

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Andres Duarte

Class of 1965

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation, the Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored and privileged to recognize **Andres Duarte** as an adventurous, skillful, and adaptable business developer.

With the knowledge and ability to discover valuable resources, Andy is able to utilize, maximize, and share these resources with others. Andy has started and grown businesses in trade, shipping, port management, and logistics in South America and the Caribbean for 35 years.

After studying for seven years in the United States, Andy returned to South America to work as a Field Geologist in Venezuela and Ecuador, where he searched for materials to feed the cement and ceramics industry. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Geology and Economics from Ohio Wesleyan University, Andy was awarded a graduate school fellowship from the Shell Oil Company to obtain a Master of Science degree from the University of Oklahoma. Andy spent the following year at the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University.

Andy started his first business in 1974, Duarte Vivas y Asociados, C.A. (DVA), which originally recruited immigrants during the Portuguese Revolution to come to Venezuela. In just two years, the business grew into a trading company that brought commodities into Venezuela. Less than a decade later, Andy's company received an award from the Danish government for importing more than one million tons of Portland cement into Venezuela.

Additionally, Andres Duarte brought valuable resources to Ohio Wesleyan University by recruiting more than 100 students to the university. Andy is a Life Trustee of Ohio Wesleyan University. For three years, he participated in the privatization of a fishing port in eastern Venezuela that created a special opportunity for Ohio Wesleyan students. Through this Ohio Wesleyan summer program, students were able to learn and participate in the project.

Andres Duarte is a member of the board of the Venezuelan American Chamber of commerce and was made Vice President in 1990. In 1988, Andy became a member of the Venezuelan high commission for border control and development of reciprocal interests with Columbia.

Because of greater governmental regulations after Hugo Chávez took presidential office in 1999, Andy returned to the United States to obtain a Master of Arts in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Andy was named Justice of the Peace after returning to Caracas, Venezuela. A year after receiving his graduate degree, Andy expanded his business interests outside of Venezuela by opening offices in Ecuador and Bolivia with Gustavo Vollmer, Ohio Wesleyan Class of '89.

For his professional achievements and dedication to the field of business, we applaud and recognize Andres Duarte with this Distinguished Achievement Citation.

May 16, 2015

