# dedication festival

Program

Public Affairs Center March 10-28

Sangamon State University

Iam pleased to welcome you to the official opening of Sangamon State University's new Public Affairs Center. Our institution, now in its tenth year of existence, takes pride in the work it has done in meeting the mandate given us by the legislature to serve as Illinois' public affairs university. Today we offer unparalleled opportunities for education and experience in the areas of government and a wide range of public service professions. The addition of this new building, with its 1,951 seat University Auditorium, offices, classrooms and continuing education facilities, will enhance our ability to provide all of Central Illinois with new opportunities for education and cultural enrichment.

Today's dedication kicks off a 19-day festival devoted to the performing arts and education. Mummenschanz, a delightful Swiss mime company; the Springfield Symphony Orchestra; and the Springfield Ballet Company, will all appear on the stage of the University Auditorium during this period. And Sangamon State's annual Intersession — this year devoted to the important questions of food, environment, resources and energy in the 1980s — will take place in the Public Affairs Center, beginning next weekend.

We consider this dedication an important event for Central Illinois one which will contribute to the education, culture and economy of this area for years to come. Thank you for joining us.

Sincerely,

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Alex B. Lacy, Jr. President



#### **Public Affairs Center History**

Sangamon State University was created in 1969 with a dual mission in Illinois higher education. SSU was to provide upper division and graduate study articulated with the expanding community college system of Illinois. Secondly, the University was to be the "public affairs university of Illinois," providing a forum for the study of social, technological and environmental problems of our times. The planners of SSU hoped that the University would become a merger of town and gown, encouraging academic and community interaction to provide quality education and training for public service.

Ten years later, that hope has been realized. The University's many programs, public affairs centers and students and alumni can attest to the valuable and unique educational environment that has resulted from the academic and community merger. It has made SSU a true "community of learning." Perhaps the most visible monument to this educational ideal is the newly completed Public Affairs Center, the first of its kind in Illinois.

The concept of a Public Affairs Center at SSU began in 1970. George E. Hatmaker, president of Franklin Life Insurance Company and a community leader in the founding of Sangamon State, and SSU's first president, Robert C. Spencer, initiated discussions on the role of theatre and the performing arts at SSU. Out of their discussions emerged a framework of cooperation between the University and the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium Authority, to ensure that the Public Affairs Center would be both community and academically oriented.

These early discussions, occurring even before classes began, led the University in August, 1970, to request planning funds for the 1971-1972 year to develop a "Public Affairs and Conference Center." The Center was envisioned as a focal point for public affairs activities with facilities for seminars, debates, receptions, mock legislative sessions and simple theatrical performances, combined with a 1,200-seat auditorium to bring performing arts programming to the University and community. Planning funds were released in the spring of 1972 and Ferry & Henderson, Architects, Inc., a Springfield firm, were designated official architects for the center. For the next several years the University and the architects worked with the Board of Regents, the Board of Higher Education, the Capital Development Board and a special Governor's Interagency Task Force on the plans and design of the center. A recurring problem was cost. Construction of the center came during one of the worst inflationary periods of the American economy. The time frames between estimates, budget requests and the release of funds were often inadequate to meet rapidly rising costs in the construction industry. The center underwent many periods of redesign and study in an effort to cut expenses yet maintain the functional integrity.

In January, 1974, the governor released the first funds for construction — \$8,483,400. To speed completion of the building, fast tracking was adopted. Under this process, the building was divided into Phase I and Phase II, with Phase II further divided into Stages A and B. Phase I would cover the "V-Wing" the classroom and office component of the building. Phase II, Stage A, would be the auditorium portion; Stage B would cover the mechanical systems (heating, cooling, electrical) for the entire building.

Construction of Phase I began in September, 1974, and was completed in September, 1976. However, this shell would not be usable until completion of Phase II, Stage B.

Meanwhile, community concern over the need for an appropriate facility for the performing arts led a citizens' committee to lobby with the state legislature for additional funds to enlarge the auditorium. The governor released an additional \$2,725,000 in January, 1975, to enlarge the auditorium to 2,000 seats from the 1,200 originally planned. This change meant a redesign of Phase II to accommodate the additional space needs for seats, exits, corridors, rest rooms and other facilities.

In September, 1975, the architects reported the need for an additional \$750,000 for equipment to complete the auditorium's performing arts capability and provide for the performance needs of a ballet or symphony. The Springfield Metropolitan Exposition Auditorium Authority lobbied on behalf of the University with the General Assembly and the additional funds were approved over the governor's veto in November, 1976.

Construction on Phase II, Stage A, began in April, 1977; work on Stage B started in April, 1978. Continued progress on the building enabled the University to use the center for its Crossroads '80 Conference in October, 1980, and formal moves of faculty and University offices into the center began in late September. By January, 1981, the center was open for classes. The contractors were working toward completion of Stage B by the end of January, 1981.

