

h a p p e n i n g s



A Commitment to Innovation and Ethics—Women in Science

Following Dr. Foley's keynote address, students and faculty divided into seminar groups to learn more about increasingly important areas in science and technology—telecommunications, biotechnology, space, and global ecology. During these concurrent sessions, students in kindergarten through grade six learned about animals and endangered species and conducted hands-on experiments in the physical and environmental sciences.

Lewis E. Gilbert, Ph.D., (above) discussed "Global Ecology and Global Warming." Christina Dolan '79 (right) talked about "The Virtual Marketplace: How Real, How Safe?" Norma M.T. Braun, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.C.C.P., and Helen Whamond Boucher, M.D. '82, (below, right to left) explored "The Re-emergence of Tuberculosis and the Emergence of AIDS as Public Health Threats" in a seminar with students following Dr. Braun's earlier presentation. Joanna L. Groden, Ph.D. '74, (picture on page 2) explained "The State of Progress in the Human Genome Project."



Joan Sanders answers the question, "What is it like to travel in a space shuttle?" One of the students from Country Day School of the Sacred Heart, Bryn Mawr, tries on the space suit.



Lower School students have a hands-on experience with a live chinchilla. Upper and Middle School students explain their science projects to fellow students and teachers. One is about pollen, the other is about the intricacies of the heart.



Dr. Foley speaks on the future opportunities and challenges of women in science

Women have long been viewed as providing the compassionate side to the medical sciences, noted Kathleen Foley, M.D. in her keynote address at Convent of the Sacred Heart's Sesquicentennial Convocation. 150 years ago, when Sacred Heart was founded, men dominated the field of medicine, but communities often requested a "lady physician" from the Women's Medical College in Philadelphia because women were thought to better understand community medicine, prevention, and public health.

In the future, Dr. Foley sees that women will continue to bring a similar compassionate dimension to science. "We need to play a much more important role in character development that interfaces with science," she said. "It is not just grades and your place in class that matters, it's your recognition of and curiosity about the issues. It is your own personal sense to see the problems, to participate in discussion and debate about those problems, to be wrong. Mainly it is your need to be engaged and involved."

Dr. Foley noted that medicine and science face complex new challenges, many that mirror the changes taking place in our society as the population ages and the birth rate declines. "To age successfully we rely on science. You will be increasingly challenged to face issues to reduce pain and suffering, to confront issues such as cloning," said Dr. Foley.

Further, she added, "The challenge of science is that it is not enough. Having just the science talk doesn't work. We need to place it with-

in a humane, compassionate, caring system," she said. These are social and political issues. So, in many ways, she said, the challenges young women face are not about potential. "Finding the opportunities to do science won't be the problem," Dr. Foley noted, as it was 150 years ago when women faced strong prejudice and often isolation.

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Instead, she continued, "I think the difficulties you might have are translating that science to improve the quality of life for all of us. In the process of trying to do that, the personal issues that you face, the professional issues that you face, the dilemmas that you face will be about the quality of care that you provide."

Taking that thought one step further, Dr. Foley said, "The translation of science to practice is all about character. It is about preserving our ethical and moral integrity. It's all about the opportunity of keeping this an open society so that we can discuss the complex issues that are, and will be, facing all of us."

In closing, Dr. Foley revealed that one of the things she tells her children is that she continues to learn much more from her failures than she does from her successes. It was her way of saying, take risks. "Take your opportunities and move forward with them, bringing along a sense of who you are,

where you come from, and what you represent—especially with respect to the diversity that you also bring to any situation."