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Tomanek Hall: Pamphlet, Dedication ceremonies for Jerry Tomanek Hall and the Keith G. Sebelius Lobby

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DEDICATION

for

Jerry Tomanek Hall

and the

Keith G. Sebelius

Lobby

Aug. 26, 1995





dedication ceremony

| | | |
|-------|--|---|
| 10:15 | Pre-ceremonial Music | FHSU Marching Band Mr. Ronald D. Scott, Director |
| 10:30 | National Anthem | FHSU Band and Audience |
| | Welcome and Introductions of Platform Party | Dr. Edward H. Hammond President, FHSU |
| | Remarks | Mr. Mike Hayden Past Governor, State of Kansas Rep. Pat Roberts, U.S. Congress Mr. Kenneth Havner Kansas Board of Regents |
| | Tribute to Dr. Gerald W. Tomanek | President Hammond |
| | Response | Dr. Gerald W. Tomanek FHSU President Emeritus |
| | Tribute to Rep. Keith G. Sebelius | President Hammond |
| | Response | Doug and Gary Sebelius |
| | Musical Tribute | FHSU Band |
| | Prayer and Blessing | The Rev. William C. Miller Retired Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Hays |
| | Ribbon Cutting | Dr. and Mrs. Tomanek, President Hammond, Rep. Roberts, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Havner |
| | FHSU Fight Song | FHSU Band |
| | Unveiling of Tomanek Plaque | Dr. and Mrs. Tomanek and President Hammond |
| | Unveiling of Sebelius Plaque | Mrs. Bette Sebelius and President Hammond |

Self-guided tours of Tomanek Hall will immediately follow this morning's program. The building will remain open until 3 p.m. Floor plans of the facility are available on each level. A video entitled "The Tomanek Years" will be shown on the half-hour beginning at 11:30 a.m. in Room 108 of Tomanek Hall.





Dr. Gerald W. (Jerry) Tomanek

This building is named in honor of Dr. Gerald Wayne (Jerry) Tomanek, a man who served Fort Hays State University in many capacities, including the presidency, during a long and prestigious affiliation with the institution.

Dr. Tomanek earned a bachelor's and a master's degree from FHSU and the Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Following his service with the Marine Corps during World War II, he joined the FHSU faculty in 1947. However, his association with the university actually began some eight years earlier when he had enrolled as a freshman.

Dr. Tomanek epitomized the American dream of personal success. Through patience, perseverance and hard work, he climbed the academic ladder from instructor of biological sciences to professor, 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 in the classroom is legend. Today his former students still seek out their mentor for advice and guidance. One of the most admired professors ever to step into a FHSU classroom, his teachings were both educational and enjoyable, but perhaps of even greater importance was his warm and caring attitude for each of his students.

During his teaching days, the popular botanist's 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 presenter.

While president, Dr. Tomanek established friendly and sincere lines of communication with the Kansas Legislature; enhanced faculty and staff salaries; hired more faculty who possessed the terminal degree; led the charge to increase the institution's budget; encouraged curriculum changes which appropriately reflected the strengths of the faculty and the needs and concerns of the students; saw three new buildings added to the campus and other facilities renovated; helped increase the student scholarship program, and led the way to secure a large federal grant to upgrade campus computer facilities. Many people will remember Dr. Tomanek as the man who opposed the razing of Sheridan Coliseum and instead turned it into an office building and performing arts center.

Dr. Tomanek and his wife Ardis recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. They are the parents of three daughters, Walta, Sheila and Lisa, and have eight grandchildren.

PHOTO: Jerry and Ardis Tomanek





the Keith G. Sebelius Lobby

The late Keith G. Sebelius, for whom the Tomanek Hall lobby is named, was born in Almena, Kan. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Fort Hays State University and his law degree from George Washington University. He married Bette Roberts in 1949. Sons Gary and Doug were born to that union.

Mr. Sebelius was appointed to the Kansas State Senate in 1962 and served for six years. He then was elected to the 91st U.S. Congress and served for six terms. He retired from public service in 1981. During

his years in Congress, he was a member of many important committees and subcommittees, authored numerous amendments to farm bills enacted by Congress, and played a leading role in expanding the nation's wilderness system and protecting the country's natural and historical heritage through the National Park Service.

Rep. Sebelius served on the Board of Trustees of the FHSU Endowment Association, was President of the FHSU Alumni Association, and twice received distinguished achievement awards from the university.





Jerry Tomanek Hall

Construction on Jerry Tomanek Hall began with a groundbreaking ceremony on May 7, 1993. However, planning for the building began as early as 1989.

Tomanek Hall is the university's answer to its needs for a modern, futuristic facility for the teaching of the physical sciences. While Albertson Hall proudly has served students and faculty for many years and is being used still by some departments, its science equipment and facilities badly needed upgrading in order to interface with new technologies.

Thus the dream for Tomanek Hall began. Today this \$12 million building, which was funded by both the state of Kansas and the federal government, is testament to the hard work and vision of many people. In 1992, when then Kansas Governor Joan Finney and the Legislature approved FHSU's \$8 million request for funds and U.S. Senator Bob Dole helped secure \$4 million in federal funds for this project, the university began to realize the dream of a new sciences facility.

Several criteria led to Tomanek Hall's location on this site: the proximity to the central campus power plant; easy access to Forsyth Library; proximity to the large parking lots at Malloy Hall and Gross Memorial Coliseum; vehicular access for

loading and unloading, and the university's long time goal of relocating the tennis courts nearer the department of athletics and the department of health and human performance.

University departments housed in Jerry Tomanek Hall are chemistry, geosciences and physics. The configuration of the facility allows those disciplines the opportunity for the cross-fertilization of ideas and increased efficiency.

Also in the facility is the campus Computing and Telecommunications Center, the focal point of the electronic communicative process at the university. The center houses and administers the instruction, research and service efforts of academic users, maintains the management information system used by the campus community, and provides complete administrative support.

Within this 84,580 gross square feet of space are 125 rooms or areas that serve as laboratories, classrooms, offices, conference rooms, lobbies, closets, darkrooms, and storage, work and research facilities. Tomanek Hall meets, and in many instances, exceeds the current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.



the dedication committee

Sandra K. Rupp, Chair
Dr. Louis Caplan
Dr. Kwo-Sun Chu
Rep. Delbert Gross
Jason Hibbs
Eric King
Dr. Paul Krutak

Robert Lowen
Brian Mangum
Sen. Jerry Moran
Dr. Larry Nicholson
Ronald Pflughoft
Jane Rajewski
Mary Ridgway

Jerry Ruder
Virgil Scott Jr.
Rae Ellen Smith
Tom Webb
Steve Wood

a special thank you!

Our special thanks to the following who so graciously helped underwrite today's program.

Allied Inc.
Double Bar Pine Nursery & Tree Farm, Inc.
Performance Glass
Pat Roberts
Russell Block Company
Vitztum Commercial Flooring

Hays, Kan.
Alta Vista, Kan.
DeSoto, Kan.
Dodge City, Kan.
Russell, Kan.
Hays, Kan.

the Plymouth School

The Plymouth School, which sits just east across the street from Tomanek Hall, will be open until 1 p.m. today for your enjoyment. Compare the changes that have occurred in the field of education since the days of the one-room schoolhouse. The building was moved stone-by-stone from Plymouth, Kan. in 1979.





*about the
dedication
graphics*

The shield graphic used throughout the dedication publications is based on the tile designs in the two atriums on the first floor of Tomanek Hall.

Prairie grasses provide a secondary visual theme in recognition of Dr. Tomanek's area of academic expertise.



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