Development of performing arts programming began in early 1980 with the appointment of John Dale Kennedy as center manager. First performance in the Auditorium was a sellout starring actor Hal Holbrook performing his acclaimed "Mark Twain Tonight!" on February 20.

Today, the Public Affairs Center is an appropriate symbol of a university whose involvement in public affairs has led to a successful intertwining of academic study and service to the community. The Public Affairs Center will enable the University and the Springfield community to grow together in a real "community of learning."

## Dean DeBolt, University Archivist

#### Description

Level I houses the nine-room Conference Center, the Cafeteria which seats 350, a 90-seat Restaurant, the Ticket Office and the Conference Services Office. The concourse allows easy movement of people and offers spacious exhibit opportunities. Vehicular traffic may drive to the main entrance — on the north end of the concourse — and drop passengers before returning to convenient parking lots north of the building. Valet services will be available for special performances.

The Lobby and main entrances to the University Auditorium are on Level II. The beautiful 1,951-seat Auditorium provides a four-level seating plan — Orchestra, Loge, Mezzanine and Balcony. The Auditorium is particularly suited for the presentation of major lectures, concerts, dance performances, jazz concerts, mime presentations, political debates, large conference meetings, theatre events and more for the enjoyment of the greater Springfield community. The stagehouse is equipped with flexible sound and lighting systems.

Academic offices and classrooms are located on Level III. It is also home for the PAC administrative office and conference rooms. Also on Level III is the Atrium Lounge, an attractive focus for the interior of the V-wing. Under the skylights and above the Lobby, the area provides informal seating, plants and natural and accent lighting well suited for receptions and small gatherings.

Level IV houses additional classrooms and academic and administrative offices. The SSU President's Office is located on Level V along with University Relations and other administrative offices including the SSU Foundation, Institutional Research, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Continuing Education. Also on this level is the George Hatmaker Conference Room.



Marie Stehman, president of Community Concert Association dia cusses the March 22 event with PAC manager John Dois Kennedy

## Dedication

Program Schedule Evening of March 10, 1981

**The National Anthem** Jeanne Eck SSU Student

Introduction and Recognition of Platform Guests Alex B. Lacy, Jr. President, Sangamon State University

#### Greetings

J. Michael Houston Mayor, City of Springfield John A. Davidson Illinois State Senator

Carol C. Lohman

Board of Higher Education Thomas L. Goins

Vice President, Sangamon State University Donald S. Glickman Capital Development Board

Remarks David E. Murray Chairman, Board of Regents

**Dedication Address** James R. Thompson Governor of Illinois

#### **Ribbon Cutting**

Presentation of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Dr. Victor F. Trautmann

President, Springfield Symphony Orchestra

**Dedication Concert** Springfield Symphony Orchestra Ken Kiesler, Conductor

Reception immediately following in the Atrium Lounge, Level 3.

#### **Platform Guests**

Richard G. Austin, Chairman, Sangamon County Board J. Robert Barr, Former Chairman, Board of Regents Frank J. Bernstein, Project Director, Capital Development Board Carol K. Burns, Vice Chairman, Board of Regents John A. Davidson, Senator, Illinois State Senate Jeanne Eck, Student, Sangamon State University Larry R. Evans, Evans Construction Company Donald E. Ferry, Ferry & Henderson Architects, Inc. Donald S. Glickman, Executive Director, Capital Development Board Thomas L. Goins, Vice President for Business and Administrative Services, SSU

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Construction of Phase I began in September, 1974, and was completed in September, 1976. However, this shell would not be usable until completion of Phase II, Stage B.

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## **House Information**

**Restrooms** are located on all levels of the Auditorium.

No Smoking, Food or Drink allowed in the Auditorium.

In keeping with contractual agreements, and for the comforts of others, **No Cameras or Tape Recorders** are allowed.

Elevator is located on Level 1, house right, in the Lobby.

Wheelchair Seating is available. When purchasing tickets be sure to indicate if this seating is required.

Telephones are located adjacent to house right entrance of the Lobby.

**Physicians,** if you anticipate receiving an emergency call, leave your seat number with an usher and we will notify you of any calls. The number to call in an emergency is 786-6160.

Valet Service allows you to drive your car right up to the main entrance. Cost of this service is \$1 per car.

**Pre-Concert Dinners.** You are invited to join us in the Public Affairs Center for dinner and cocktails before the performance. For reservations call 786-6768.

**Group Rates** of 25 percent off for groups of 25 or more are available for all events. Call 786-6166 for arrangements.

Mailing List. If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive the monthly newsletter On Stage, send your name and address to: PAC Manager, Public Affairs Center, Sangamon State University, Springfield, IL 62708.

