

## — Cover Story —

Dr. Wilbur D. Wheaton, who was inaugurated the President of Ottawa University on April 12th, 1984, is the first OU graduate to assume the responsibilities of this office. His intense commitment to OU coupled with his educational and administrative experience gave rise to the demonstrated joy and expectation expressed on the faces of those attending the inaugural ceremony and the events of the weekend that followed.

Inauguration day began with a luncheon for all visiting dignitaries and

## Inauguration

presidential guests. Dean Peter Sandstrom welcomed the guests to the campus and the days activities. Dr. Margret Prine, president of the American Baptist Churches/USA was the guest speaker to the assembly that was gathered upstairs in the Mowbray Union.

At 2:00 p.m., on the sunny Thursday afternoon, the delegates, trustees, members of the Chancel Party, faculty, staff, students, guests and visitors gathered in the chapel for the inaugural convocation. Dr. Ramon Schmidt,

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chairman of the Board, presided.

The inaugural charge was delivered in three parts. Dr. Owen Halleen, President of Sioux Falls College, Sioux Fall, SD, spoke on the university's responsibility to academia. Dr. Roger Fredrikson, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wichita, KS, spoke on the responsibility of the university to its affiliation with the church, in particular, the American Baptist Churches/USA.



*Above Left: Marshall Bill Boucek leads the procession to the Chapel for the inauguration. Left: OU Phoenix Dean, Rev. Fred Zook, Dr. Wheaton and his father, Marion Wheaton, on their way to Myers Library to line up for the processional. Above: Dr. Wheaton delivers his inaugural address.*

Photos by Wes Wilson/Ottawa Herald.



And Rev. Marion Wheaton, retired American Baptist pastor and father of Dr. Wheaton, spoke on the importance of the family: his and the Ottawa University "family." Dr. Schmidt then lead in the investiture of President Wheaton. Rev. Fred Thompson gave the inaugural prayer.

President Wheaton delivered his inaugural address. He spoke of the heritage of the institution and the

people who played important roles in bringing the university to where it is today: the students, faculty, trustees and the previous presidents. He recognized the challenge of the university's future: "to hold strong to our mission as a quality liberal arts academic institution, to maintain our covenant relationship to the American Baptist Churches, and to live and function in a way that lets us be a true

*Above: Rev. Fred Thompson '54, Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region closes the investiture with prayer.*

*Below Left: Dr. Joe Henning '57, brother of Ellen Ann Wheaton '54, sings the solo part of Seek Ye the Lord with the University Choir under the direction of Dr. Stanley DeFries '51.*



family, enjoying a oneness, a compassion for each other and a concern for our fellow beings whether here or afar."

He went on to speak of the ingredients for the success of Ottawa University and how neccessary it is for all who are a part of the college to work together for its future and in closing Dr. Wheaton said, "for together we will succeed. We can do no more — with the help of God we shall do no less."

Following the inaugural ceremony a reception was held in the main dining room of the Mowbray Union. This ended an important day in the history of Ottawa University. ■