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## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony: IWU's \$25 Million Science Center Slated for Dedication, Oct. 7

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*Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony*

**IWU's \$25 Million Science Center Slated for Dedication, Oct. 7**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--What has more than 440,000 bricks, 77 miles of wire, 17 miles of conduit, 1,400 electrical outlets . . . and cost \$25 million?

Answer: Illinois Wesleyan University's Center for Natural Science Learning and Research, which will be dedicated Oct. 7 (Saturday) as part of Homecoming '95 festivities.

The 10 a.m. dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place in the first-floor Commons under the building's sweeping skylight.

**National Recognition for Science Building**

The science center was one of three facilities showcased nationwide for its undergraduate research laboratories, at a February, 1995, Washington, D.C., meeting of Project Kaleidoscope, a science education program sponsored by the Independent Colleges Office, with support from the National Science Foundation (U.S. Department of Education, Exxon Foundation, and others).

**Campaign for Illinois Wesleyan**

The science building was constructed as part of the \$58 million Campaign for Illinois Wesleyan University, the largest fund-raising effort in the university's history.

Campaign Chairman Edward B. Rust, Jr., president and chief executive officer of State Farm Insurance Companies, will announce final campaign results at an IWU alumni luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Oct. 7, in the Shirk Center, IWU's \$15 million athletic and wellness complex also constructed with campaign funding.

**Dedication Ceremony**

About 1,500 IWU alumni and friends were invited to the dedication ceremony.

Among those slated to participate in the dedication program are:

- Craig C. Hart, president, Board of Trustees.
- Robert M. Reardon, vice president, Board of Trustees, and chair of the science building steering committee.
- David Bailey, professor of chemistry, and director, Division of Natural Science.

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- Minor Myers, jr., IWU president.

"The Center for Natural Science Learning and Research," Myers said, "gives IWU a tremendous new tool to help train scientists well into the 21st century."

Myers pointed out that several years ago he attended a Project Kaleidoscope meeting, where educators criticized the lack of campus facilities designed for undergraduate research.

"Our new science center," Myers said, "is a national model for what an undergraduate science center--devoted to teaching and research--can and should be.

"It builds on a strong tradition of quality science education at IWU," Myers added, "stretching back to the 1860's when John Wesley Powell first took IWU students along on his explorations of Colorado's mountains--the first expedition of its kind in the history of U.S. higher education. Today, IWU students work with similarly talented scientists, who are studying subjects ranging from Alzheimer's disease and data sent back to Earth by deep space probes, to four of our chemistry professors who are devising a sweeping new chemistry curriculum with funding from the National Science Foundation."

### **Science Center Overview**

The 133,292-square-foot, three-level building is the new home for IWU biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, computer science, and psychology programs.

The science center is large enough that if its three floors were spread out on a single level, they would nearly cover IWU's Quadrangle, a landscaped area surrounded by eight buildings.

Among the science center's key features are:

- 18 teaching laboratories for class-related instruction
- 27 research laboratories for student-faculty collaborative research
- 10 classrooms, including seminar rooms
- 2 computer classrooms-laboratories
- 40 offices
- 200-seat and 100-seat lecture halls
- A 350-square-foot greenhouse
- Electronic Mail--E-Mail--"post office" for students to communicate across

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chromatographs and infrared spectrophotometers.

First floor biology laboratories for teaching and research accommodate everything from general biology, human biology, physiology, anatomy, geology, and botany, to a new dimension of IWU's growing science program--molecular biology, the study of biology at the subcellular level, which plays a pivotal role in understanding DNA and genetics.

Facilities for physics and psychology are found on the building's lower level. Innovative programs--including physics research funded by the federal space agency and psychology research into Alzheimer's Disease--are found in this area, as well as facilities for optics research and a photographic darkroom.

### **Scientific Instruments**

The building is equipped with extensive scientific instrumentation, including a \$185,000 high field nuclear resonance spectrophotometer--an instrument related to magnetic resonance imagers (MRIs) found in hospitals--which is used to study molecular structures.

IWU students and faculty also will have a chance to use a scanning electron microscope, a device similar to one used by Wendy Wolbach, IWU assistant professor of chemistry, when she did pioneering research into the demise of the dinosaurs as a result of a global fire sparked by an asteroid hitting the earth about 65 million years ago.

The science building is equipped with an array of computers, which will be part of a \$1.5-million fiber optic network designed to improve IWU's electronic communications capabilities. The psychology computer laboratory, for example, is equipped with 17 Macintosh computers for use in sophisticated cognitive psychology courses. Computer classrooms for math (especially calculus instruction) and computer science include 28 student work stations. Upwards of 80 high-powered, high-speed Sun SPARCstation 5 computers are part of the science building's arsenal of teaching and research tools.

### **IWU Science Program**

Associate Provost Roger Schnaitter served as liaison between faculty and the architect-engineers during the planning, design, and construction phases of the science center project.

In an interview, while the science center was under construction, Schnaitter

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campus and around the world via the Internet computer network.

