

Alumni Award

Richard H. Gordon

Class of 1962

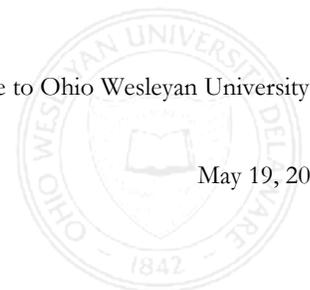
A native of Rochester, New York, Richard Gordon was a political science major, active in varsity soccer, varsity tennis, and W-Clan, and a member of Sigma Chi fraternity. A skilled tennis player from an early age, he was a regional singles and doubles champion during his OWU career—and in 1967, he won the New York State Doubles Championship with Richard Raskin, later known as Renee Richards. Inducted into Ohio Wesleyan's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1982, Richard also has served as a vice president of the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island.

Following his graduation, Richard received a J.D. from Syracuse University and joined Chase Manhattan in New York. He soon relocated to a law firm in Hartford, and then opened his own firm. However, it was real estate that interested him and led him to enter the world of development, particularly in Connecticut and more particularly in Hartford as he brought new buildings, new business, new enterprises, and new life to the city. Among his projects were the Connecticut River Plaza, the Enfield Medical Center, the Northeast Plaza Building, an office and research park, the renovation of the Old State House, and the State House Square commercial development in 1986. Richard's love of sports merged with the commitment to downtown Hartford, when, along with partners, he purchased the NHL's Hartford Whalers in 1988, adding friend and former tennis great Ivan Lendl to the Whaler's ownership team and advisory board. It's safe to say that downtown Hartford was reshaped by Richard Gordon—and his influence extends throughout the state in other major projects.

Even in the midst of his activities in the highly competitive world of development, Richard never lost sight of Ohio Wesleyan. As a University Trustee and member of the Endowments Committee, he has been a significant force behind the University's programming and facilities. The picture of an entrepreneur, Richard has inculcated that spirit in hundreds of Ohio Wesleyan students, although they may not all be aware of his guiding hand. He campaigned for the development of what is now the Woltemade Center for Economics, Business and Entrepreneurship and helped both conceptually and financially with its founding and development. He has lectured and met with students there in a variety of conversations and projects. In addition, he donated the funds for the Gordon Field House, where scores of OWU athletes have trained and competed. He also funded the first year of what is now the Sagan National Colloquium and the Challenge for the 1985-86 Annual Fund. Richard has hosted alumni events at his home in Avon CT. He understands long-term strategic vision—and supports it with his talents, his time, and his treasure.

Beyond Ohio Wesleyan, his contributions to other causes, from the arts to education to healthcare, are widely known. He has been, and continues to be, a force for excellence in business and in community life.

Today, we join Richard's reunioning classmates in saluting, thanking, and applauding him for his service to Ohio Wesleyan University and as a valued member of the Ohio Wesleyan family.



May 19, 2012