New year in the works

With two major building projects progressing, it has again been a summer of change on the Hope campus.

The Martha Miller Center for Global Communication was completed and its departments and programs have started moving in. The building houses the departments of communication and modern and classical languages, and the offices of international education and multicultural life.

The building is also now home for the Anchor, weekly student newspaper and WTHS, the college’s student-run FM radio station. (More about the October dedication of the Martha Miller Center can be found on page two.)

Work on the DeVos Fieldhouse has continued in anticipation of the building’s debut with the 2005-06 basketball season. In addition to work on the building itself, activity has included work on the grounds, such as grading the intramural fields that will be on the building’s east side and removing college-owned houses on the west side of the fieldhouse site.

Cottage housing has stayed about even, with the three houses that have been added offsetting the demolition of others at the fieldhouse site. The most prominent of the housing additions is the former Fried International Center in the center of campus, which is becoming Fried Cottage and will be the residence of eight women.

The venerable brick home has played multiple roles through the years, including serving as the college’s Alumni House and as the home of the department of education.

With the departments of communication and modern and classical languages having vacated Lubbers and Graves halls respectively, the college will continue to plan for the two buildings’ renovation or restoration beginning sometime in 2006.

More immediately, the space in the DeWitt Center formerly used by the Anchor and WTHS will be used by other student organizations starting in the fall. In other projects across campus, a new polyurethane surface has been placed on the track at Buys Athletic Fields, portions of the DeVitt Center have been re-roofed, and a variety of cottages have received cosmetic improvements or new roofs.

The new and renovated facilities will be put to good use. Once again, the college is anticipating a fall enrollment of more than 3,000 students.

The opening convocation for the coming school year, the college’s 144th academic year, will be held on Sunday, Aug. 28, at 2 p.m. in Dimnent Memorial Chapel.

The public is invited. Admission is free. The convocation address will be delivered by Dr. Deirdre Johnston, who is an associate professor of communication and chairperson of the department.

Cook Hall to grow

Even as two major building projects are ending or in their final months, another is just beginning.

Construction is starting this month on an addition to the Cook student residence hall, located on 10th Street between College and Columbia avenues. The addition is scheduled to be ready for the start of the 2006-07 school year.

Record enrollments in recent years and a growing desire by students to live in college-owned residences led to the college’s decision to undertake the project on a campus that is already a beehive of construction activity. The Martha Miller Center is opening later this month, and the DeVos Fieldhouse is scheduled to open for the start of the basketball season.

Cook hall had a record enrollment of 3,112 students for the 2004-05 school year and the college is anticipating another banner year in 2005-06. Approximately 80 percent of the college’s students live in Hope-owned housing.

The planned addition to the north-east wing was part of the original design for the building when it was constructed in the mid-1990s. It was deleted from the project at that time for financial reasons.

Adjoining the college’s Haworth Inn and Conference Center, the Cook Hall has 100 rooms to serve 184 students.

The addition, estimated to cost $2.5 million, will provide housing for an additional 66 students.

Cook Hall rooms are in a “suite” design with a full bathroom joining two bedrooms. The building has lounges, an exercise room, computer lab, and laundry facilities. It is easily accessible to college dining services at the Haworth Center.

Air-conditioned, Cook Hall is frequently used to host summer conference guests. Cook Hall, which opened for the 1997-98 school year, is named in honor of Peter and Emajean (Pat) Cook in recognition of their long-time support of Hope.

Mr. Cook was a member of the college Board of Trustees from 1977 until 1989.

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