

Lions Eye Research Institute dedicated

A dream of more than five years in the making was realized after the Lions of Illinois Eye Research Institute was dedicated at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, June 30, at 1905 W. Taylor St., Chicago, on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC).

In addition to the ribbon-cutting ceremony, a gala at the Field Museum of Natural History, and a two-day scientific symposium were also held to commemorate the new facility.

The scientific symposium, "Concepts and Controversies in Ophthalmology," was held June 28 and 29 at the University of Illinois Hospital's Ear & Eye Infirmary and the new Institute building which was built immediately to the west on Taylor Street. The two buildings are connected by a pedestrian tunnel.

Beginning Friday morning, some of the most distinguished members of the ophthalmology and the visual sciences world gathered to discuss and debate critical issues in the study and treatment of specific eye conditions, including glaucoma and sickle cell anemia.

At the symposium, Donald Langenberg, Ph.D., Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago, presented an



Among those attending the "Vision of the Future" dedication gala were (left to right) Donald N. Langenberg, Ph.D., Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago; Mrs. Patricia Langenberg; Mrs. Myrna Goldberg; Shirley Jones, entertainer for the evening; Morton F. Goldberg, M.D., Professor and Head, Department of Ophthalmology; Alexander M. Schmidt, M.D., Vice Chancellor of Health Affairs, the University of Illinois at Chicago; and Phillip M. Forman, M.D., Dean of the College of Medicine.

honorary Doctor of Science degree to Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, of Madurai, India. Currently an adjunct professor in the Department of Ophthalmology, Dr. Venkataswamy was responsible for forming a nonprofit charitable trust that was used to establish the Aravind Eye Hospital in Madurai.

On Friday evening, more than 700 guests, including UIC faculty and staff, area ophthalmologists, and members of the Illinois Lions attended the "Vision of the Future" dedication gala held at Chicago's Field Museum.

The black-tie affair featured an evening of dinner, dancing to a 15-piece orchestra, and entertainment featuring a colorful laser light show and a performance by singer and actress Shirley Jones.

Throughout both days there was an open house at the Lions of Illinois Eye Research Institute. Guests were able to get a firsthand look at the modern clinic, library, and laboratory suites that are an integral part of the new facility.

The two-story, \$6.3 million facility, with an area of 45,000 gross square feet, will house some of the most innovative approaches to curing and preventing

blindness and eye disorders, according to Morton F. Goldberg, M.D., professor and head of the UIC Department of Ophthalmology, which is internationally known for its research accomplishments.

The facility quite possibly would never have been built had it not been for the generous support of the Illinois Lions Clubs. The building's name recognizes the contribution of the state's Lions Clubs in raising \$5 million for the worthwhile project through the efforts of more than 30,000 members and their families who conducted and worked at bake sales, pancake breakfasts, and tractor-pull contests throughout Illinois over a five-year period.

The new research center, adjacent to the existing infirmary, will double the amount of space available for researchers and allow the center to recruit top researchers from elsewhere in the country, Goldberg said.

Contributions for the Lions of Illinois Eye Research Institute are still being sought. To contribute, or to learn more about any of the programs of the department, contact Joan Sunseri, development officer in the Department of Ophthalmology, at (312) 996-4544. ●



Donald N. Langenberg, Ph.D., Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago, (left) bestows a honorary Doctor of Science degree to Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy, of Madurai, India