Chairs value Hope’s human impact

The co-chairs of the Legacies campaign have each experienced Hope from multiple perspectives.

Peter Cook of Grand Rapids, Mich., Peter Huizenga ‘60 of Oak Brook, Ill., and Phil Miller ‘65 of Holland, Mich., are the campaign’s three chairs. All three are trustees, all three have been or are parents of Hope students, one was a Hope grandparent, two are alumni (one was a generational student) and one is the spouse of a Hope faculty member. The result of their many experiences is a shared vision: of the important difference that Hope College does make, of the important difference that an even stronger Hope College could make, and of the important difference that Hope’s new capital campaign will make.

All long-time Hope enthusiasts, they also know that they are not the only ones who feel that way.

“We are here at Hope College because we believe that we have a society that is in need of leaders that reflect both academic excellence and the Christian value system,” Miller said. “And I believe that’s why our constituents have already given almost $55 million to this campaign. It’s because they share that vision for our students, and value the fact that we are developing tomorrow’s leaders, and understand that the best leaders do not come inexpensively.”

It’s the human impact at the end of the dollar goals and the projects that have the three chairs behind the campaign, and have them confident that others will be, too.

“This campaign isn’t primarily about facilities, or classrooms or laboratories. It’s about people,” Cook said. “It’s about the superb job that Hope College and its faculty and staff do in developing leaders for tomorrow’s society.”

Huizenga cited the $30 million endowment goal as an example.

“If you’re asking for money for endowment, that alone isn’t very exciting,” he said. “But if you put it in the context of, ‘Would you like to help endow a chair for a professor, or to assist in paying expenses for a department?, or, ‘Would you like to provide scholarships for students?’—and maybe for students in a given area of study or from a specific geographic area—that has a specific interest for people.

And although the campaign is ambitious in its $85 million goal, the campaign’s chairs note that it is not extravagant—not unrealistic.

“I think we’re challenging our constituency and friends of Hope in the largest dollar amount we’ve ever requested, but I think we can make that goal; it’s very achievable,” Huizenga said.

Huizenga also noted that the campaign won’t be addressing every need at Hope for all time. As an example, he cited improving Hope’s sports facilities as already having been identified as a project for a future effort. “So we still have a pocketful of needs and desires, but this is going to bring us a long way,” he said.

Cook is chairman of Cook Holdings. He was chairman of the board and majority owner of Transnational Motors from 1977 until selling the company earlier this year. He was president of Import Motors Limited Inc. from 1954 until selling the business in 1980.

He serves on several boards, including of the Blodgett-Butterworth Foundation, the Porter Hills Foundation, Gospel Communications and the Van Andel Institute. He is a Greater Grand Rapids Member of the Grace Reformed Church, and has served on the Finance Committee of the Reformed Church in America. Cook was a member of Hope’s Board of Trustees from 1977 until 1989, when he was named an honorary trustee. Cook Hall residence hall, dedicated in 1997, was named in honor of him and his wife Emajean (Pat) Cook in recognition of their long-time support of Hope and a major gift for the building project.

He and Pat have two sons, Thomas Cook ’67 and Stephen Cook. Their grandson Ryan Cook ‘96 led the successful effort to restore the college’s chapel chimes to working order in 1996.

Huizenga is chairman of Huizenga Capital Management. From 1968 to 1997 he was president of the company. In 1997 he formed Huizenga and Associates, which continues to serve as a financial and advisory service to industry and government clients.

Huizenga is a member of Christ Church of Oak Brook, and has been a member of the Board of Directors of Bethany Christian Services. He has been a member of the college’s Board of Trustees since 1988. He served as co-chair of the college’s previous capital campaign, Hope in the Future, which concluded in 1994.

His mother was Martha Muller ‘24 Miller, who in the weeks before her death was arranging to give the college funds for the Marty Miller Center. He and his siblings—Connie Miller ‘58 Johnston and Jack Miller ‘54—carried through their mother’s wish, and the building is a part of the Legacies campaign.

Miller’s wife, Dr. Nancy Sonneveldt ‘62 Miller, is dean for the social sciences and a professor of education at Hope. They have three children: Christopher, Derek Miller ’95 and Mindy Miller ’97.

Shape the future

(Continued from page nine.)

The Legacies campaign will significantly alter the campus landscape, particularly through the construction of the Miller Center and the new science center. For President Bultman, though, the value is not in what will be seen, but in what it will mean.

Legacies: A Vision of Hope will foster, and the result, President Bultman believes, will be a college that stands out among the nation’s 1,100-plus undergraduate schools.

"Hope has the ability to be a player nationally on the academic dimension with contributions to the body of knowledge in different fields—I think we have the experience in our faculty to do that," he said. "We also have the resolve and the conviction to simultaneously maintain a vibrant Christian dimension on campus—ecumenical in nature while rooted in the Reformed faith."

“There just aren’t many other colleges doing this,” President Bultman said. “There are institutions that are very strong in one dimension or the other, but Hope is unique in exceptionally combining both.”

“Legacies: A Vision of Hope will help assure that Hope will continue to combine both well—and will enable Hope to do so even more effectively,” he said.