

# Breaking Through TO A NEW ERA

There was a frisson of excitement as guests gathered in the new Campus Center Oct. 12. This wouldn't be just any ordinary ribbon-cutting.

At a signal from SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley, the assembled dignitaries raised their golden hammers. They tapped upon a wall emblazoned with photos of the Campus Center construction: the 2003 groundbreaking, the "Big Dig," steel going up, finishing touches. Then they burst through, from the arena/convocation center opened last fall into the former Swetman Hall, now newly remodeled to house student organizations, student services and more.

CHUCK WAINWRIGHT



JIM RUSSELL '83

On to the 200-seat auditorium they filed, to hear from campus, community and labor leaders, and honor the donors whose gifts had made much of the building possible.

Later they would tour the building and see the men's Division III ice hockey championship banner raised to the rafters.

It was the first time most of those present — alumni; donors; faculty, staff and students; government representatives; College Council, Foundation and Alumni Association board members; labor leaders and community guests — would see the transformations to the central part of the Campus Center. They met student leaders in The Point, home to Student

Association and other organizations. They explored the Compass, where services from orientation to career planning are housed. And they marveled at the Chu Atrium, a soaring, two-story entrance to this magnificent structure.

As they made their way from one area of the building to another, guests traversed the **Charles L. Wiley '22** Alumni Concourse, a light-filled walkway that provides passage from the westernmost part of the convocation center through to Poucher Hall on the east, sheltering walkers from Oswego's harsh winds.

"This building is a structure of bricks and mortar, but it represents what this community is all about," said Stanley.

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Dignitaries and donors, along with faculty, staff, students and alumni, celebrated the opening of the Campus Center in the new 200-seat auditorium.

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“This breakthrough connects our campus in an academic, social and community sense,” the president added.

Director of Campus Life Rich Hughes agreed that the new complex lays a unique foundation for communication and convergence. “I don’t know of any other campuses where the lives of students, faculty and staff crisscross on a daily basis in so many different ways in a single building,” he said.

State Sen. **Jim Wright ’71**, who secured \$17 million in state funding for the new building, recalled his time as a freshman on campus, when academic buildings and residence halls were brand new in 1967. “That was the last time an investment was made, until we started to transform this campus under the leadership of President Stanley,” he said. Stanley ensured that investments were made with students in mind, Wright said, so that “student life would be enhanced and students would in turn carry those experiences with them, as I have.” ●



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Dr. David King, dean of graduate studies, points out features of the Chu Atrium to a group of alumni, donors and friends, on a Campus Center tour. In the foreground are Joanne and Gerald Chu, children of Hsien-jen “James” and Sylvia Chu, for whom the space is named.