

Ottawa University Kansas City Center

Dr. James Billick, Dean of Ottawa University Kansas City, is proud that nearly 1100 adult students since 1974 have been enabled to realize life goals while engaged in the full-time business of wage earning and family responsibility.

Dean Billick stresses that the OUKC program does not simply offer courses at hours convenient to adult learners; rather it incorporates elements responsive to a wide range of their needs — from the initial analysis and validation of the student's prior learning to a final project which combines theory and practice to problems of significance to business community organizations.

Dean Billick takes special pride in the members of the OUKC faculty, which are trained and committed to assist students in putting together program combinations to meet the individual needs of adults. Some of the area's most highly qualified and experienced persons in business and the professions serve as adjunct faculty.

Dean Billick, himself, has a Ph.D. with graduate studies in Public and International Affairs, Public Administration, Politics and the Administration of Developing Areas. In prior experience, he served a University of Pittsburgh-Harvard University project of technical assistance in public administration to the government of Malaysia. In 1973-74 he was coordinator of a Political Science Group for the Kansas City Regional Council for Higher Education, a consortium of colleges and universities in the Kansas City Region.

On campus at Ottawa Dr. Billick was Associate Professor of Political Science.

Neil S. Harris, Ph.D., former Chairman of the English Department on campus, finds that his teaching experience with students 18-21 and with adult students at OUKC is radically different.

He sees the adult student seeking degree completion at Ottawa University Kansas City as an "exciting person with accessible experiences." For him, the approach to the adult student is a juxtaposition of theory and experience, immediate application instead of deferred experience.

The Associate Professor of English says OUKC students are "real people" who have lead full lives and who are acquainted first hand with the joys and pains of maturity.

"These are students I am learning from," he acknowledges.

For the past eight years Dr. Harris also has been co-administrator with OUKC Dean James Billick of Ottawa University's graduate programs for in-service teachers. The programs attract about 500 teachers annually to as many as 18 different courses.

After earning a B.A. degree in English Literature from Kalamazoo College in Michigan, Harris attended graduate school at the University of Michigan and received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English Literature. He was a Teaching Fellow at Michigan and also served as an instructor in the English Department at Kalamazoo before joining the Ottawa faculty.

Dr. Harris has served as a consultant for Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia, Mid-America Nazarene College, and with St. Catherine's College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

He was Program Evaluator for the Missouri Committee for the Humanities and was editor of *Pedagogue*, a journal of teaching innovation and curricular within Kansas City Regional Council member schools.

W.A. (Gus) Breyspraak, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy, has found that theological discipline contributes more to liberal arts than to a special



Standing: Neil S. Harris, Ph.D.; L to R: Dean James Billick; William Kloster, M.M.; Michael A. Sancho, Ph.D.; Karen L. Mitchell, M.A.; W.A. (Gus) Breyspraak, Ph.D.; and James E. Voelker, Jr., M.A.