

Honorary Alumnus / Alumna

John A. “Jay” Martin

With friendship, affection and the deepest regard, we extend to you, Jay Martin, the designation of honorary alumnus of Ohio Wesleyan University. This act makes “Official” your close relationship with Ohio Wesleyan which began when you joined our teaching and coaching ranks in 1977 and later married Ohio Wesleyan alumna JoAnn Bamford.

You have guided your 31 soccer teams to a 530-104-44 record, with 13 regional titles, 7 Division III semi-final appearances, two national runner-up showings, and a national championship in 1998. Ohio Wesleyan University currently leads the NCAA Division III with 29 playoff appearances and 49 playoff victories. In return, you have been named the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) National Coach of the Year twice and the NCAA Midwest Region Coach of the Year, an honor awarded to one coach from all divisions, 13 times in your 31 years. You received the NSCAA Bill Jeffrey Award in 2005, which is awarded to an individual whose long-term dedication has raised intercollegiate soccer to new heights. You also received the NSCAA Honor Award in 2007, which is presented annually to an individual who has dedicated himself or herself to the ideals of the NSCAA and worked tirelessly for the improvement of the sport of soccer and the quality of coaching.

Your lacrosse teams posted an 8-year record of 104-34, winning four Midwest Lacrosse Association titles, earning 6 NCAA playoff bids and twice making you the MLA Coach of the Year.

In your 19 years of service as Athletic Director, from 1985 to 2004, Ohio Wesleyan athletics flourished. Your term coincided with the beginning of Ohio Wesleyan’s current athletic conference, the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC). You established our athletic booster club, and your dedication to women’s athletics has been tremendous as seen in the re-establishment of softball as a varsity sport in 2000. During your time as Athletic Director, Ohio Wesleyan enjoyed almost 100 NCAC championships and four NCAA Division III national championships.

You have spent your time at Ohio Wesleyan not only as a coach, but also as a teacher. You have been a part of the Department of Physical Education since your start in 1977 and served as Chair of the department from 1985 to 1997. As a professor, you have taught every course offered in the Physical Education major and in 1987 became the first Ohio Wesleyan professor from outside the liberal arts curriculum to be awarded the Sherwood Dodge Shankland Award for the Encouragement of Teachers.

Your relationship with Ohio Wesleyan developed into a family affair in 2001 when you became an Ohio Wesleyan parent, watching your son Ryan enroll and complete his undergraduate education in the Ohio Wesleyan class of 2005. This relationship continues with your son Kyle, who recently joined Ohio Wesleyan as an undergraduate in 2005.

You have expanded your relationship with Ohio Wesleyan outside of the classroom and field by supporting various alumni initiatives. You are always willing to assist as an Alumni Weekend volunteer, class dinner host, or as a featured speaker at alumni and development events. You have also coordinated an annual alumni game and reception every year at Homecoming and took the lead and coordinated the 50th year of Men’s Soccer reunion.

It is a privilege to honor you, Jay Martin, and to welcome you formally into the alumni family of Ohio Wesleyan University.

17 May 2008

