

A vision made reality

Gathered in the heart of Hope's newest academic building, hundreds celebrated a living idea.

Multiple presentations marked the college's dedication of the college's science center on Friday, Oct. 8. The 158,700-square-foot, three-story campus landmark includes both a new building and the renovated Peale Science Center, and houses the departments of biology, chemistry, the geological and environmental sciences, nursing and psychology.

Although the building provided the occasion and the stage, it was the philosophy it exemplifies and supports that was the day's star: that students learn best by working on original research alongside faculty mentors.

"A new space is a curriculum made visible," said Dr. Judith Ramaley, who is assistant director of the Education and Human Resources Directorate of the National Science Foundation, and presented the day's keynote address, "Science and Citizenship: The Importance of Public Understanding of Science."

"At Hope, science has been a defining theme for the institution since the presidency of Dr. Calvin VanderWerf, whose vision for mathematics and science education at Hope set off the first wave of student-faculty research collaboration that spread from chemistry to physics to biology and then to the rest of the sciences. Now it has spread to a collaborative research program for faculty and students in the humanities, social sciences and arts, and the introduction of a newly revised institutional core curriculum that emphasizes interdisciplinary learning."



Students made it official: the ribbon-cutting by senior biology major Jennifer Yamaoka of Zeeland, Mich., who is president of the college's chapter of the Tri-Beta honorary society and vice president of Student Congress. Seniors Samara Webb of Lansing, Mich., and Travis Ruch of Grand Rapids, Mich., are the ribbon-holders.



The day featured multiple conversations with Hope alumni. A panel presentation by physicians spanning five decades included, from left: Dr. Don Mulder '48, Dr. Norman Thompson '53, Dr. Doug Edema '73, Dr. George Zuidema '49, Dr. Barb Tacoma '81 De Pree and Dr. David Lowry '89.



Biology laboratories director Lori Hertel introduces visitors to a resident of the science museum, designed with community outreach in mind. In addition to being a resource for the college community, the museum is a popular field trip destination for area schools.



All three levels of the atrium hosted the hundreds who gathered for the ceremony.