

Yudof said regardless of the program, it is a struggle to pursue and retain blue-chip faculty without first-rate facilities.

"Let me just make the case in the strongest possible terms," he said. "In my judgment, many parts of this investment should have been made in 1987. That's one part. The second part of it is this is the critical area in science in the coming century, and not just in my judgment but the judgment of knowledgeable academicians across the country."

He quoted from experts who insist there are more than 1,200 physical and psychological disorders that have been tied to single genes.

"This research is absolutely critical," Yudof said. "We're doing a great deal of it, and we'll be doing more under this proposal. There are some who think virtually every disease will be shown to have some sort of connection to genes."

Yudof said other states that have invested in facilities and staff to conduct such research "have profited enormously, particularly in the pharmaceutical area." He said Minnesota's public-private partnerships would benefit from such and investment.

Yudof said the university already brings in \$150 million in grant funding, mostly through the National Institutes of Health. He said the university is thus "not starting at ground-level zero," but from a position of strength. And he said President Clinton has asked to increase the federal budget in molecular and cellular biology.

"We need to position ourselves to compete for this money," Yudof said.

The 53-year-old former executive vice-president at the University of Texas-Austin has also termed the Minnesota campus one the top five mall areas on the nation's college campuses. He says he is intent on preserving the historic value of the setting.

The 11 buildings on the mall area are among the older campus structures and all need major or minor work, he said. In the revitalization process, Yudof said he wants to modify Coffman Union and demolish the parking ramp that blocks a sweeping view from Northrop Memorial Auditorium to the banks of the Mississippi River.

Yudof said these changes would restore the concept of renowned architect Cass Gilbert, who designed the mall in 1907. The goal is to accomplish the work before the University's 150th anniversary in 2001.

The finance division took no action on the U of M's bonding proposal. The matter will be considered again later this session. ❀



By Matt Wetzel

Gov. Arne Carlson said at the Jan. 29 installation of Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz that she brings to the state's highest court not only supreme legal skills but also important personal attributes.

"[She has] a sense of being the person to bring us all together. She has been given much — superb education, a superb opportunity to serve from her community — but as all true leaders, she has paid us back," Carlson said in remarks at the swearing-in ceremony at the Landmark Center in St. Paul.

Blatz, 43, Bloomington, a former member of the House of Representatives and now a justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court, was sworn in by outgoing Chief Justice A.M. (Sandy) Keith. She becomes the 19th chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

"It's with extreme gratitude I stand before you today. The journey of life is not a journey traveled alone," she said.

Also in attendance was her husband, Tom Berkelman, her sons, Hunter, Carter and Max, several Minnesota legislators, and judges from both the federal and state level.

Blatz said a judge's responsibility is not only listening to testimony, studying precedents, and then ruling, but serving on panels, on task forces, and in other roles that can help people and, ultimately, society.

"A judge can reach out to the community and prevent bad things from happening. That's a judge's responsibility," she said. Blatz said she found her work on a task force that addressed Fetal Alcohol Syndrome to be very rewarding.

A native of Bloomington, Blatz was in the Legislature from 1978 to 1994, and as a lawmaker, she built a reputation for leadership on family and children's issues.

She worked closely with current House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon), and the two were first elected in the same year. Sviggum was on hand for the swearing-in.

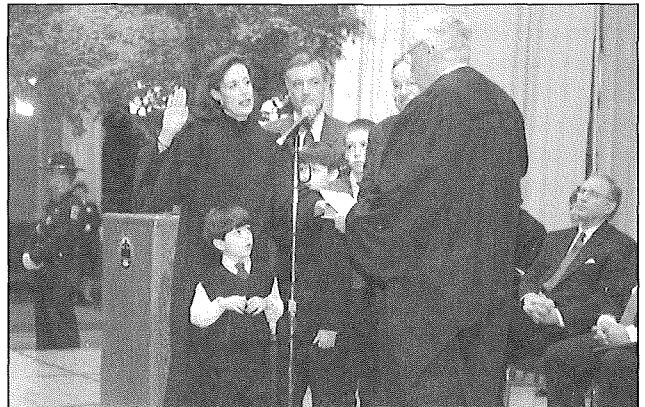
## Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz served House from '78 to '94

"I felt proud for Kathleen," he said. "I'm comfortable that a person of her quality will be heading to the Supreme Court, whether it's family issues or getting tough on crime. I know she's a dear friend, extremely talented, and well-qualified."

Blatz holds a master's degree in social work, and she graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1984. She served in the Legislature and worked as an attorney and as a prosecutor until 1994, when Carlson appointed her as a judge in the Fourth Judicial District Court, which includes Hennepin County.

She married Berkelman in 1984, and Berkelman, who now works for AT&T, spent seven years in the House as a DFLer from Duluth. Blatz's father is Jerome Blatz, a longtime state senator from Bloomington. He provided the family Bible used to swear in Blatz.

She said a major difference between be-



Former House member Kathleen Blatz is sworn-in as the first woman and the nineteenth chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court by outgoing Chief Justice A. M. (Sandy) Keith, right, during ceremonies Jan. 29 at the Landmark Center in St. Paul. Joining Chief Justice Blatz during the swearing-in are her husband, Tom Berkelman, and sons, left to right, Max, Carter, and Hunter. Her father, Jerome V. Blatz, holds the Bible as his daughter is sworn in.

ing a legislator and being a judge is the feedback sought from the public in each position.

"When I was a legislator, you could go out and you could be asked several questions. You are expected to take a position. That's what voters expect," she said.

However, a judge cannot take a position until it's time to rule on a case, and that position must be based on the law, not on personal preference, she said, and she tries to explain that when she talks to people about the law and being a judge. ❀