Laboratory, he earned the coveted R&D 100 Award, often referred to as the "Oscars of Innovation" and the "Nobel Prize of Engineering" by the technical community.

Kinkead has also used his knowledge and science to address serious environmental issues associated with disposal of contaminated equipment and lead contamination issues affecting both military personnel and civilians.

He has more than 40 publications, including 33 peer-reviewed articles, nine patents and three book chapters to his credit.

#### Thomas Slayton '72

A self-described student of the world rice market for 40 years, Tom Slayton occupied a unique position between the commercial rice market and academia/public officials in the U.S., the U.N. and the World Bank. He played a key role in both analyzing the origins of the 2008 Rice Crisis and providing a means for

“pricking the price bubble,” which reduced rice prices around the globe where it is a staple for half of the world.

Slayton attended University of Idaho 1968-72, majoring in political science. A member of Phi Beta Kappa honor society, he served as ASUI vice president his senior year and was named Theophilus Outstanding Senior in 1972. He received a master’s degree in International Affairs in 1973 from Columbia University and the following year joined USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service. Slayton’s introduction to the world rice market occurred in 1977 when he served as Assistant Agricultural Attaché in the U.S. Embassy Jakarta, Indonesia. After then serving as FAS’s rice analyst 1980-1984, he was assigned as Agricultural Attaché in the U.S. Embassy Bangkok, Thailand for two years.

Slayton worked for the U.S. Rice Millers’ Association’s rice trade analyst from 1986-1991 before striking out on his own founding Slayton & Associates. The consulting firm was recognized as the world’s most authoritative and up-to-date source of information on world rice market developments.

Slayton retired in 2017 from the Louis Dreyfus Company, the world’s largest international rice trader, where he had served as a consultant to help the company maximize its growth.

In 2020 he endowed the University of Idaho with the Thomas Slayton Endowed Professorship for East Asian Politics.

### **Steven Smith '68**

Steven Smith’s career path began at University of Idaho where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology in 1968 and continued to flourish in postgraduate work, where he received a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from UCLA. After studies at University of Bern in Switzerland and completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in San Diego, California, Smith was recruited to the Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope in Duarte, California as an assistant research scientist. He rose through the ranks and was promoted to full professor of molecular science in the Divisions of Surgery and Urology in 2001. He served eight years as the director of molecular carcinogenesis in the Clinical Cancer Center and for 11 years as the director of cell and tumor biology in the Surgery Division.

Smith’s service to the scientific community includes serving on several National Institute of Health (NIH) Study Sections, as executive editor of Analytical Biochemistry and the International Institute of Anticancer Research’s Editorial Board of Cancer Genomics and Proteomics.

Smith has been recognized by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund with a Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biologists Visiting Professor Award, as Honors Laureate for visionary use of information technology in medicine from Computerworld.

With more than 100 research publications and seven patents with several more pending, Smith continues to contribute to our understanding of cellular deterioration during aging.

### **Lawrence Wasden '85**

Lawrence Wasden served as Idaho's 32nd Attorney General from 2003-2023. He was the longest serving attorney general in the state's history.

He joined the Office of the Attorney General in 1989 as a deputy assigned to the Idaho State Tax Commission. He later served as Deputy Chief of Staff and then Chief of Staff before being elected Attorney General in 2002. Wasden also served as Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Canyon County and Prosecuting Attorney in Owyhee County, served in private practice as an associate in Hamilton, Clark and Michaelson in Nampa, Idaho.

Wasden is a past chairman of the Conference of Western Attorneys General and past President of the National Association of Attorneys General. In 2014, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award for the Leaders in Law program sponsored by the Idaho Business Review. He was chosen by his western colleagues in 2010 to receive the Courage in Public Service Award.