

August 1995

Tomanek Hall: Press release, by the Office of University Relations, August 10, 1995

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Fort Hays State University

NEWS

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TOMANEK HALL AND
SEBELIUS LOBBY
TO BE DEDICATED

8/10/95 A+B+local bl

HAYS, KAN.--Dedication ceremonies for Jerry Tomanek Hall, Fort Hays State University's new \$12 million physical sciences building, and the Keith Sebelius Lobby, are set for 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 26. The public is invited.

The three-story, 85,000 square foot facility is named for Dr. Gerald W. Tomanek who spent nearly 50 years of his career associated with Fort Hays State University, the final 11 years as president of the institution.

Academic departments in the new facility include chemistry, physics and geosciences. They previously were located in Albertson Hall, a building which was constructed in 1928.

The university's computing and telecommunications center, formerly housed in Martin Allen Hall, also has relocated to Tomanek Hall.

Tomanek Hall is the university's answer to its needs for a modern, futuristic facility for the teaching of the physical sciences. Classes will be held in the building for the first time this fall.

The new building was funded by both state and federal money. In 1992, then Kansas Gov. Joan Finney and the legislature approved FHSU's \$8 million request for aid and U.S. Senator Bob Dole helped secure an additional \$4 million in federal funds. Other Kansas universities and entities also received assistance from the state at that time to build or renovate facilities when a windfall of several million dollars was returned to the state by the federal government.

Dr. Tomanek first was associated with FHSU as a freshman student in 1938. After World War II he joined the biology faculty and worked his way up the academic ladder to chair of the department, chair of the division, vice president for academic affairs, and then to the presidency, a post he held from 1976 until his retirement in 1987.

The Collyer, Kan., native's reputation as a warm and caring teacher is legend on the FHSU campus and his expertise on prairies and grasslands far exceeded campus boundaries. He twice served Argentine farmers and ranchers as a consultant; worked closely with CBS Television on a special program about prairies and grasslands; published widely, and was in demand throughout the country as a workshop participant.

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Today, Dr. Tomanek and his wife Ardis live in **Olathe, Kan.** They are the parents of three daughters and have eight grandchildren. The Tomaneks recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Along with the dedication of Tomanek Hall, the university will dedicate the lobby of the facility in memory of the late Rep. Keith G. Sebelius of **Almena, Kan.** Sebelius was a FHSU graduate who served six years in the Kansas legislature and 12 additional years as the representative from the first district of Kansas in Washington, D.C. His widow Bette, who lives in **Norton, Kan.**, and their two sons Doug of **Norton** and Gary of **Topeka**, will attend the dedication ceremonies.

Former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden, who studied for his master's degree under Dr. Tomanek, will represent Kansas Gov. Bill Graves, who had a prior commitment. Rep. Pat Roberts, who succeeded Rep. Sebelius in Washington, also will bring a message. Kenneth Havner of Hays, a member of the Kansas Board of Regents, will bring greetings on behalf of the Regents, and Dr. Edward H. Hammond, President of FHSU, will bring greetings and tributes to the Tomanek and Sebelius families.