

# Germer Named New University President

The Ottawa University Board of Trustees announced April 24th the election of Harold D. Germer as 15th President of the University. Germer will succeed Wilbur D. Wheaton, who retires June 30th, 1992.

Making the announcement was board chair James O'Dell of Brighton, Colorado. O'Dell explained the selection of the new President also implements a new organizational plan developed by the board over the past four years. The University President will oversee University-wide operations, planning, development, finance, board and alumni relations. Day to day operations of the Ottawa campus will become the responsibility of a campus Provost, parallel to the leadership already in place at OU's two centers in Kansas City and Phoenix.

"The committee completed a national search and I am personally excited about working with Hal Germer, and feel the transition can be made quickly and effectively," said O'Dell.

Marvin H. Wilson, M.D., of Topeka, Kansas, vice chair of the board and chair of the Presidential Search Committee, presented Germer's name to the board. "The search committee, which was composed of 6 trustees, 3 faculty members, the Alumni President, and one student reviewed approximately 60 applications over the last 9 months and we were pleased to recommend Hal to the Board of Trustees," stated Wilson. "We are extremely blessed to have such a multi-talented, dedicated, caring Christian guiding Ottawa University through the 20th and into the 21st century."

Germer has served as Executive



*New OU President and First Lady, Hal and Laura Germer.*

Vice President for the past two years, but his roots with Ottawa University go much deeper. From 1969 to 1973 he was Assistant Professor of Religion, and then Dean of the College from 1974 to 1977. In 1977 Germer moved to Phoenix, Arizona to establish the University's center there. He served as Dean in Phoenix until 1981.

As Executive Vice President Germer has been responsible for all off-campus adult programs, including supervision of the Provosts at Kansas City and Phoenix, and direction of the international degree completion program outreach to Hong Kong and Malaysia. These off-campus programs will enroll more than 5,500 students during the current academic year. He has also been responsible for long range planning and further development of off-campus programs, including undergraduate and graduate degree programs and specialized courses.

Before returning to Ottawa in December, 1989, Germer was Director of Collegiate Education Services with the American Baptist Board of Educational Ministries in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. As executive staff for the 15 member American Baptist Association of Colleges and Universities he provided services in program development, planning, institutional advancement, and constituency relations for administrators, trustees and faculty of member colleges and universities.

"The Ottawa University Presidency is very demanding because of the expanding scope of University programs and operations in recent years. It is essential that all parts of the University be supported and encouraged in accomplishing their best efforts on behalf of our students," stated Germer.

The President-elect praised outgoing President Wheaton and looked

to the future. "Dr. Wheaton brought greater financial stability, achieved growth, opened the international program, and substantially upgraded the physical plant. My major concerns will be stewardship of University resources, recognition and support to persons who help the University succeed in its mission, and taking advantage of opportunities to improve and expand our educational programs."

Germer graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, in 1957 with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity with honors from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Massachusetts in 1961. He then pursued doctoral studies in the history and philosophy of religion at Harvard University from 1961 through 1966. He received the Master of Humane Letters from OU in 1971 upon achieving tenure. He holds a Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*) from Alderson-Broadbent College in Philippi, West Virginia. Germer is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Sigma Alpha. He has been a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, a Rockefeller Doctoral Fellow and a Danforth Foundation Intern.

Germer is married to the former Laura Vaughan Smith, daughter of Luther Wesley Smith, American Baptist leader and founder of the American Baptist Assembly at Green Lake, Wisconsin. Since their return to Ottawa the Germers have been deeply involved in the life of the University, community, and First Baptist Church. Both are active American Baptists and children of American Baptist pastors. The Germers have three adult children — Paul (Scottsdale, Ariz.), John (St. Petersburg, Fla.) and Elizabeth (Liberty, Mo.).

## Aaron Copland Remembers Ottawa University In His Will



*While unpacking the Aaron Copland music, OU faculty members gather around the piano and begin singing one of Copland's classics. (Standing L to R) Dr. Stanley DeFries, Alice Jo DeFries, Thom Gouwens, Carl Bobbish (former faculty member), Dr. Byron Jensen, and Joyce Stuermer (sitting).*

Aaron Copland, Champion of American Music and "Dean of American Composers" made a generous gift in his will to the Ottawa University Music Department - a Mint Set of all his published musical compositions. These scores will be available to Ottawa University faculty and students for performance and study. Other schools receiving a similar gift are: Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth, Juilliard, Brown, Ohio State, Michigan, and New York University.

This bequest came as a result of a longtime friendship with Ottawa University begun in 1971 when OU held its first *Copland Festival*, which came on the heels of his appearance at the Kansas Music Educators Conference held at Kansas State. A second *Copland Festival* was held in 1976, highlighting his 75th birthday, and the featured orchestra was the Kansas City Philharmonic. Both festivals included chamber music concerts,

choral presentations, full orchestra concerts, and composer symposiums. In 1976 Copland was given an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Ottawa University, and he was made an Honorary Citizen of Kansas by then governor, Robert Bennett.

"Dr. Copland's two visits to Ottawa are very special memories for those of us who participated in the Festivals, and he did us great honor by naming Ottawa, the only midwestern University to be included in his will," stated longtime faculty member Dr. Stanley DeFries.

Dr. Copland was scheduled for a third festival but it was postponed for health reasons.

Copland was the creator of such American Classics as "Appalachian Spring"; "Lincoln Portrait"; "Billy the Kid"; "Fanfare for the Common Man"; operas, "The Tender Land"; The "Sonata for Piano"; and his "Third Symphony", just to name a few.