

Alumni Award

Mary Poe Timmons

Class of 1922

With gratitude and profound affection, we present this Alumni Award to honor Mary Poe Timmons for more than eighty years of enduring service, devotion and loyalty to Ohio Wesleyan.

In 1914, Mary passed the high school entrance proficiency exam so that she could attend Van Wert High School – a 3 ½ mile buggy ride from home – with her brother, Dale. When Dale started at Ohio Wesleyan in 1918, Mary, then 15, was sent along to keep him company. In 1922, at age 19, she received her bachelor's degree with majors in chemistry and education and a minor in physics.

While at Ohio Wesleyan, Mary became an active member of the student body, participating in many organizations and activities on campus. These included membership in the Physics & Chemistry Club, the Twin W Club, the Physical Education Club, the Y.W.C.A. Cabinet and athenaeum, one of two large Literary Societies on campus for women.

After graduation, Mary began a long and rewarding journey of support for Ohio Wesleyan. As an alumna, she has served as a member of the Associates and is a member of the Tower Society. Mary has fondly been given the distinction of being the matriarch of one of Ohio Wesleyan's largest legacy families. Shortly after graduation, she married Donald Barnes Timmons, Ohio Wesleyan Class of 1922. The Timmons family tree can be traced back to 1858 at Ohio Wesleyan, with five generations of family members being a part of our college community. The long list of Timmons alumni include five sons: John '47, Richard '50, Robert '50, Frank '52 and James '61, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren and even (by marriage) a former University president, Thomas Wenzlau '50. More than 50 members of the Poe/Timmons family have attended Ohio Wesleyan- and Mary's love for and commitment to her alma mater helped them to find their way here.

Mary, however, was not content just to recruit her own family members. Over the years, she has spent countless hours talking to local high school students from her church about Ohio Wesleyan and ultimately recruiting them for her alma mater. Because of her enthusiasm and love for the school, countless freshmen have arrived at Ohio Wesleyan who, without her efforts, might have ended up spending their college years elsewhere or not have enjoyed a college experience, at all! All these legacies – both family and area high school students she has befriended – will insure Mary Poe Timmons' continued influence at Ohio Wesleyan for generations to come.

Throughout the years, Mary has been an enthusiastic participant in Alumni Weekend activities regardless of whether or not she was celebrating a reunion! During Tom Courtice's first Alumni Weekend as president, he invited her to ride with him in the golf cart leading the parade of classes. Mary has not relinquished this place of honor since! This weekend, Mary is celebrating her 80th reunion. Given the large legacy family, it is not surprising that eight of her immediate family members also are celebrating reunions the year.

It is with genuine affection, pride, and honor that we present this Alumni award to Mary Poe Timmons, Class of 1922 for her loyalty and service to Ohio Wesleyan. We applaud and salute her.

May 18, 2002

