

Alumni Award

Kathe Law Rhinesmith

Class of 1964

It is a pleasure to honor Kathleen Law Rhinesmith with this 2014 Alumni Award for outstanding dedication and service to Ohio Wesleyan. A Kappa Alpha Theta at Ohio Wesleyan, Kathe began her extensive career in nonprofit volunteerism by being actively involved with activities in the Office of the Chaplain.

After graduation, Kathe earned a Master of Arts in Teaching at the University of Pittsburgh. She taught history and social studies in suburban Pittsburgh before moving to New England with her husband, Steve.

Kathe began her career with New Options Programs, an early provider of career counseling and training for women entering the workforce. From 1979 to 1986 she conducted training programs for women in trade and professional organizations throughout the United States and Canada.

In 1986 she became Vice President for Membership and Education of the American Society of Corporate Secretaries and Corporate Counsel and earned her qualification as a Certified Association Executive from the American Society of Association Executives. In 1991, she became Executive Director of Wainright House, an educational conference center in Rye, New York.

Kathe's service to Ohio Wesleyan is particularly noteworthy. She was a member of the Alumni Board of Directors for nine years and is a past president of that board. Moving on to the Ohio Wesleyan Board of Trustees in 1999, she rose to the position of Chair of the Board and is now a Life Member. She chaired the Presidential Search Committee in 2004. Kathe is a co-founder of the OWU Cape and the Islands Alumni Chapter, which holds the biennial OWU Cape Cod Clambake for alumni and friends. Kathe has served as an Alumni-Admissions representative, an annual giving class chair, a career services volunteer, and has been a member of the President's Circle. Over the years, Kathe has been instrumental in gathering together Glee Club and Glee-ettes Alumni for their affinity reunions. This year, she serves a co-chair of the Class of 1964 Golden Key Reunion planning committee.

A resident of Chatham, Massachusetts, since 1991, Kathe was Chair of the Board of Hope Hospice for Cape Cod and Islands. She has most recently served as Chair of its Advisory Board, and was also Board Chair of the Chatham Creative Arts Center and a member of the Board of the Cape Cod Foundation.

Kathe's current passion centers on building and educating people about the labyrinth, a meditative walking path with a 5,000-year history. She has been involved in the fundraising and building of two outdoor 11-circuit permanent labyrinths in Chatham and Naples, Florida. She currently serves as a Trustee of Naples United Church of Christ, where she also chairs its Labyrinth Ministry Committee.

Today, we join Kathe's reunioning classmates in saluting and thanking her for her exemplary service to Ohio Wesleyan University and to the communities in which she lives.

May 17, 2014

