It is a privilege and a pleasure to bestow upon Elizabeth Bohannan the designation of honorary alumna. The Ohio Wesleyan community is richer by far as a result of the generosity of Elizabeth and her late husband, Colonel Robert Bohannan.

In 1981, they gave to the University 45.32 acres of land, located northeast of Delaware along Alum Creek. Originally named “Clarinch” for a Bohannan Scottish war cry, the property is now known as the Bohannan Nature Preserve, and is a valuable teaching/learning area for students, faculty, and alumni. Here, one can observe and study wildflowers, woods, and birds in their unspoiled verdant environment—to the gratification of the donor, herself a dedicated naturalist.

In further generous support of this institution, Elizabeth has given an endowed account to the botany/microbiology department for purchase of equipment and supplies needed for research at the Preserve.

Her connection to Ohio Wesleyan is reinforced through family ties: her late husband’s great grandfather Leander Critchfield was an 1849 graduate; her granddaughter is Christine Bohannan Barrett, Class of 1971. Warm friendships with all levels of the Ohio Wesleyan family underscore the relationship, as well. A familiar presence on campus, she has sat as student in so many classes that she qualifies to be labeled “botanist”.

At the Preserve, where she continues to maintain a residence, Elizabeth host parties for the botany department, their students, faculty, and visiting dignitaries. Her hospitality extends to alumni who are frequent invited visitors.

A gentle person of culture, graciousness, and humor, lone-time friend and neighbor of Ohio Wesleyan, Elizabeth Bohannan is now numbered among its alumni.

May 18, 1991