

## **Chemistry Dedication**

**How many of you can think back to your days as a**

student in your first college chemistry courses...

Can anyone tell me the element which comes after Gold...

...anyone...anyone...

## **Introduction**

Notre Dame

## **Governor Introduction**

I am very pleased to tell you that

we have a special guest with us today.

I refer of course to our Governor, James Blanchard,

who has made a special effort to join us

despite a very full calendar.

It is particularly appropriate that Governor Blanchard

is able to be with us today since it has been

his vision for the future of our State that has

helped make this building possible.

Indeed, this magnificent laboratory for chemical sciences stands

as a symbol of the extraordinary progress our

State has made under his strong leadership,

It was Governor Blanchard who foresaw

that the future prosperity of Michigan

required creative cooperation between, research,

education, business, private philanthropy,

the State and private sector to create

a new economic foundation for Michigan

as we develop from an industrial to knowledge based society.

I should note that my first opportunity to appreciate this

vision and his strong leadership occurred within

days after he took office when he rapidly formed a

team to attempt to attract the Microelectronics

and Computer Corporation to Michigan.

Although we lost this particular one to a powerful Texas lobby, we learned a great deal in the process.

And since that time, Governor Blanchard has led an effort in which higher education, state government, and industry have come together as a winning team to build the knowledge infrastructure necessary to secure the prosperity and well-being of our State.

Through innovative programs such as the Research Excellence Fund, the formation of catalytic research institutes such as MBI and ITI, strong investments in higher education as evidenced by this building, and the strong, visionary, and courageous leadership of Governor Blanchard

Michigan has compiled a list of achievements that has become the envy of the nation.

Ann Arbor alone we now have:

- i) NCMS
- ii) NASA Center for Space Commercialization
- iii) Two major federal centers of excellence, one in high speed electronics and another in ship propulsion and hydrodynamics
- iv) MRC Center for electronics manufacturing
- v) the Hughes Research Institute
- v) And, of course, NSFnet, which last week was identified as the backbone of a new interstate highway system of information exchange to be built by the federal government with the potential of attracting 100s of M to Michigan.

vi) and other activities too numerous to mention.

And the impact on our state has been profound.

Indeed, the State Department of Commerce has estimated that the University's programs in computers, electronics, and robotics alone have already stimulated the growth of a \$5 B industry in industrial automation in the Detroit-Ann Arbor corridor...with hundreds of new companies, and thousands of new jobs.

Today, other states are coming to Lansing and Ann Arbor to learn from the Michigan experience... to copy the Michigan model!

The renewed investment in higher education of recent years which has been the key to these achievements has taken extraordinary vision, courage, and determination on the part of Governor Blanchard, his administration, and the Michigan State Legislature, particularly during a period with many other competing demands and pressures.

It has also taken new commitments from the private sector, from Michigan industry, its foundations, and private citizens.

Hence, this building can also be looked upon as yet another step in this remarkable partnership between state government, higher education, and the private sector that is restoring Michigan to the a position of economic leadership in America.

Under Governor Blanchard's leadership,

The state has assembled its tremendous assets and its people into a winning team involving state government, Michigan's colleges and universities, business, labor, and industry.

Governor Blanchard, we thank you for participating in this important event...and but even more significantly, we join with the citizens of Michigan in

thanking for your leadership of our state...which has made Michigan a model for the nation!

Let me now introduce Governor Blanchard to you to make a few remarks.

## **GOVERNOR BLANCHARD**

### **Chemistry Dedication**

#### **Acknowledgements**

Governor Blanchard, Regents of the University, Regents Emeriti, Presidents Emeriti, Special Friends and members of the University family.,

I am delighted you could be with us for this truly splendid moment for our University.

It is a milestone for all of the reasons that the several speakers have already noted in terms of the contribution the building will make to our teaching and learning.

It is also a milestone in forging a new partnership between the people and leaders of the State of Michigan, the Corporate and philanthropic community, and the University and its devoted friends and supporters.

But beyond that, this building also symbolizes the type of investment that will be absolutely critical to our state's future!

Let me explain...

#### **Age of Knowledge**

As many of you know, I am a scientist by training and background...indeed, I am perhaps the worst of all types of scientists...a burned-out theoretical physicist.

I must also confess I tend to be one of those people who lives more in the future than in the present or the past...

And as I look to the future, I have sensed the ever

accelerating pace of change in our society,  
our nation, the world.

Indeed, I would content that even today our society,  
our civilization, is undergoing a dramatic shift  
in fundamental perspective and structure  
comparable to that of earlier periods of  
change such as the Renaissance or the  
Industrial Revolution.

Today we are evolving rapidly to a new post-industrial,  
knowledge-based society, just as a century ago our  
agrarian society evolved through the Industrial Revolution.

In a sense, we are entering a new age, an age of knowledge,  
in which the key strategic resource necessary for our  
prosperity, security, and social well-being has become  
knowledge--educated people and their ideas.

