The Martha Miller Center
building bridges through global communication

Hope College: Launching Lives
Named in honor of the late Martha Miller, the new Martha Miller Center for Global Communications symbolizes the academic excellence afforded by Hope College. Architecturally significant, this state-of-the-art facility makes an esthetic contribution to the campus and our community, while facilitating a growing curriculum in communications and languages. Lakewood construction management services delivered this project on time and within budget.

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Her love for Hope inspired her to give.

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By Carrie Rietsma
Specialty Publications Writer

Martha (Muller) Miller loved Hope. Her ties to the college began when her eldest brother started to attend the school. Her brother encouraged the rest of the Muller family to move from its farm in Danforth, Ill. to Holland, Mich. when Martha was four years old.

"Her father sold the farm and moved the family to Holland to enable the rest of the children to attend Hope and to take advantage of the business opportunities in Holland," noted Martha's son, Phil Miller.

"A number of her other siblings also attended Hope and her love for the school evolved."
Martha herself was a member of the class of 1924.
Since then, Martha's three children and five of her grandchildren attended the school. Now the legacy is continuing into the fourth generation. Martha's great-granddaughter and namesake, Martha Miller, is currently attending classes at Hope College.

The family's deep history with the school inspired Martha to contribute a $3...
Homecoming Weekend has taken on added meaning at Hope College this year as a celebration of the college’s newest academic building. The dedication and related activities for the Martha Miller Center for Global Communication will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 14-15.

The public is invited. Admission is free.

The building, located on Columbia Avenue at 10th Street, houses the departments of communication and modern and classical languages, and the offices of international education and multicultural life, as well as the college’s new leadership program. It opened in August for the start of the school year, with classes phasing into the building through mid-September as finishing work and the installation of computer and editing equipment was completed.

**Friday, October 14**

The dedication ceremony will be held on Friday, October 14, at 12:30 pm, with tours of the building following immediately afterward. Participants in the ceremony will include Dr. James Bultman, president of Hope College; Dr. James Boelkins, provost of Hope; a representative of the Miller family; and representatives of Design Plus, the architectural firm that designed the building, and the construction manager of Lakewood Construction, Inc. In addition, the “La Estudiantina” performing group of Queretaro, Mexico, will present a musical selection during the dedication.

Related activities in the building will begin Friday morning.

The events will begin at 9 am with a keynote address in the Maas Center auditorium by Floyd Brady, a 1968 Hope graduate from Chicago, Ill., who is the president and chief executive officer of the Dr. H.B. Brady Foundation. There will be a second keynote address at 1:30 pm, by Scott Carpenter, a 1987 Hope graduate from Alexandria, Va., who is deputy assistant secretary for Near Eastern Affairs MEPI (Middle East Partnership Initiatives) with the US State Department.

**Saturday, October 15**

Activities will continue throughout the day Saturday, October 15.

There will be a dedication ceremony on Saturday at 10:30 am of the 84-seat Fried-Hemenway Auditorium, named for Dr. Paul Fried, professor emeritus of history, and Dr. Stephen Hemenway, professor of English, the former and current leader respectively of the college’s popular Vienna Summer School. Fried and Hemenway are the only two men to have led the college’s Vienna Summer School. The program, which is one of the college’s best-known and most popular international programs, was established in 1956 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2006 with a special alumni trip coordinated by the college’s Alumni Office. Fried, who taught at Hope from 1953 until retiring in 1984, is widely recognized — continued on page 6
in honor of
Martha Miller

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million leadership gift to the college. She made her wishes known before her death on May 16, 1999 at the age of 96.

“The things that were important to Mother were her faith, her children, her children’s education and her community,” Miller said. “So a gift of a building to Hope College was a gift that affirmed and supported all those things that were most dear to her.”

The gift from the Miller estate allows Hope College to expand several programs and better prepare its students for the future. Miller believes his mother would be happy with the new facility.

“Mother, first of all, would be a little embarrassed to have her name on a building; but when she got past that I’m sure she would be very pleased,” he said. “As a family, we look at a building that encompasses languages, communication, multicultural life and international education and say it couldn’t be a more appropriate building to put Martha Miller’s name on to reflect her love of people and the diversity of life.”
as the architect of the college’s program in international education. Hemenway, who joined the faculty in 1972, has led the program since 1976. On Saturday at 11 am, the departments of communication and modern and classical languages and the offices of international education and multicultural life will all hold alumni receptions and offer tours. Communication and multicultural life will meet on the first floor of the rotunda, and alumni who studied abroad as students and majors and minors in modern and classical languages will meet on the rotunda’s second floor. There will be a reception for international student alumni at 4:30 pm on the first floor of the rotunda.

