



AOCS Executive Director James Lyon (at the podium) serves as master of ceremonies for the dedication. Other participants (from the left) are John Heilman of the AOCS Foundation, AOCS past president Reid Milner, Jerry Smith of the State of Illinois, AOCS past president Stephen S. Chang, C.J.M. Meershoek of FEDIOL, Champaign Mayor Dan McCollum, AOCS President Robert Hastert and Ishiro Hara of the Japan Oil Chemists' Society. (Photo by James E. Corley)

## AOCS dedicates its headquarters

Approximately 200 persons attended the official dedication of the new AOCS headquarters in Champaign, Illinois, held Saturday, Nov. 7, at the headquarters site at 1608 Broadmoor. Among those on hand to witness this AOCS milestone were Ichiro Hara of the Japan Oil Chemists' Society, C.J.M. Meershoek of FEDIOL (the federation of European seed crushers and oil processors); Orville Bentley, U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) assistant secretary for science and education; Jerry Smith of Illinois Governor Jim Thompson's office, Mayor Dan McCollum of Champaign, and representatives from leading companies in the industry and sister associations.

A slight rain began just before the 10 a.m. ceremony but participants were sheltered by a tent erected for the occasion. By the time of the ribbon-cutting at the front of the headquarters 40 minutes later, the sun had broken

through the clouds. The Saturday morning dedication activities featured remarks by AOCS Executive Director James Lyon, AOCS past presidents Reid Milner and Stephen S. Chang and AOCS President Robert Hastert. Distinguished guests who offered official greetings of congratulation included Hara, president of Japan Oil Chemists' Society, who presented the society with a painted Japanese plate; USDA's Bentley, Meershoek, Smith and Mayor McCollum.

Echoing remarks by Lyon of the extensive friendships AOCS has around the world, Meershoek noted that he is waiting for the "A" in AOCS to be changed to "I" (to stand for International Oil Chemists' Society). Smith noted that it was appropriate that the new headquarters had been built "on what used to be a bean field."

Chang noted that perhaps his best contribution to the society had been in hiring Lyon as executive director; as Chang prepared to sit

down, Lyon handed him a dollar bill, eliciting laughter and applause from the audience.

Also recognized during the ceremonies were the major contributors to the fundraising project for the building, the architect, the bank handling the project, building committee members, Governing Board members and past presidents present. John Heilman, president of the AOCS Foundation, handed out plaques to major donors. Heilman noted that between \$320,000 and \$330,000 had been donated in the effort.

The ceremonies included a formal ribbon-cutting by Hastert at the front entryway to the building, as well as an open house, with brunch and tours of the headquarters.

The day's festivities were recorded in part by a local television station, which devoted two minutes of its airtime during the evening news broadcast to the event and to interviews with those present.