

How To Be a Good Wesleyan Alumnus/a

It has been my tremendous pleasure to serve as chair of the Alumni Association for the last two years. Thanks to all of you who shared views, ideas, and e-mails with me. Having spent some time at Wesleyan recently, I offer a personal perspective on how to be a “good alumnus.” Please take what is useful and add your own thoughts.

DO

1. Keep in touch with people you knew from your days at Wesleyan. Use WesNet to track down that former roommate or classmate. The years fall away quickly when you reconnect with an old friend.

2. Be open to meeting new friends via the Wesleyan connection. Some of my best Wesleyan friends didn’t attend college with me (some didn’t even attend Wesleyan). The Parents Council is living proof of how an expanded definition of the Wesleyan community can add a lot of value.

3. Help Wesleyan remain an inclusive place. Wesleyan needs more students with a variety of backgrounds, interests and experiences that will help keep Wesleyan diverse and vibrant. Alumni must continue to strive to be part of a community that actively invites minority views to be heard. Seek out those students you know who will benefit from Wesleyan and encourage them to apply. Promote Wesleyan in places where people may not be familiar with the University. Put a Wesleyan sticker on your car.

4. Speak out on those Wesleyan issues that you feel strongly about. We have a

lifelong relationship with the University, and it works better when there is communication. We don’t always agree, but we always benefit from a considered discussion on an issue we hold dear. You might even learn something.

5. Talk to a student when you are next on campus. He or she will knock your socks off. Students today are better prepared, more focused and more qualified than ever. Also, look up that favorite professor. And don’t be surprised if he/she remembers you better than you expected.

6. Introduce yourself to Doug Bennet. Don’t be surprised if he listens to what you say.

7. Be generous to Wesleyan with your time and resources. Wesleyan needs your support, whatever your talents and ability to share. The legacy of a Wesleyan education is a precious gift, but one that needs a lot of care and feeding to be there for the next generation.

DON'T

1. Forget to vote for alumni-elected trustees. Participate in opportunities to shape Wesleyan when they are offered. And don’t forget to nominate your favorite faculty member for a Binswanger prize.

2. Wait for Wesleyan to ask you how you can help. True service doesn’t wait to be asked.

3. Get upset because Wesleyan today is not exactly the same as you remember it. Yes, times change, and my 12-year-old somehow prefers Good Charlotte to Steely Dan. I don’t understand it, but some things you just have to move beyond.

4. Put off checking out the *Argus* online: www.wesleyan.edu/argus/



5. Ever wear purple when Amherst or Williams plays Wesleyan. (There is an exception for those of you whose kids are on the opposing team—and we are sorry that they made the wrong choice.)

Mark Edmiston '65 is your newly elected chair and Nancy Stack '74 is the new vice chair of the Alumni Association. If you have items to add or delete from the

list above, e-mail them to me and I will pass them on to Mark and Nancy. See you at Homecoming.

Yours in red and black

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