The 49,000-square-foot Martha Miller Center for Global Communication is located across from Phelps Hall on property that formerly housed Lincoln Elementary School. The college broke ground for the building, constructed for a total project cost of $12 million, on April 29, 2004. The departmental and program mix is viewed as highly complementary, with the goal being that their proximity to one another will lead to interaction and collaboration and an overall focus on global awareness and cultural understanding that will enhance Hope’s work in preparing students for life after graduation. The collective virtue in the design also follows individual necessity: all four programs were in need of homes that matched both the way they have grown and contemporary instructional standards. The Martha Miller Center project was a part of the college’s $105 million “Legacies: A Vision of Hope” comprehensive campaign. Launched in October 2000, the campaign concluded on June 30, 2005, having raised more than $140 million. The campaign had four major components, which in addition to the Martha Miller Center for Global Communication and making general campus improvements were: constructing a new science center and renovating the Peale Science Center; constructing the Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse; and increasing the endowment. The new science center opened in August of 2003, the renovation of the Peale Science Center was completed in August of 2004, and the Richard and Helen DeVos Fieldhouse is scheduled for completion later during the fall semester.

The new editing suites in communication reflect the way that the Martha Miller Center provides both additional space for programs that outgrew their old homes and supports contemporary instructional needs.
The Martha Miller Center is a marriage of beauty and function. “It’s the most beautiful building on campus — not that I’m bias or anything,” laughed Craig Nicely, lead architect and partner at Design Plus in Grand Rapids. The 49,000-square-foot facility houses the departments of communication and modern and classical languages, and the offices of international education and multicultural life. The two-story L-shaped building features two wings that are joined together by the rotunda, which is perhaps its most prominent feature. The lower level of the rotunda is a popular meeting place for students and professors to chat or work on group projects. The building’s flexibility will serve students well into the future, while its traditional design emulates Hope’s rich history. — continued on page 8
upper level tends to be a quieter setting where students can study or catch up on their reading. The entire rotunda, which is situated on the corner of 10th Street and Columbia Avenue, is enveloped with large windows and makes a gorgeous centerpiece for the new facility.

“The rotunda is really symbolic if you think about communication and international culture coming together,” Nicely noted. “It’s a place for people to meet, and there’s a symbol of everything coming together in a circle.”

The rotunda even plays a key role in the way students learn.

“Learning doesn’t necessarily happen just in the classrooms,” Nicely added. “It’s in the informal settings and in the interaction between students and teachers. This gives a wonderful place for that to happen.”

The $12 million project also includes seven classrooms, 38 offices, several lounges and workrooms, one kitchen, seminar rooms, an 85-seat auditorium, conference rooms, a language lab, a computer lab and a television studio with four editing suites. The building is home to the campus.
radio station, WTHS (89.9 FM), and the student newspaper office for the Anchor.

Randy Blauwkamp, site superintendent from Lakewood Inc. in Holland, said the close proximity of the railroad tracks had to be taken into consideration, especially for the recording studio.

“That was probably the biggest concern,” he said. “The television studio had a lot of specialty flooring and footing requirements to make the room function in the way it was designed.”

“The studio is a building within a building,” Nicely added. “It’s totally isolated and is separated from the ground as well as the walls to minimize the sounds and vibrations that could create disruption.”

The studio rests on a five-foot bed of sand and gravel and has cement block walls that are 12 inches thick and filled with sand. The five-inch-thick ceiling is made of concrete.

Nicely and Blauwkamp also had to think about the continuous changes in technology as they designed and constructed the Martha Miller Center.

“We’ve found out in my practice that the one thing that is constant today is change,” Nicely quipped. “And it’s happening more rapidly and regularly. This building was planned with the latest technology in mind and the capabilities to integrate wireless. We tried to plan things that aren’t too customized so the spaces can be adaptable over time.”

The building’s flexibility will serve students well into the future, while its traditional design emulates Hope’s rich history.

“It truly is beautiful and its timeless style fits well within the rest of the campus,” Nicely said. “It’s a welcome addition to the Hope College campus in the way it looks and functions,” Blauwkamp added. “The building fits the overall landscape of the campus very, very well. I think it turned out awesome.”

The building is home to the campus radio station, WTHS (89.9 FM), and the student newspaper office for the Anchor.
Hope College’s German department is taking learning to a whole new level, technically speaking.

“Auf geht’s!” is a collaborative effort to develop computer-based, multi-media teaching materials for first-year German courses at the college level. Dr. Lee Forester, associate professor of German and project developer and head of instructional design for “Auf geht’s!,” believes that students learn a language more effectively when they not only study the words and rules of grammar, but also experience the language’s cultural context.

“A look at today’s generation of students reveals that print — books, magazines, newspapers — are not the main way they acquire and share

Dr. Lee Forester, of the college’s German faculty, is playing a leadership role in developing multi-media teaching materials that the center is well positioned to put into use.
information and knowledge,” Dr. Forester noted. “The computer is at the center now, along with cell phones, PDAs, Gameboys, and all the combinations of these. For learning to seem relevant and true, it needs to be embodied in a variety of media, particularly computer media, and not just books.”

