

Chemistry Dedication Lunch

Introduction

Notre Dame...

Chemistry Dedication Lunch

Welcome to this celebration of the dedication
of the Willard Henry Dow Laboratory.

For many of us this is the culmination of a dream
and we are here today to acknowledge
all those who for almost three decades
have worked together to make this dream come true.

Much more will be said about

the importance of the new building later at the ceremony

But right now, I want to spend a moment or two

reflecting on what this occasion represents.--
both for the University and for the State of Michigan

One of the most important features of this facility

is the way in which it represents the extraordinarily
fruitful partnership between the University,
the State of Michigan and its people,
the business and foundation community
and our visionary and generous benefactors.

Many who have made this partnership work are with us today.

It means a great deal to us

to know we have so many friends and allies
who care about our University and its future,
and who respond with help whenever we turn to them.

It is particularly fitting that one of our great friends

has been able to join us this today...
...the Governor of the State of Michigan, James Blanchard
since without Governor Blanchard support,
vision, and leadership,

this occasion would not have been possible.

As you will see later, the spectacular Dow Laboratory

is only one of many signs across this State that demonstrate the commitment of Governor Blanchard to make strong investments in higher education.

The Dow Building we are here to dedicate today

is part of that investment.

It has taken great vision, courage, and determination on the part of Governor Blanchard, his Administration, and the Michigan State Legislature, particularly during a period when there have been many competing demands and pressures.

As a result of his strong leadership of Governor Blanchard

the University and private sector have joined forces to provide for our State the knowledge based resources so essential to our future prosperity and well being.

Working together we are taking steps

to provide the people and ideas...
the outstanding graduates, scientists,
teachers and other professionals
to keep us on the cutting edge of research
and its applications in business and industry

Our state has assembled its tremendous assets

its institutions and its people into a winning team under Coach Blanchard...a team involving State government, Michigan's colleges and universities, business, labor and industry.

Governor Blanchard we thank you for being with us today

...and even more significantly we join with the citizens of this State in thanking you

for your leadership of our State which has made.
Michigan a model for the nation as together
we face the advent of an exciting and competitive new age...
...an age of knowledge in a global economy.

Governor Blanchard, I wonder if you would please say a few words.

GOVERNOR BLANCHARD

I want to introduce to you now some of the

many other leaders of our partnership
from the private sector, State government
and the University--people who have given
so much in so many ways to the University
and especially to give us our magnificent
new Dow Laboratory Building.

They exemplify the way corporate and foundation leadership

working together with the University's family,
friends, and benefactors contribute the critical margin
that allows the University to achieve greatness.

Introductions

(Jim, there is a two page list of people you need to acknowledge. A final version will be prepared in the morning but attached is the current list. According to Roy, your remarks should be quite short, informal, and friendly. I am not clear whether you want to depart from the list and its order to interject text. Until changes introduced by Blanchard appearance, you were expected to say only a sentence or two and introduce the guests as listed. This afternoon you suggested you wanted to do something more extensive and your outline for this is attached here.)

Some personal acknowledgements

Governor Blanchard

There is little question that this building is tangible
evidence of the courage, and vision, and
the commitment of Governor Blanchard and his

colleagues in Lansing...

Who, indeed through such commitments throughout our state, have set Michigan well along the Path to Prosperity.

But, if you will allow me a moment, there are several others I would like to convey a personal sense of gratitude to...

Dow

Not long after I became Dean of Engineering (was that a lifetime ago?),

I participated in the dedication of the Herbert H. Dow Chemical Engineering Building, built with support from the Dow Company and the Dow Family.

That magnificent building was the keystone in our efforts to rebuild the School of Engineering, since it served as the trigger for a sequence of commitments from the State of Michigan, private donors, and the University that allowed us to move the College of Engineering to its North Campus site.

And the payoff to that has been extraordinary in terms of impact on the quality of Michigan engineering and on our ability to serve the state and the nation.

Once again the Dow Company and family have stepped forward with the trigger gift that will be the key to building Michigan science to world class quality.

Once again, this magnificent facility will serve as the cornerstone of a sequence of commitments from the public and private sector that will provide the facilities so needed by both the University and the State...
...the East Engineering renovation project,

the Physics Laboratory wing,
and the renovation of C. C. Little,
all awaiting the approval of funding by the Joint
Capital Outlay Committee in Lansing.

Kellogg and Kresge

Of course, there are two other key names associated
with exceptionally strong support of higher
education in Michigan: Kellogg and Kresge
These foundations have really set an example for
all of America in their forward-looking investments
in higher education...and in the future of our nation.

Towsley

Next, I would like to convey a particular note of thanks
to Margaret and Harry Towsley.
You know, at the dedication of the Herbert H. Dow
Building, almost a decade ago, I referred to Margaret
and Harry as the guardian angels of the University.
Time after time the University has turned to them for help...
...indeed, I and my predecessors Harold Shapiro and
Bob Fleming turned to them time after time for advice
and simply encouragement.
And each time they responded.
They are truly the angels watching out for Michigan.

The Presidents

This facility is almost unique in the history of the
University, since the great effort to make it
a reality spanned the administrations of five
Michigan presidents:
Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge their
efforts...their patience...and their fortitude
...Harlan Hatcher

...Robin Fleming

...Alan Smith

...Harold Shapiro

(actually, I really should include myself, since my only role has been making speeches)

Instead, therefore, let me acknowledge one other hero in this long saga...

Billy Frye, both as Dean and then as Provost of the University.

Charles Overberger

One final acknowledgement...

If there is one name additional name I will always associated with this building, it is that of Charles Overberger.

It was his vision, his energy, his persistent that really led to the magnificent facility we dedicate today.

Indeed, he noted last week that he still has the letter from former Dean Bill Haber, offering him his position and promising this facility.

I think it very appropriate today that we all stand and convey our congratulations and appreciation to Charles and his wife Betty for their extraordinary dedication to this University...and to this project.