

Message from The President

Robert E. Shaw

I am constantly impressed with the vitality and quality of our Ottawa University "family". In this vast body I am including alumni and all those who have attended O.U., parents and families of present and former students, churches, citizens of Ottawa and Franklin County, and countless friends in many places, as well as those of us directly related to the campus and centers. I am discovering you increasingly as I speak in churches, at civic gatherings, and mingle with alumni groups across the country. As I sense the pulse of this vital and vigorous group, it is not surprising to me that we have shown such great resilience in our history as a University.

Keeping the University family in touch and informed is one of my highest priorities. I want to share with each of you in whatever ways possible about the story of the new day that is dawning in our midst here at O.U. It is an exciting and stimulating time, even amidst the serious challenges which we continue to meet as we move increasingly toward stability and new levels of strength.

Though our purpose in our 114 years of existence has changed but little, the shape of the educational process has undergone regular modifications. These changes are the mark of a healthy institution which seeks to be responsive to needed changes in light of student needs, public demand and the tenor of a particular time. Even amidst such change, we seek to be faithful to the mission and purpose of the University. The primary area of effort on behalf of our faculty during these recent months has been finalizing a new calendar for 1979-80. The new flexible calendar has immense benefits for the students as well as the University. The calendar will allow the continuance of intensive courses as well as courses needing longer periods such as a semester for the best learning experience. I'm very pleased with our faculty. Their professionalism is joined by their deep commitment to the University; their personal concern for students is a source of inspiration and stimulation. Students have opportunity to know something of the meaning of the University purpose as expressed through their examples.

A recent visitor to our campus noted the high level of morale of our students. We rejoice in this, for it indicated something of the good experience that students are finding in being part of Ottawa University. A recent in-depth survey conducted by our Resident Life Director, Fred Worsfold, gave statistical validation to this observation. We are proud of our student body and rejoice that they are having a sense of pride in who they are and in what Ottawa University is all about. Students come to us from all parts of the country and from many countries in the world. This provides an unusual opportunity for a student to experience a cross-section of our world today. Current events come alive as there is opportunity to discuss with Iranian students the meaning of the recent events in Iran. The same experience can be known with students from Central America, Europe, Asia, other countries of the Middle East and Africa as we are a cross section of our world. We also have healthy representation from different parts of the country and from many Christian denominations as well as a number of non-Christian religions. All of this makes for a campus that has a potential of being alive with meaning and filled with potential for learning, growth, and maturity.

The fact that these students are here is a tribute in the first instance to our excellent staff of Admissions Counselors. A further strong influence is the host of friends, alumni, and pastors who have made such strong response in supplying

us with lists of names of students they would like to see us contact in behalf of Ottawa University. Students are the reason why we exist and they are also the life blood of our institution. Help us to know names of those who ought to have the privilege of sharing in the life of Ottawa University!

Were you to be on the campus these days, you would note that we are well along in the improvements mandated by the Kansas Fire Marshall. Also you would see the steel skeleton frame of the new recreation building made possible by the meeting of the Mabee Foundation challenge last year. To all who shared in this experience, we extend again our hearty thanks.

We are making rapid strides toward a balanced budget. Even as we make these strides, it is not an indication that we are not in need of your continued stable and generous support. This year during which we are seeing so many good things happen here on campus, we will be enabled to see those good things happen only because we have continued to experience your generosity and your helpfulness. We trust that increasingly our expanding host of friends will take their places as those who regularly and faithfully undergird the important work here at Ottawa University, sensing the mission that is inherent in our purpose as an extension of the church. It was a genuine expression of love and commitment when many persons responded to the special emergency call of last year. It is also a very special kind of love and commitment that continues to be faithful and dependable in ways that make possible stabilization and strength.

The Resources Committee of our Board of Trustees has vigorous plans for the financial base of the University, including the rapid build-up of the Endowment Fund. Whether your giving is to the regular Annual Fund or to sources like the Endowment Fund, it will all contribute to strengthening our fulfillment of our mission as a liberal arts college in providing an education in the atmosphere of the Christian faith and values with a prime concern for each individual. This provides a unique blend found in only a few educational institutions.

I have a deep commitment to Ottawa University and a deep sense of confidence that as you and I and others join hands of support through finances, encouragement of students, prayers and speaking a good word for O.U. wherever we can, that we shall see a new day come to pass. It is obvious that one person does not bring in this new day nor does a staff of competent people. The new day comes when all of the human, financial, and spiritual resources of those of us on campus and at our Centers in Phoenix and Kansas City are joined by the dependable presence and support of you who are in our network of friends across the country and around the world.

I sincerely hope you have opportunity to visit the campus. Give me the privilege of showing you around and sharing some times of friendship with you. I thank God for each one of you who are a very real part of that team. Together we are going to win! You are a partner in the mission of O.U.