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The Columbia Chronicle

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 23 1/8 COLUMBIA COLLEGE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

MAY 31, 1990

Columbia purchases Michigan Avenue building to ease overcrowding and to preserve its open admission policy

By Mark Farano

Columbia College is in the process of wrapping up the purchase of the 14-story Torco building at 624 S. Michigan Ave., and college officials hope to start the fall semester with at least one academic department headquartered there, administration sources said.

Completion of the purchase will ease a space crunch that could have led college officials to limit enrollment next fall.

The purchase will lead to an estimated \$2 million remodeling job at both the Torco and Wabash buildings as the college prepares the Torco building for occupancy and moves to take advantage of vacated space in the Wabash building.

Marketing Communications will be the first department to move to the Torco building, where it will occupy the eighth floor. The Management Department is also a likely candidate to move there before fall.

College officials plan to use about 30,000 square feet

of the Torco building initially. Tenants including the Illinois Department of Public Aid, which rents the most space, occupy the balance of the estimated 180,000-square feet available there. Columbia plans to use the eighth floor, the third floor and about half of the sixth and fourteenth floors, which will provide room for 14 classrooms. Summer remodeling at Torco will include a complete renovation of the eighth floor and installation of a fire alarm system.

At Wabash, the departure of Marketing Communications will lead to consolidation of the Journalism Department on the eighth floor, leaving the entire fifth floor to the Science/Mathematics Department. Summer remodeling at the Wabash building will include construction of three science labs on the fifth floor.

The faculty lounge on the fifth floor of the Wabash building will move to the third floor of the Torco building, and the

Math/Science tutoring center will expand to include the current lounge.

The college approached Torco building owners in January, and the board of trustees authorized the purchase in a unanimous vote in March.

An administration official said the college chose the Torco building because it's the only large building available near Columbia's main campuses.

The official said the college wants to retain tenants in the building. Rents will help pay for the mortgage and remodeling. College officials also plan to use the building as a showcase for fund raising.

Space for new students is important to Columbia because tuition payments fund about 90 percent of its budget. Space acquired at Torco will allow Columbia to increase its enrollment to about 6,900 students, about 400 more than are currently enrolled.



The Torco Building, located at 624 South Michigan Avenue, is Columbia's newest real estate acquisition. The building will house the Marketing Department for the fall, 1990 semester.

Photo by Laura Novak

Rosenblum to move to graduate division

Administrative changes for fall, 1990 announced

By Mitch Hurst

Editor-in-Chief

In a move designed to meet the academic needs of a student body that has nearly tripled in number since 1975, Columbia President Mike Alexandroff has announced a shakeup in Columbia's administration that will go into effect for the fall, 1990 semester.

According to a memo sent to all Columbia faculty, Dr. Lya Dym Rosenblum, presently vice president for academic affairs, will become dean of the graduate school and vice president of the college. Rosenblum's new appointment, Alexandroff said in the memo, "reflects Columbia's commitment to strengthen graduate education and a new charge which

includes development of the graduate program in education, other educational products, community extensions, and public representation of the college."

"There has not been a separate dean of the graduate division," Alexandroff added in a brief interview on Wednesday. "Doctor Rosenblum has been simultaneously the dean of the whole academic project. Now she is going to concentrate her attention on the graduate school, though she remains vice president of the college."

Alexandroff has nominated just one person to replace Rosenblum. Columbia instructor Dr. Sam Floyd, who is also the director of the Center for Black Music Research, an independent organization

housed on the sixth floor of the Wabash building, is Alexandroff's choice. Alexandroff calls Floyd "an educator and scholar of the highest reputation; a superb administrator with comprehensive interest in Columbia's main subjects and profound agreement with Columbia's social and educational mission."

Alexandroff said he does not wish to go through a "drawn-out search process" because he is sure that Floyd's qualifications are equal or better to any person who would be found in such a process.

"Sam Floyd is literally as distinguished a scholar, with an international reputation, as we could conceivably have found," Alexandroff said. "We're fortunate to have him in our midst."

Alexandroff has en-

couraged faculty and chair organizations, which represent four of the six positions on the academic committee, to choose their representatives as soon as possible, so Floyd's nomination can be ratified quickly.

Other administrative changes for the fall include a move to the graduate division by Keith Cleveland, who will serve as associate dean of the graduate school. Cleveland now holds a similar position in the undergraduate division.

Also, Dennis Peacock will concentrate on his position of Dean of Institutional Research, and will be relieved of his duties as Director of the Graduate Program. A replacement for Cleveland in the undergraduate department will be made subsequently.

In the fall:

New Staff

New Articles

New Bylines

New Controversy

Bigger School