

Honorary Alumnus / Alumna

Elizabeth “Libby” Ross

It is with great pleasure that Ohio Wesleyan honors Elizabeth “Libby” Ross as an Honorary Alumna in recognition of her exceptional service to the University. A graduate of the College of Education at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Libby has been an involved and generous advocate for Ohio Wesleyan and its students. She took a lively and visionary interest in the University’s plans for a renovated and expanded art museum, and then she took action providing the support required to bring the project to fruition. The Richard M. Ross Art Museum is named in honor of her late husband, who was an accomplished photographer and patron of the arts. She then served the University as an inaugural member of the board of the museum and continues today in that role. Libby is also a distinguished member of Ohio Wesleyan’s Founders’ Circle.

Libby has followed her passions by providing significant personal and philanthropic support to the educational, health care, and arts landscape of Central Ohio and eastern Florida. Locally, she was one of the first female members to serve on the board of the Columbus Museum of Art and became its first female board chair. She was a founding trustee of Pro Musica, remaining on its board for 17 years and serving as board chair in 1985 and 1986. She continues as a member of the organization’s Trustees Circle Advisory Board. She was part of the superb renovation of the Southern Theatre in Columbus, helping to transform it into one of Central Ohio’s most delightful arts venues.

Her involvement in health encompasses board membership at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and its foundation in Columbus, support for the Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital at The Ohio State University, the Ross Endowment for Medical Research and Education, the OSU Chair Fund in Cardiovascular Medicine, and the Ross Cancer Research Endowment, also at Ohio State. In addition, she has served as Co-Chair of the Board of Governors of the National Hospice Foundation.

Libby has provided input and assistance for organizations and projects as widely disparate as Trinity School for Ministry, Franklin University, the Richard M. Ross Chair in Management at the Max M. Fisher College of Business at Ohio State, the Wexner Center for the Arts, WOSU Public Television, and the M.S. Sofia Professorship in Arabic Studies.

She has received a variety of honors, including the Harrison M. Sayre Award given by the Columbus Foundation for distinguished philanthropic leadership.

Today Elizabeth adds another distinction to her long list of accolades—the 2010 Honorary Alumna Award. We join as a community in saluting, thanking, and applauding her for years of devoted service to Ohio Wesleyan University and as a valued member of the Ohio Wesleyan community.

October 9, 2010