Key element in transformation, is the emergence of knowledge  
as the new critical commodity, as important as mineral ores,  
timber, and access to low skilled labor were at an earlier time.

This new critical commodity knows no boundaries.

It is generated and shared wherever educated, dedicated,  
and creative people come together...and, as we have learned,  
it spreads very quickly.

The knowledge revolution is happening worldwide  
and at a very rapid rate.

Previous economic transformations were closely associated  
with major public investment in infrastructure such as  
railroads, canals, electric networks, and highways.

In the coming economic transition, an equivalent  
infrastructure will be an educated population.

From this perspective, it seems clear that investments  
such as this laboratory--and more generally in our people

through in education--will become the key to the future strength and prosperity of our state...  
...just as it will be for our nation.

### **The State of Michigan Response**

How does a state such as Michigan respond to this challenge...to an age of knowledge in an intensely competitive global economy?

Governor Blanchard, along with many other leaders from both the public and private sector, have recognized that as we look to the knowledge-intensive future of Michigan, it will be our great research universities, our principal sources of knowledge and the educated people who can apply it, that will hold the key to our collective prosperity.

Further, they have recognized that success will depend upon building unique partnerships...  
...a Michigan team, if you will...

In this partnership

Universities must commit themselves to:

Strategically realigning activities into key thrust areas of major importance to State...

Attracting leading scientists, engineers, and professionals to staff these programs...

Developing new mechanisms for technology transfer...

State government must commit itself to:

Establishing higher education in general and the state's research universities as a high priority

Providing seed resources to sustain key thrust areas

Developing novel institutions to act as catalysts in these activities

The University must view itself as a partner with state government, business, industry, and labor in addressing

the needs of the State of Michigan.

### **Service for New Age**

Of course, this strong coupling between the University and  
the society it serves is nothing new...

Historically, the unique contribution of American public higher education  
has been to link service to society it to  
the traditional mission of teaching and research.

This service mission is central to our identity,  
our academic excellence and to our roots deep in the State of Michigan.

It links us to the eight generations of Michigan citizens  
who have sacrificed to build this University into  
one of the world's great centers of learning.

Of course the definitions of our mission and service have changed  
over the years as our society has changed..

- i) first as Michigan expanded to the frontier
- ii) then as it evolved through the industrial revolution  
to become the manufacturing center of the world
- iii) and now, once again, as it evolves once again into  
a knowledge-intensive society

Hence as a university we are challenged  
once again to reinterpret and redefine  
our insitution over the next decade  
to serve the people of the 21st century .....  
a time whose possibilities and challenges  
we can only dimly imagine.

In a sense, during the next decade we face the challenge  
and the opportunity to re-invent the university to  
educate the citizens and serve the society of  
the 21st Century.

At the University of Michigan we have never been  
aloof from the people we serve.

These past few years have taught us,  
and the challenges of our future demand of us,  
that we reach out even more to work with other institutions  
in government, corporations, schools, small business,  
agriculture, in cities and towns to help solve our problems together.

More than ever before it is clear that we share a common fate  
and must work even more closely together  
to achieve our common aspirations.

It is in that spirit of deepening partnership  
that we have worked with the leadership of the state in government  
and the private sector to address the issue  
of creating a better future for Michigan.

It is with this vision of our responsibilities to the future  
that the leaders of the University made a commitment  
to give a priority to building the basic sciences at the University  
and began planning for this magnificent Chemistry building.

And it was this vision and understanding that moved  
the Governor and State Legislators, Michigan industry, its foundations,  
and our friends to help us make the dream a reality.

And what a magnificent reality it is!--  
one all of us will appreciate and benefit from  
throughout our lifetime here  
as will the students and scholars who follow after us.

For me it will symbolize what can be accomplished  
not just here in Michigan but all across America  
when our universities join with government,  
and business, with schools and other institutions,  
and the public to achieve great public purposes.

We thank all of those whose faith and support  
have created this building for Science.  
It will help us play our part in preparing



to meet the challenges and opportunities  
that lie ahead in the new century.

### **Final Comments**

Those of us who are scientists tend to associate the names  
of places with the great intellectual achievements of our  
disciplines...

Examples:

Cavendish Laboratories of Cambridge University

Gibbs Laboratory at Yale

Sloan Laboratory at Caltech

Randall Laboratory here at Michigan

It is my belief that someday, people will look back at the  
great scientific achievements occurring in this  
building...

and note that the Dow Laboratories...

were the birthplace of many of the great discoveries  
in 21st Century Chemistry.

### **Congratulations,...thanks...**

Oh, yes... I almost forgot...

Today we have been talking about the winning Michigan team  
built by Governor Blanchard.

But there is another Michigan team that is very  
much on our mind these days...

...and that is the one built by General Bo!

Hence, perhaps one last comment is appropriate:

...Go Blue!!! (and beat Notre Dame)