A number of Web activities are integrated throughout the program, including Webquests, on-line shopping, travel arrangements and related tasks. The program also features more than 30,000 authentic photographs and 100 hours of audio clips of Germans engaged in unscripted, everyday conversation.

“This is real Germans talking about real topics,” Dr. Forester said. “No canned dialogs or phony reading texts.”

The program uses the computer’s ability to blend audio, visuals and the written word to immerse students into German life and culture. Dr. Forester is excited about the Martha Miller Center and how the new building will be able to more effectively support this type of learning.

“The classrooms are all ‘smart classrooms’ and it will be very easy to work with computer materials in class, whether that be Web sites, interactive software, or simply having more images and better visual presentations,” he said. “The Language Learning Center will be equipped with a number of computers for collaborative projects and learning activities. We are also planning to — continued on page 14
Congratulations Hope College!

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a good mix
of departments

By Carrie Rietsma
Specialty Publications Writer

Four departments are rubbing shoulders in the Martha Miller Center, and the mix is helping students gain a broader perspective of the world around them.

The building houses the departments of communication and modern and classical languages, and the offices of international education and multicultural life. This intentional blend will enable the programs to complement one another and more effectively prepare students for the future.

“The synergy created by the presence of these four programs under one roof will create a unique model of curricular and co-curricular exchange that will enhance student learning and benefit the college in numerous ways,” said Dr. Nancy Miller, dean for the social sciences and chair of the Martha Miller Center Planning Team. “It is essential that our students gain the capacity to understand the perspectives of others, especially those whose background and experiences differ from their own.”

Students of all sorts of ethnicities will come into contact with one another in the Martha Miller Center. Even the building’s design was deliberately created to encourage communication between the different departments. Wherever possible, spaces are shared by the four departments rather than designated for the use of just one.

“There are open meeting places designed as a common place where students can gather and socialize,” Dr. Miller noted.

“The ability to communicate across language and culture will be required of anyone going into business, government, education, ministry, social work, medicine and virtually every other discipline,” she continued. “We believe that students who enter the building will acquire a broadened awareness and heightened sensitivity to diversity in many forms due to the particular courses they take and the environment they experience.”

This design will also support the increasing popular push for interdisciplinary programming.

“It speaks to our ‘interdisciplinarity,’” said Dr. Lee Forester, associate professor of German. “We’re interested in making connections across different disciplines — that’s what liberal arts is about. I think it’s a logical outgrowth of our philosophy.”

As courses continue to overlap throughout the disciplines, it seems natural to mesh the departments of communication and modern — continued on page 14

The building’s design was deliberately created to encourage communication between the different departments. Wherever possible, spaces are shared by the four departments rather than designated for the use of just one.

- Support Hope’s mission to be excellent in curricular and co-curricular areas
- Provide essential space for programmatic growth
- Create synergy between and among the four programs housed in the Center
- Enable students to experience and appreciate other cultures and ethnicities
- Heighten student awareness of and sensitivity to diversity
- Make a strong, public statement about the importance of diversity on Hope’s campus
- Improve foreign language skills and cross-cultural communication
- Affirm the diversity of the Kingdom of God — that we are all created in God’s image
- Promote the recruitment and retention of a more culturally diverse faculty and student body
Experiencing the culture, firsthand

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The building was designed to keep up with changing technology and updated teaching techniques.

“The facility was designed to be flexible because we know that we can’t anticipate what technologies will be hot in five years,” Dr. Forester added. “So a lot of thought went into how to keep the building flexible so it can grow with the times and not become locked into what may become an outdated teaching paradigm. I am extremely pleased with how it came out. It is a tremendous facility and I can’t think of another building for languages or communication in the whole country that is superior.”

As students travel through and study within the Martha Miller Center, they will benefit from the college’s commitment to preparing them to live and serve in a diverse and interconnected world.

The building was designed to keep up with changing technology and updated teaching techniques.

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and classical languages, and the offices of international education and multicultural life into one building.

“This will help prepare students better for the world in which they live,” Dr. Miller said. “The push for interdisciplinary programs just makes sense. It’s a better way of learning. It doesn’t always fall into a neat package.”

Placing multicultural life and international education in the Martha Miller Center — a centrally located, high-traffic area — will also enhance the visibility of these two programs.

“It makes a strong public statement about Hope College’s commitment to diversity,” Dr. Miller noted. “It’s a space where multicultural and international students will be at the center of the Hope community.”

As students travel through and study within the Martha Miller Center, they will benefit from the college’s commitment to preparing them to live and serve in a diverse and interconnected world.
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A new era in education has dawned at Hope College.

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