

Honorary Alumnus / Alumna

David O. Robbins

With friendship, affection and the deepest regard, we extend to you, David Robbins, the designation of honorary alumnus of Ohio Wesleyan University.

This act makes “Official” your close relationship with Ohio Wesleyan that began when you joined our teaching and research ranks in 1973.

Since joining the Ohio Wesleyan faculty as a psychology professor, you have become integral to our community. Working with your students, you explored the mysteries of the nervous system to show how our brain influences almost every aspect of our behavior. In 1980 you received the Sherwood Dodge Shankland Award for the Encouragement of Teachers and in 1994 the Bishop Herbert Welch Meritorious Teaching Award. In 1998 you were named the Homer C. Lucas University Professor. Not only were you department chair of psychology for over 20 years, but you have served as director of the Neuroscience Program, coordinator of the OWU Early Childhood Center, and director of the Summer Science Research Program. More importantly, you and your wife Jan annually opened up your home to host the long-running end of the year Psychology Department picnic, with you supplying the ever important brain jell-o mold.

You took on a new challenge when you were appointed Interim Provost in 2005, later being named as Provost after a national search. Not only an officer of the University and leader of the faculty, you oversee the areas of academic affairs, registration, athletics, student affairs, libraries and information systems, and Upward Bound.

In 2007 you further demonstrated your dedication to Ohio Wesleyan when you accepted the mantle of Interim President. You willingly jumped right in and instead of just maintaining the Office of the Presidency, you pushed the envelope, paving the path for our next president, Dr. Rock Jones. You balanced your positions as Provost and Interim President simultaneously, along with the help of your devoted staff. You tirelessly traversed the country with Alumni Relations and Development staff, assisted in further progressing the Remembering Mr. Rickey, Ross Museum, and Lilly campaigns, prepared for the upcoming Higher Learning Commission accreditation, and helped drive the new initiative for wireless internet access throughout Ohio Wesleyan’s campus.

In a *Connect2OWU* article you said, “I’ve come to really love OWU as if it were *my* alma mater. Ohio Wesleyan is an integral part of my life, it is my home, and I want to do all that is in my power to see it succeed.” Dr. Robbins, thank you for your 34 years of commitment to Ohio Wesleyan, its mission, and its people.

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

17 May 2008

