Events to celebrate science center

It’s time to celebrate.

With the final portion of the science center project set to be done by the start of the school year, Hope has scheduled a day-long celebration in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend.

“Preparing the Next Generation of Students,” featuring a series of addresses by invited speakers, a dedication ceremony and an open house, will take place on Friday, Oct. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The events will begin with a keynote address by Dr. Judith Ramsey, who is assistant director in the Education and Human Resources Directorate of the National Science Foundation. Two sets of three parallel presentations by Hope alumni scientists will take place at 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The speakers will include: Dr. Sylvia Ceyer '74 of Cambridge, a research associate of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University and a wildlife photographer whose work has been featured in National Geographic; Dr. Paul Schaap '67 of Grosse Pointe Park, Mich., president of Lumigen; and Dr. George Zuidema '49, professor emeritus of surgery with the University of Michigan. The dedication ceremony for the science center will take place at 12:30 p.m. at VanAndel Plaza, near the building’s main north entrance. An open house will follow from 1:15 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The science center project includes both the construction of a new, 85,900 square foot building and the renovation of the existing, 72,800 square foot Peale Science Center, which had opened in 1973. Construction began in March of 2002. The new building opened for the beginning of the 2003-04 school year, and the renovation of Peale is being completed for this fall.

The project totals $36 million, and is one of the major components of the Legacies: A Vision of Hope comprehensive campaign.