

Distinguished Achievement Citation

George H. Conrades

Class of 1961

With this presentation on Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation, we recognize and honor George Conrades as a highly successful and well-known leader in the world of technology. His considerable professional experience has culminated in his current position as chairman and CEO of Akamai Technologies. Akamai is an Internet content distribution service recognized by MIT's Sloan School of Management as the company most likely to dominate the management of content delivery on the Internet.

Following graduation from Ohio Wesleyan with a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics, George began a 31-year career with IBM, where he held a number of senior management positions both domestically and internationally. As the head of IBM United States, he led the creation of IBM Services and IBM Consulting while transforming disparate product and service field organizations into customer-focused profit and loss centers. He also established IBM's Asia/Pacific headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, where the region attained record growth in revenues and earnings. For his efforts there he earned the title of IBM Senior Vice President and membership on IBM's Corporate Management Board.

In 1992, George left IBM to become CEO of Bolt, Beranek & Newman, whose engineers created Arpanet, the forerunner of today's Internet, in the early 1960s. Capitalizing on BBN's internet-related core competencies, he helped the company become one of the world's largest and most prominent internet service providers. When BBN was acquired by GTE, George was named Executive Vice President and then President of GTE Internetworking.

In August, 1998, George joined Polaris Venture Partners, a partnership of experienced early-stage investors with a history of backing extraordinarily successful entrepreneurs in companies developing information and medical technology. Currently at the helm of Akamai, he continues to play an active role as a Venture Partner for Polaris, working closely with the management of Polaris portfolio companies – especially those related to the Internet and electronic commerce.

George's astuteness in business and commitment to service has earned him membership on many boards, including Viacom, Cardinal Health, and the Scripps Research Institute. He also is a trustee for the Committee for Economic Development, a non-profit organization of leading business people, and has recently been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

His extensive service to Ohio Wesleyan began when he served as student body president his senior year. Since graduation, he has served on the Alumni Board of Directors, and then for twenty-four years on the Board of Trustees, serving as Chairman for four of those years.

George and his wife, Patsy Belt Conrades '63, reside in Cambridge, MA and Hobe Sound, FL. They are parents of five children, Laura graduated in 1988 from Ohio Wesleyan and Anna will be a junior here in the fall.

The word Akamai is Hawaiian for "intelligent, cool or clever." We join George's reunion classmates in saluting him for his achievement in the field of business and for being one of Ohio Wesleyan's most "Akamai" alumni!

May 19, 2001

