

Distinguished Achievement Citation

William J. Bair, Jr.

Class of 1949

Ohio Wesleyan is honored to bestow on Dr. William J. Bair, Jr., Class of 1949, the Distinguished Achievement Citation for his pioneering role in American studies of radioactive inhalation toxicology. These studies resulted in establishment of criteria for determining limits of exposure to radioactive particles in the workplace. They also contributed to medical knowledge concerning the relationship of lung cancer and inhalation of toxic materials.

Dr. Bair earned his B.A. in chemistry from Ohio Wesleyan and the first-ever Ph.D. in radiation biology at the University of Rochester in 1954.

Currently he is manager of the Environmental Health and Safety Research Program at Pacific Northwest Lab, operated by Battelle Memorial Institute. His work there involves supervising study of the relationships between toxic substances and the environment as well as the potential impact of nuclear and nonnuclear energy technologies on the environment and living organisms.

He has taken a leadership role in many national and international biomedical organizations and societies. He is the recipient of various scientific honors and awards and has several publications to his credit.

Dr. Bair is a sterling example of a scientist whose liberal arts background has enhanced his approach to technical problems. His perceptive handling of studies on the effects on nuclear and nonnuclear toxic substances on the earth and its inhabitants addresses issues which will have great impact on the ways in which humankind will wield current and future technology. Ohio Wesleyan is proud of this alumnus, to whom we and our descendants owe profound gratitude.

