

# TAUUY TALK

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## From the Desk of the President

Robert E. Shaw

In Roman mythology there was a figure named Janus. His appearance was characterized by a profile with one face directed forward and a face on the other side of the head looking backward. It is this name that provides the root word for January, the first month of the year and a time to look back reflectively and forward expectantly. Having entered my second year as President of Ottawa University, this seems an appropriate posture in which to share some thoughts and observations with you.

To say the year has been a busy one is to make a vast understatement! In addition to the full schedule of appointments, meetings and responsibilities on campus, off-campus activity has included speaking in numerous church gatherings and nineteen alumni gatherings across the country, plus a number of professional meetings in behalf of the University. Another enjoyable part of the activity Marilyn and I shared in was hosting over 1700 people in the President's home in behalf of the University, including a lunch invitation to every campus student. In short, it has been an exciting, eventful year, a time of deepening relationships with staff, students, and constituencies. My admiration and appreciation for all three has grown with each passing month. There is deep quality and vast strength to be found; this gives confidence for the future.

We finished the year with an impressive day of Baccalaureate and Commencement services on May 20. Throughout the year, amid the usual flow of academic, athletic, music, drama, cultural and social happenings, morale and the O.U. Spirit climbed to high levels. We look forward to picking up this fall with that same level of enthusiasm and community.

We continue O.U.'s historic commitment to quality liberal arts education. Appropriate to an institution which seeks to keep its academic program fresh and responsive, we regularly examine our structures to assure that we are providing the best educational services possible. This year has seen us make several adjustments to the calendar and to schedule based on long careful study and full faculty involvement. Return to the semester plan (with many courses still offered for the intensive seven week period) is being well received. The "early semester" plan will place graduation next spring on May 11, thus allowing students a longer earning period in the summer. We are proud of our quality faculty and the service they give. We are committed to maintaining a solid academic program.

The year has seen a resurgence of involvement of our constituencies. What a privilege it has been to meet so many alumni across the country! Our Alumni are a vigorous, competent, exciting group, a high tribute to what Ottawa University has given to students down through the years. Our church constituency and the city of Ottawa likewise have shown new levels of enthusiastic support. We are immensely grateful for these strong ties which represent the life blood of the University in large part. I plan to continue deepening these ties.

Finances for the University have shown improvement in many ways. Internal budget controls are showing excellent results. Support sources show increases in a number of areas. Puzzling and disappointing, however, is the fact that alumni

giving is the area that is furthest behind for the fiscal year. We sincerely hope that response from alumni and friends by June 30 will bring this level back up and help us move toward reaching our financial goal of a balanced budget.

What about the future? It is a truism that to be healthy, a college needs friends, funds, and freshmen! I believe we have friends in abundance. Finances are going to continue to pressure us greatly due both to inflation and accumulated deficits. I can assure that we are doing everything possible in this regard internally. The major key, however, is still in the hands of our friends from whom financial support comes. If this support falters, the University will falter.

Thanks to all of you who support us, often generously and sacrificially, who enthusiastically encourage students to think about coming to Ottawa University, and who have so supportively welcomed me into the Presidency this year. The place of volunteers in O.U.'s future is going to loom larger and larger to tell the story, to encourage prospective students, and to strengthen our financial base. I feel that we can count on you.

God is moving in our midst in clear and strong ways. We look to His leadership and to your partnership as we strengthen Ottawa University's life and future as a caring Christian college providing a quality liberal arts academic program.

Keep us in your prayers. Our excellent Board of Trustees joins me in thanking you for your provision of friendship, funds and freshmen. I look forward to seeing you and hearing from you in our mutual love for and commitment to Ottawa University.

## Inauguration

Robert E. Shaw was inaugurated as sixteenth president of the University at impressive ceremonies in the University Chapel on the occasion of the 114th anniversary of Ottawa's chartering, April 21. The address was delivered by Dr. Daniel E. Weiss, president of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Eastern College, Philadelphia. Emphasizing the historic and mutually beneficial relationship of college and church, Mrs. Cora Sparrowk, president of the American Baptist Churches, USA, and Dr. Robert L. Roberts, executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, spoke during the ceremonies. Mrs. Reba Johnson '30, president of the ABCCR, led in the invocation. Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson '42, chairman of the Board of Trustees presided and gave the Charge of Office. Dr. O. Dean Nelson, president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary made the prayer of investiture. The students, faculty, alumni, and the City of Ottawa also were represented in the portion of the program for greetings and representatives from other institutions of higher education took part in the program.



Dr. Cora Sparrowk, president of the American Baptist Churches, USA, congratulated Dr. Robert E. Shaw while delegates were assembling for the presidential inauguration.

Cover picture:

President Shaw is shown with Dr. Roger Fredrikson in the Chapel chancel during the inaugural ceremony.