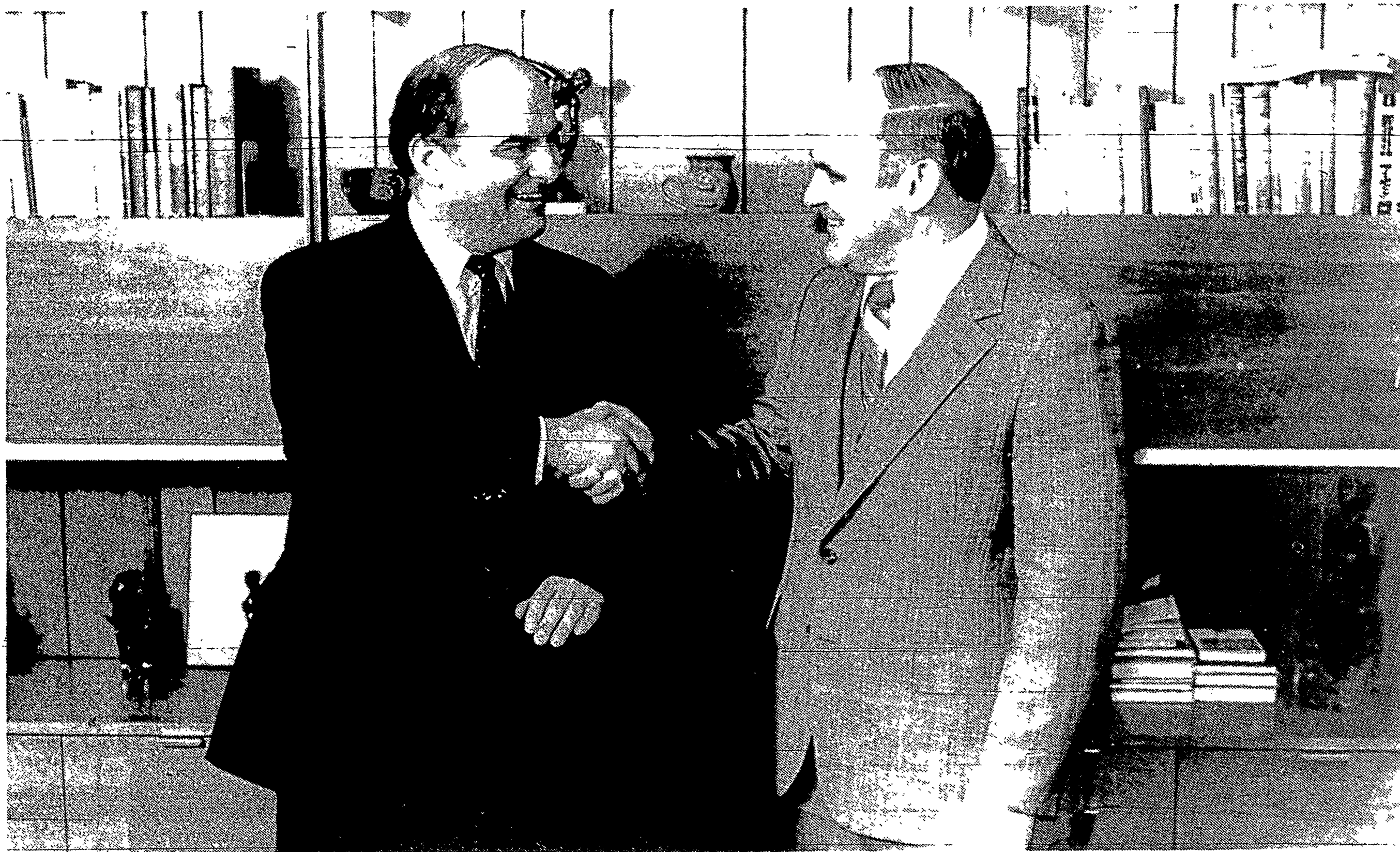


A New Year — 1983 — A New President



Dr. Robert Shaw welcomes Dr. Wheaton to his new office at the university.

On Thursday, January 13, 1983, history was made at Ottawa University. At a 9 p.m. scheduled service in the University Chapel, Dr. Roger Fredrikson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, announced to a good sized crowd of students, faculty, staff, and loyal OU supporters, that Dr. Wilbur D. Wheaton had just been approved as the 14th President of the University.

