

# Alumni Award

Laura Gnagi Newman

Class of 1946

In recognition of sustained and devoted service to Ohio Wesleyan and its Alumni Association, we present this Alumni Award to Laura “Lolly” Gnagi Newman, Class of 1946.

As Director of Alumni Relations for the past twenty-four years, Lolly has brought to her alma mater a commitment to education, opportunity and explorations that has enriched and inspired the university’s alumni program and made Lolly a legend in the world of alumni relations.

A notable example of her commitment to education was the award winning program “Summerweek,” a weeklong alumni college based around a central theme featuring faculty and alumni speakers. “Learning Experiences” and “Suitcase Seminars” have also been all marks of the alumni program under Lolly’s leadership.

Never afraid to speak her mind, Lolly has been vocal about supporting the roles of women in the university and within the alumni body. Through her tenacious efforts, there has been a marked increase of participation by women on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the university’s Board of Trustees.

Although Lolly’s tenure as Director of Alumni Relations has covered almost two-and-one-half decades, her affiliation with Ohio Wesleyan began fifty years ago when she enrolled as a freshman in 1942. She earned her degree in journalism with honors through the “fractured forties,” graduating Phi Beta Kappa. Since returning to Delaware in 1969, Lolly has been involved in 24 class reunions, organized or attended more than a thousand alumni events from Alaska to Greece and befriended thousands of alumni around the world.

When it came time to celebrate Ohio Wesleyan’s sesquicentennial year, it was appropriate that she served as member of the steering committee. She did “yeowoman’s” work organizing sesquifests all around the country. She was the obvious choice to author the chapter on alumni for the sesquicentennial history book Noble Achievements: The History of Ohio Wesleyan from 1942 to 1992.

In praise of her loyalty and in honor of her leadership, we hereby extend to Lolly Newman this Alumni Award. Knowing that she has never been the “retiring” type, and that she will be as active in retirement as she’s been in her career, we warmly and enthusiastically welcome Lolly into the ranks of Ohio Wesleyan volunteers!

May 15, 1993

