

Alumni Award

Laura Pierce Bump

Class of 1958

It is a pleasure to honor Laura Pierce Bump with this 2013 Alumni Award for outstanding dedication and service to Ohio Wesleyan.

When we think of Laura, of course we think of sports. As what we would today call a Health and Human Kinetics major, she competed in field hockey, basketball, and swimming and later served as the Bishops' head coach in field hockey, basketball, and softball. For many years she served as an assistant women's basketball coach for Nan Carney-DeBord. A longtime supporter of women's golf, Laura played the game as a student before women's sports had varsity status. She was inducted into the Ohio Wesleyan Athletics Hall of Fame in 1978, in the second class of women, and she even has an OWU women's golf tournament—The Laura Bump Invitational—named after her. The year prior to the inauguration of the tournament, Laura was the honoree at the annual “W” Association golf tournament and the naming of the women's tournament for her was a logical extension of that honor.

If we remembered Laura only for sports, it would be enough, but there was much more to her collegiate career. A member of Alpha Xi Delta and Kappa Delta Pi education honorary at Ohio Wesleyan, Laura was vice president of the student body during her senior year and a part of campus activities ranging from YWCA and Red Cross to Panhellenic Council and the Dolphin Club. Several years following her graduation from OWU, she earned a master's degree in education from Kent State University.

Laura has been an active and supportive alumna. In addition to faithfully attending hundreds of OWU athletic events, she and her husband Dick '58 established in 2000 the Stanley and Cornelia Pierce Endowment for Deferred Maintenance in honor of her parents. Then again in 2007, Laura established the Richard L. and Laura Pierce Bump Endowed Fund for the Renovation and Renewal of OWU Athletic Facilities in honor of her late husband. Laura continues to give generously, and recent examples included leadership gifts for both the Stuyvesant Hall and Keller Organ renovation projects. She is also a member of Ohio Wesleyan's Tower Society.

Professionally, she is a charter member of the Cleveland Women's Officiating Association and was one of the first women to officiate at Ohio high school state tournament. She also was president of the Cleveland Women's Physical Education and Recreation Association.

As a resident of Delaware, Laura has put in more than 1500 hours with the Union County Mobile Meals program, she volunteers part-time at Beeghly Library, and serves on several committees at Asbury United Methodist Church, to name just a few of her activities. She is a 50-year member of the DAR and a member of the Columbus Monnett Club.

As we rise today to sing the Alma Mater, we have Laura to thank for it. In 1957, she lobbied both the Alumni Board and the Board of Trustees to replace “The Cuppett Song” with our current Alma Mater—and obviously, her efforts were successful.

Now we join Laura's reunioning classmates in saluting and thanking her for her service to Ohio Wesleyan University and to the Delaware community. She is an asset to both.

May 18, 2013

