

# Germer returns 'home' to Ottawa

In light of Ottawa University's continued expansion into the field of non-traditional educational programs, OU President Wilbur Wheaton announced the hiring of Harold D. "Hal" Germer into a new position of Executive Vice President.

Germer, who has most recently been the Director of Collegiate Education Services for the American Baptist Board of Education and Publication in Valley Forge, Penn., brings a wealth of experience and an understanding of Ottawa University to the new post. He was the founding chief administrative and academic officer of OU's Phoenix, Ariz., Center from 1977 to 1981. Prior to that, he was at the Ottawa main campus, first as assistant professor of religion from 1969 to 1973 and then as Dean of the College from 1974 to 1977.

As Executive Vice President, Germer will be in charge of all non-traditional education for the University. In that capacity, he will be responsible for long-range planning and development of off-campus programs including the graduate programs, degree undergraduate programs and non-degree programs. That will include direct supervision of provosts of OU Phoenix and OU Kansas City Centers and overall direction of the international programs in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Germer will also be responsible for research and development of new opportunities for non-traditional education both on and off campus. New programs will include the development functions of fund raising and alumni relations for center graduates. He will also give direction to University-wide functions in planning and marketing. Wheaton believes Germer is the perfect person for the new position.

"We are especially pleased to have Hal Germer in this new position of Executive Vice President. His knowledge and experience in higher education, non-traditional curriculum and in the Ottawa University program make him an exceptional choice in filling this position," Wheaton said. "He



Hal Germer

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also has a long relationship with our church and denominational leadership especially related to higher education."

For the past eight years, Germer has been the executive for the 15-member American Baptist Association of Colleges and Universities. He provided consulting services to administrators, trustees and faculty in the areas of long-range planning, program development, presidential selection, institutional advancement and constituency relations. Also, he implemented and coordinated visiting scholar programs, student exchanges and other programs shared by member colleges.

Other duties Germer has had are planning and writing successful proposals for institutional support, student aid and recruitment of professional church leaders. He was also involved with writing and

collaboration in publishing interpretive materials on colleges and college programs. These are all in addition to the experience he gained while on the Ottawa University faculty from 1969 through 1981, both at the main campus and at the Phoenix Center.

Germer and his wife, Laura, are both excited about returning to Ottawa where they spent eight years. During that time, their children, Paul, John and Elizabeth, spent many of their formative years. The Germers still have many fond memories of the Ottawa community and university and are looking forward to more.

"It is a very familiar place to both of us," Germer said. "Laura and I know Ottawa well and have deep respect for the mission of the University and her people. We are excited to be, again, a part of that mission and that community."

Germer graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, in 1957 with a bachelor of arts with honors in philosophy. He gained bachelor of divinity/master of divinity with honors at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Mass., in 1961. He did doctoral studies in religion at Harvard University's graduate school of arts and sciences from 1961 through 1966. He was also granted an honorary masters of humane letters from OU in 1971 upon achieving faculty tenure. He also holds an honorary doctor of education degree from Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi, West Virginia.

Germer and his wife moved to Ottawa in December. He began his duties at Ottawa University Dec. 18. The couple looks forward to again being a part of the community and University, but also have great anticipation about involvement with the First Baptist Church here. He said they have been actively involved in the life of local American Baptist Churches where ever they have lived.

That involvement comes from a long history for the Germers. Both of their fathers were American Baptist pastors.