

## Honorary Alumnus / Alumna

### Thomas B. Courtice

You may not know this, but President Tom Courtice's grandfather was the president of OWU's Class of 1905 and his grandmother was vice president of that Class. They had long encouraged Tom to attend Ohio Wesleyan, but he thought he knew better. What we do know today is how thankful we all are that he finally decided to heed his grandparents' advice when he and Lisa decided, ten years ago, to join the OWU family in Delaware, Ohio.

Tom, from your arrival at Ohio Wesleyan in 1994, you have demonstrated, in so many ways, that this has been more than just a job for you. Because of your family ties here and your deep regard for the life-shaping opportunities that colleges like Ohio Wesleyan offer their students, you have shown us in so many ways, what you call the "extra dimension" of your presidency.

You came to Ohio Wesleyan at a not-so-easy time, and set forth immediately to design a road map to balance the budget and to create a stronger foundation on which our people, programs and campus facilities would blossom. Far from an easy task – as nationwide, competition for quality students and capital donations continued to toughen – you committed yourself tirelessly to nurturing and building those collaborative relationships on and off campus, that are so critical to this and any college's well being. Your supportiveness, sense of fairness, and uncanny ability to inspire and draw out the very best in people is a testament to your fine leadership skills.

The achievements of your years here – the Courtice years – are evident: increased enrollment; improved academic quality; faculty additions; better compensation for faculty and staff; stronger endowment; a successful \$100 million Campaign for Ohio Wesleyan; and of course, the all important financial stability so critical to everything. You have been a lynchpin in our efforts to garner resources for so many renovated and rejuvenated campus buildings: the R.W. Corns Building, Edgar and Haycock Halls, the Moore Health Center and the Belt Fitness Center, the Richard M. Ross Art Museum, and our most significant undertaking ever – our \$35 million Conrades♦Wetherell Science Center to be dedicated in October.

But it is your "extra dimension" of connectedness to this university your boundless energy, vision, wisdom, good humor (we'll never forget your "got e-mail" ad campaign) and your special sense of who we are as an institution and where we need to be that we will so miss, and for which we especially want to extend to you, Tom Courtice, 99 years after the graduation of your grandparents, Thomas and Nellie Pool Courtice, the designation of honorary alumnus of Ohio Wesleyan University, Class of 2004.

May 14, 2004

