

The Ottawa University Alumni Association
Presents the 2005
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

To
Dr. Roger L. Fredrikson
Class of 1942



Field of Accomplishment: Community Ministry and University Support

Dr. Roger Fredrikson, OU Class of 1942, is perhaps the most influential person in the past sixty years in the life of Ottawa University. Since this period spans almost 45 percent of the University's history, his influence is significant.

Dr. Fredrikson began representing OU immediately following graduation by recruiting students and visiting camps. After seminary, he returned to Ottawa as a teacher of Religion and was greatly admired by the students – many of whom will identify him as their most influential and beloved teacher.

After becoming Pastor of First Baptist Church in Ottawa, Dr. Fredrikson worked closely with the College and continued to be active in hosting students in his home and counseling them through their difficult times. He performed many weddings of OU students. During his tenure with First Baptist, Dr. Fredrikson was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Ottawa University.

Dr. Fredrikson is a longtime member of the OU Board of Trustees and was chairman for several years. He is a leader on the board and is highly regarded, carefully listened to, and has spearheaded several innovations for academic and student service programs. He recently led the committee to rewrite the University's Mission Statement – an experience which he found to be quite meaningful. In addition, for the past seven years Roger has been instrumental in programming and leading the popular and unique "Adventures in Faith" activities at The College.

At all times, Roger has been a healer. Many conflicts were solved early because of his skills. His caring attitude was winsome as he led the board through many difficulties. His strong influence has been of great value to the University's continued positive relationship with the American Baptist Churches. Dr. Fredrickson was the national president of the American Baptist Churches in 1970-71.

Roger and his late wife Ruth have dearly loved Ottawa University. He was the board chairman when Wilbur and Ellen Ann Wheaton were appointed as President and First Lady in January 1983. Those first years were very trying times for the Wheatons and they believe they succeeded only because of Roger's sensitive and wise counsel. He patiently let them develop solutions which he strongly supported, including establishing the [then] controversial International program, and directed the board into a healthy and secure future even after he relinquished the chair.

For his lifelong support of Ottawa University and his steadfast, successful efforts in creating Christ-centered communities of grace wherever he has gone, Dr. Fredrickson is awarded the OUAA's prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award.

Outstanding Achievement Award

This new award, established in 2005, is designed to recognize those who have made their mark and made a difference in their chosen field of endeavor. Recipients will, over time, constitute OU's "hall of fame" and their life stories will help demonstrate what one can do with an OU education. The OUAA Board notes that the large number of awards being presented this first year should not be interpreted as diluting the importance of the recognition. With over 18,000 living alumni, the Board wanted this inaugural class to help demonstrate the scope and intent of the award. The number of awards given annually is expected to decrease in coming years.