

From the President

This annual report is one of the real challenges I face as I attempt to capsule a full year into a few words. Not only do I offer you the facts and figures, but also I try to relay the spirit of the University with all its complexities and feelings. First, let us talk about people — after all, that's what OU is all about. This fall we are pleased to welcome five new faculty, a new librarian and assistant, and numerous new staff members (see *New Faces on Campus* in the *Tauy Talk* pages). These new people bring new ideas, fresh views, and an air of excitement which permeates our entire campus community.

The other part of our people story is, of course, our student body. This fall we watched with excitement as our campus enrollment escalated to 528 students, the first time since 1980 that enrollment has exceeded 500 students! We also are enjoying increased participation at both the Kansas City and Phoenix Centers. The Centers now offer a master's in human resources in their degree programs and we expect to graduate the first master's candidates this coming spring. This will be a significant historical moment for the University, having been a baccalaureate degree-granting institution for the past 124 years. Degree completion programs for working adults have become a very important facet of contemporary higher education and OU can take pride in its early entry into the adult education arena and the development of its quality programs to meet the needs of adult learners.

A number of improvements are being made to the University's physical plant: not only are we doing considerable repair and renovation on the Ottawa campus, but we expanded our classroom and office space at the Phoenix Center and presently we are finalizing expansion plans for the Kansas City Center.

To name just a few of the campus projects, Martin Hall and Ward Science Hall have been removed from the old central heating plant and now contain their own energy-efficient heating

systems. In Mowbray Union, a new air conditioning system was installed to replace the worn out energy-hungry system and a new roof is being installed over the cafeteria. Wilson Field House recently received a new playing floor and new equipment for KTJO-FM, the campus radio station, is arriving. While frequency and licensing negotiations continue with the Federal Communications Commission, it should be only a few weeks until students are able to utilize the new equipment as an active learning station in preparation for KTJO's return to the airwaves. The station itself has been moved from Tauy Jones Hall to Behan Hall, which has both environmental and aesthetic benefits.

It has been a good year fiscally as well. A seventh consecutive balanced operational budget was due in large part to the loyal and generous support we have received from our many constituents. The largest single gifts to the University, understandably, are those received from bequests and consummated annuities. All gift income, designated and undesignated, is acknowledged with deep appreciation.

Endowed scholarships this past year have significantly increased the amount of financial assistance available to worthy students. Bequests, consummated annuity contracts, and memorials were included in the gifts which helped provide these funds.

The *Heritage of Faith* church program was extended to the Rocky Mountain Region this past spring and we just now are completing congregation visitations. Now, as we enter with great expectancy into the final year of our national *Heritage of Faith* campaign, we intend to reach our goal and we believe that those funds will vault Ottawa University from a position of stability to a progressive stance. And, in addition, we expect all of those who have participated in this *Heritage of Faith* campaign to celebrate the real joy and sense of accomplishment which comes from charitable giving. Yes, charitable contributions benefit not only the recipient, but the donor as well.

Thanks to each of you the Ottawa Spirit is alive — the feelings are good and the accomplishments are visible. Please accept my warm and heartfelt appreciation on behalf of our Alma Mater, which we all serve.

Wilbur D. Wheaton
Wilbur D. Wheaton, President

