

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Robert L. Hunter

Class of 1943

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation, we are honored and privileged to recognize Robert Hunter's exceptional career as a leader in the field of histochemistry and as a professor in higher education.

Graduating from Ohio Wesleyan in 1943 with a B.A. in Zoology, Dr. Hunter later obtained his M.A. from Ohio Wesleyan in 1949. He was an Atomic Energy Commission fellow from 1951-53 and then completed his Ph.D. in Zoology in 1954 at the University of Michigan. In 1953, Dr. Hunter embarked on his career in higher education as an instructor of Anatomy, at the University of Michigan Medical School. He would continue to advance to Assistant Professor in 1959 and by 1962 had garnered the position of Associate Professor. Then in 1963, Dr. Hunter became a member of the Stanford University School of Medicine until 1966 when he joined the teaching faculty of the University of California at Davis. Within two years, he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Human Anatomy and held that office until 1974. He remained with the University until his retirement in 1988 and now enjoys the title of Professor Emeritus. He was always involved with the University on many levels, serving on several committees of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate including Committee on Courses of Instruction, Executive Council, and Divisional Representative to the Assembly of the Academic Senate. He was also president of the Davis chapter of Phi Kappa Phi and Sigma Xi.

While Dr. Hunter excelled as an educator, he did not limit his talents to only that field, but continued his love of research. His early research was in the general field of cancer and much of his later work has had an indirect relation. Dr. Hunter is considered one of the nation's finest histochemists—one who studies chemical substances in the body on a cellular level. He is noted for developing new techniques for detecting enzymes in tissue. He has also explored many other areas of research. In 1977, he studied the flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador. In 1978, he was a member of the group of scientists on the Alpha Helix—marine research study of gene evolution of fish. In 1979, he was a visiting Professor at the Federal University of Pernambuco Recife Brazil and taught the technique of isoelectric focusing. In addition to his other accomplishments, Dr. Hunter is the noted author of countless articles and journals.

Dr. Hunter is one of Delaware's own sons and also has two siblings who graduated from Ohio Wesleyan: Harold L. Hunter-OWU class of 1945 and Doris Hunter Mauck-OWU class of 1947. While he attended Ohio Wesleyan, Dr. Hunter was involved in several campus organizations and activities. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha Music Honorary Society and a member of the a cappella choir. Dr. Hunter has four grown children, Richard, Jean, Joanne, and Janet, and currently resides in Davis, California with his wife Ilene. He continues to sing in the Davis Community Barbershop Quartet and he and his wife travel around the country visiting family and friends.

We join his reunioning classmates in saluting Robert Hunter and recognizing his outstanding accomplishments through the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Award.

May 17, 2003

