



**Morton V. "Pete" Smith Jr.  
Class of 1971**

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Alumni Award, The Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored to recognize Morton V. "Pete" Smith Jr. for selfless service as a volunteer and dedication to his alma mater.

Pete graduated in 1971 from Ohio Wesleyan with a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology. During his time at OWU, Pete worked tirelessly to create spaces where other Black students felt welcomed. He was the original founder of the Student Union on Black Awareness (SUBA) in 1968. Additionally, Pete helped to secure other important spaces on campus for Black students such as the House of Black Culture and the Cave. When not fighting for change on campus, Pete took it out into the community to strengthen relationships between locals and OWU students. He tutored at the local community center, arranged sit-ins at both the Greyhound bus station and John Deer, and published Black student pamphlets to try to increase attendance of Black students at Ohio Wesleyan.

After his undergraduate career, Pete worked as a probation officer and is actively involved in his local Methodist church. Pete's dedication to change is evident in his lifelong service to various organizations such as local freedom schools, boys clubs, and community resource centers.

As an alumni of OWU, Pete has worked to continue the impact he started in his undergraduate career. He helped found the OWU Black Alumni Network, along with others allowing Black alumni to participate in large events, present scholarships, and engage in workshops. Furthermore, he served on the Alumni Board of Directors from 1993 to 1999. As the new House of Black Culture was being discussed and renovated, Pete served as the co-chair of the respective committee to ensure future Black students were able to enjoy this space. All of his dedication led him to receiving a Leadership Award from SUBA. Additionally, the Smith Family was recognized by the Association of Black Psychologists with the "Strong Black Family Award".

For his past and present support of his alma mater, and his work to preserve the history of the House of Black Culture and other important Black spaces on campus, the Alumni Board is pleased to present Pete with the Alumni Award.