The philosophical importance of unifying the sciences in a single building was a design challenge for architect Jack DeBartolo. "By bringing the sciences together in a single building," DeBartolo told *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*, "we created opportunities for interaction among the sciences so students . . . will learn to work with physics, chemistry, psychology, mathematics, computer science, and biology in a more integrated fashion."

DeBartolo also characterized the science center as an "intelligent" building in its use of advanced technology and its flexibility. He pointed out that special passageways have been designed into the building so that chemicals and other materials can be transported to laboratories through halls not used by students, faculty, and others.

"The building," he said, "is designed around a flexible modular plan so that mechanically and physically it will be relatively easy to convert laboratories from chemistry to biology, for example, depending on changes in enrollment."

The Commons, a glass skylighted area, serves as a bridge linking the building's east and west wings, housing "dry" and "wet" laboratories, respectively. "Wet" laboratories accommodate fields like biology and chemistry; "dry" laboratories accommodate disciplines like mathematics and computer science. DeBartolo describes the Commons as "the soul of the building."

Most of the programs moved to the new science center were housed in Sherff Hall, a facility constructed in the early 1960s when IWU had 92 science majors. IWU now enrolls more than 500 science majors.

#### **Key Building Features**

The organic chemistry laboratory, located on the second floor, was constructed with a \$250,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles. Its total cost is estimated at \$668,750 for the room, scientific instruments, glassware, and hoods/casework. The 1,365-square-foot organic chemistry teaching laboratory contains 18 hooded laboratory stations arranged around the room's outside perimeter. An instrument room, located in the center of the laboratory, permits instructors to survey students' work. The lab will accommodate several scientific instruments, including low-end gas

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### **Construction Details**

Construction of the science building symbolically began with a groundbreaking ceremony, May 8, 1993. Students began using the building Aug. 28, the first day of classes for the 1995-96 academic year.

The building's scope is reflected in these construction details:

- 43,000 cubic yards of soil were excavated to prepare the site for construction.
  - 679 tons of structural steel, 224 tons of steel reinforcing rods, 4,474 cubic yards of concrete, and 448 tons of stone were used to construct the building.
  - The science center contains 1,541 light fixtures and 180 energy-conserving motion sensors--devices that turn lights on and off, based on motion in a room, as well as 70 fume hoods in which experiments can be conducted.
- Members of the science center design team are:
- Felmley-Dickerson Co., Bloomington, Ill., construction manager.
  - Hastings + Chivetta, St. Louis, Mo., architect.
  - Anderson DeBartolo Pan, Tucson, Ariz., structural and mechanical engineer.
  - Earl Walls Associates, San Diego, Calif., laboratory equipment designer.

### **IWU Profiled**

IWU, founded in 1850, offers a College of Liberal Arts, College of Fine Arts, and a four-year professional School of Nursing. A \$15 million athletics and recreation center opened in the fall of 1994. *101 of the Best Values in America's Colleges and Universities* calls IWU "undoubtedly one of the finest small colleges in the country," adding, "Illinois Wesleyan has surged to national prominence on the basis of its reputation as a school with a rock-solid academic program."

**Editor's Note:** The science center dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony is open to the public and there is no admission charge. The science center is located at 201 E. Beecher, Bloomington. Guests should enter from the IWU Quadrangle side of the building. Tours of the building will be available before and after the dedication ceremony.

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said: "The new building is being designed to expand and enhance the strong science programs we currently provide. Offering students the opportunity to pursue individual research projects is critical."

More than 50 projects--including about 35 from the natural sciences--are showcased annually at IWU's student research conference. Students also can take advantage of internships with scientific organizations. For example, Kurt Galbreath '97, a biology-chemistry major from Evergreen Park, Ill., spent last summer conducting marine biology research at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., an outgrowth of a month-long trip he took to Australia to study the Great Barrier Reef.

However, Schnaitter also pointed out: "The new science building will benefit all IWU students--not just science majors. Liberal arts students, for example, are required to take natural science courses . . . The new science building will permit us to better meet these general education requirements."

### **Corporate, Foundation Support**

Several prestigious foundations--in addition to strong support from individual donors--contribute to the science center construction project, including:

- Kresge Foundation, Troy Mich.--\$441,000 for scientific equipment.
- National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C.--Three grants: \$259,803 for building infrastructure; \$140,000 for development of a new chemistry curriculum; and \$34,350 for the purchase of computer equipment for calculus courses.
- W.M. Keck Foundation, Los Angeles--\$250,000 grant for the organic chemistry laboratory:
  - GTE Foundation, Bloomington, Ill.--\$210,000 for general support.
  - WMX Technologies, Oak Brook, Ill.--\$100,000 for general support.
  - Siragusa Foundation, Chicago, Ill.--\$60,000 for general support.
  - The Johnson's Wax Fund, Inc., Racine, Wis.--\$9,000 for the purchase of a scientific instrument for chemistry.
- Nalco Foundation, Naperville, Ill.--\$6,635 for the purchase of two scientific instruments.

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