Weekend celebrates new building

Homecoming Weekend will take on added meaning 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-Saturday, Oct. 14-15. The public is invited, and admission is free.

The building houses the departments of communication and modern and classical languages, and the offices of international education and multicultural life. The departments and programs began moving in earlier this month in anticipation of the new school year.

The dedication ceremony will be held on Friday, Oct. 14, at 1 p.m., with tours of the building following immediately afterward.

Related activities in the building will begin Friday morning. Keynote addresses are being scheduled for Friday at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Starting at 10 a.m., each of the four departments and programs will host presentations by panels of alumni: the department of communication at 10 a.m., the department of modern and classical languages at 11 a.m., the office of international education at 2:30 p.m. and the office of multicultural life at 6 p.m.

Food stations will be set up in the building during the lunch hour for those attending the day’s events.

In addition, on Saturday all four departments will also feature receptions and tours for alumni: the office of multicultural life at 11 a.m., the department of communication at 11 a.m.; the department of modern and classical languages at 11 a.m. (the event is for those who studied abroad as well as majors and minors); and the office of international education at 4:30 p.m. (or immediately after the football game).

The 49,000-square-foot Martha Miller Center for Global Communication is located on Columbia Avenue between 10th and 11th streets, across from Phelps Hall on property that formerly housed Lincoln Elementary School. The building is named after the late Martha Miller, ’24 Miller in honor of an estate gift that she made in June of 1999.

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 will lead to interaction and collaboration. The results will include 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 several central ideas: that all four programs were in need of homes that matched both the way they have grown and contemporary instructional standards.