Dr. Wheaton replaces President Shaw who resigned this past Fall to return to a work closer to the American Baptist Churches. Dr. Shaw, who was in his fifth year as President of the University, is credited with effectively reestablishing the University's ties with the American Baptist Churches and reviving what we know as the "OU Spirit." Students and alumni especially appreciated his enthusiasm and love for OU and its people. We appreciate the years of dedicated service the Shaws have given to OU.

Not only does the University have a new leader, but Dr. Wheaton becomes the first OU graduate to be President of the University. He and his wife, the former Ellen Ann Henning of Ottawa, Kansas, are both graduates of the class of '54.

"It's exciting," stated Dr. Wheaton, "to have the opportunity to work with people that I've worked with for many many years — especially the OU alumni. I also look forward to supporting the mission which so many of us have found to be extremely important in our lives. Ellen Ann and I look at Ottawa University as being one of the single most important factors in what we have become. The OU Spirit is the foundation of what we got at OU, that is, an attitude toward life which was developed around strong academic preparation within a Christian community."

President Wheaton has demonstrated his commitment to OU by his loyal support, particularly with his involvement in the Frank J. White Alumni Chapter in southern California. Ellen Ann is currently the President of that Chapter and maintains their class letter. He is also a past President of the OU Alumni Association.

President Wheaton is currently the District Superintendent of the Central Unified School District in Fresno, California. His experience in educational management and his commitment to OU and the American Baptist churches made

him the most qualified candidate. After graduating from OU the Wheatons lived in Ottawa while President Wheaton attended the University of Kansas. He completed his Masters of Education at KU receiving a degree in Educational Administration with a minor in Guidance and Counseling. He obtained his Doctorate at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, in Administration and Supervision with a minor in Educational Guidance.

President Wheaton's experiences range from beginning his educational career as a high school mathematics teacher in Wichita, Kansas to his present position, which he has held at two locations in California over the last 13 years. He is also a lecturer at several west coast colleges including: Pepperdine College, California Polytechnic University, Chapman College, University of California at Santa Barbara, and the University of Southern California.

Dr. Roger Fredrikson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, stated, "I believe it was the prayers of many close to the University that brought the

Wheatons to us. Wilbur communicated to us in the beginning that he could not be a candidate because of his recent appointment as District Superintendent in Fresno. But after prayerful consideration, and much thought, Wilbur and Ellen Ann concluded that they were being called to serve." Fredrikson recently stated his confidence in the Presidential Search committee, and its chairman, Ransom Bennett of Ottawa, and commended them for a job well done.

President Wheaton sees that the major challenges he faces at OU are to increase the student body, upgrade the facilities and services, and obtain fiscal stability — all toward the continued goal of making OU a viable educational institution.

Dr. Wheaton assumed the office of President as of 9:00 p.m. Thursday, January 13th, and Dr. Shaw will work closely with him during this transition period. Until he is freed from his obligation in California, President Wheaton will plan to visit the campus three to four times for periods of four to five days. President Wheaton should be free to work full time on campus after





June 30th. Until then, he will handle University matters from the west coast and delegate some of his duties to the appropriate University staff.

The Wheatons have two daughters and a son, all of whom are married. They're also very proud of their grandchild.

During his college years at OU, President Wheaton played football with the OU Braves as an offensive guard. In his sophomore year, he received NAIA Honorable Mention and was All-Conference in his junior year. Academically, President Wheaton was a top student, majoring in math. He was also a member of the Student Council and participated in the All-School play.

President Wheaton's parents live in Hutchinson, Kansas. His father is a retired

American Baptist Minister who spends much of his time speaking in area churches.

Ellen Ann, who was raised in Ottawa, graduated from OU with a major in music. She was a member of both the University Concert Choir and the String Quartet. She was listed in **Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities** in 1954. Her parents, the late Dr. J. R. and Dorothy Henning, were respected Ottawans. Her father was a local M.D. and her mother taught piano at OU and was the organist for the Methodist Church.

In his recent visit to the Ottawa Campus, President Wheaton reminisced about his courtship to Ellen Ann. He recalled their first date in which he was invited to her house for waffles. Their second date was a sledding party at which Dr. Wheaton broke his leg while riding on a sled. Dr. Wheaton fondly remembers Dr. Henning, who tended his injury, giving him two choices: either pay the bill, or marry his daughter. The Wheatons were married in their senior year at OU.

The Wheatons are looking forward to coming "home" to OU. We welcome them with open arms. ■

