



Hawk bows out

'Jack-of-all-trades' calls it quits after three decades at University

When Ray Hawk talks about his career, it is with a satisfied smile and an air of contentment that comes with 32 years at the University.

Hawk, who retires as vice president for administration at the end of the month, looks forward to spending time with his wife and a few seagulls at his cabin on the Oregon coast.

But Hawk won't just putter around the house. The man who grimaces at the idea of spending retirement time on Florida's sunny beaches will work as a volunteer in the University relations office.

"Looking back on the length of time, it doesn't seem like that long, but it's just gone swish," Hawk says. "I'm now convinced, as I suppose most historians are, that life is cyclical.

"As I look back on it, I don't think there's any doubt in my mind that the decade of the 1950s was the most enjoyable one in terms of my professional relationships."

Hawk talks about each of the past four decades as if they were yesterday. He seems enchanted with the fifties and as disillusioned with the students of the sixties as they were with the administration he worked in.

In the early forties the University was still a small school, ballooning after World War II to 7,000 students but settling to about 5,000 as the fifties approached.

"These I call happy times," Hawk says. "We were in a growth cycle, things were faring quite well, the students were a carefree lot."

Hawk says students of the fifties were more inclined to be involved in group activities such as sororities and fraternities.

"They really had a good time, they knew how to smile, they knew how to laugh, they didn't take life as seriously as some of those who followed."

Those who followed, the students of the sixties, were too serious, too intent upon carrying the weight of all the world's problems on their shoulders, he says.

"It was really kind of tragic, life gets serious too quick," Hawk says. "I can't think of a time when a blithe spirit can be more blithe than in college.

"You'd walk across campus and there were people with hang-dog expressions. If you said 'hello,' it was questionable whether or not they were going to answer.

"I think it destroyed a generation of people, in the sense of keeping things in perspective. Today, those same people look back and think they didn't have a hell of a lot of influence in the things they were trying to do."

Hawk says he feels the students of the eighties are somewhat like those of the fifties, with one exception.

"Students come (to the University) with a much more positive attitude. It's great to go to a student meeting and hear laughter," Hawk says. But he has an addendum: "I am convinced students are more serious about their purposes in coming to college now.

"That's why I say it's cyclical," Hawk says. "I've lived here long enough to see those cycles change."

Hawk's reminiscence centers around the students. As dean of men from 1950-64 (including a one-year break to study under a Carnegie Fellowship),

Hawk worked directly with the students. From his post as dean, Hawk went on to a position as assistant to Pres. Arthur Flemming. Hawk even had a stint as acting president when Charles Johnson died in a car wreck in the summer of 1969.

"I suppose I'm one of the few people who've made a professional career at one institution and still climbed the administrative ladder. Normally you have to be mobile," Hawk says.

For the past 11 years, Hawk has acted as vice-president for administration. He says his job is a jack-of-all-trades position.

Hawk calls it "playing the role of quarterback.

"I have, for many years, been given the role of institutional troubleshooter and that really transcends a whole lot of areas," Hawk says.

Hawk handles the administrative functions of the University, the athletic department and until recently, the museums. "I find the problem solving, whether it be budget or people problems or arbitration, whatever, enjoyable."

The one thing Hawk enjoys most about his job, coming into work every day and not knowing specifically what he'll face, is also the thing Hawk looks forward to missing.

"One thing that will be so great is to feel unstructured. Even though I say I don't know what is coming every day, and enjoy that, I do have a certain schedule."

Hawk was born in a small southern Oregon logging town, Butte Falls. He finished high school at Ashland and spent three years at Southern Oregon State College before finishing his bachelor's degree at the University.

"I was a country boy from Oregon," Hawk says with a playful twang. "I was so typical of my generation, you didn't move very much — and if you were raised in an area like that, you maybe moved your horizons out a little bit."

"Then along came Uncle Sam and my . . . that did change things," Hawk says. The 23-year-old Hawk lost his self-given title of country boy when he signed for a hitch.

"I was very fortunate," he says. "Being in the right place at the right time." Hawk wound up serving in Europe, not on the front line, but in U.S. Air Force headquarters at Paris, France.

"For me it was like bringing me out of a cocoon," he says. "I would never have had that opportunity had I come (to the University) straight out of high school."

The Air Force meant enough to Hawk that he spent some of his time volunteering to help as a liaison for the academy. He was also active in the reserves but has since retired — with the title colonel.

"It's heresy to say, but I suspect the military

Ray Hawk Award becomes official

A new award for the outstanding senior at the University has been named after Ray Hawk, the retiring vice president for administration and finance.

The Ray Hawk Award will be a perpetual trophy engraved with the name of each year's recipient. The winner will also receive a certificate of award.

The idea for the award came from the committee which planned a retirement dinner for Hawk, says Bob Bowlin, dean of students. The committee wanted to honor Hawk for 32 years of service to the University.

"This is particularly symbolic because of Hawk's many years spent working extensively with students," Bowlin says. "Since he was also involved in the selection of outstanding juniors for awards given during his time with the University, the award seemed a natural way of honoring him."

Hawk served as dean of men for 14 years, from 1950 to 1964.

Qualifications for the award include leadership, scholastic achievement, service to students and the University and contributions to the quality of undergraduate life.

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