

## **CASE STATEMENT**

### **LINDERMAN LIBRARY TRANSFORMED: PARTNERING WITH THE HUMANITIES**

Today's Lehigh students live their lives around the clock. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, they expect resources of all types to be available to them – wherever they may be. In the classroom, students are faced with new methods of instruction in higher education. They're challenged to work together in teams, to solve real-life projects, and to look at each task with an interdisciplinary, boundary-free perspective.

Lehigh's Linderman Library, celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this academic year, must rise to meet the needs of the students of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In Linderman, Lehigh will create a vibrant and dynamic intellectual center for the humanities community and the campus at large—one that will strengthen partnerships among academic programs. Like the impact of the Zoellner Arts Center in attracting students interested in music and theatre to Lehigh, a transformed Linderman will clearly demonstrate the centrality of the humanities at Lehigh and become a major factor in attracting the best and brightest humanities students to Lehigh, while drawing the most talented faculty to our classrooms.

Your support is vital as we continue Linderman's reputation as a living library, one that is far more than a space for books. Together, we can create a Linderman beyond expectation – a center for the humanities at Lehigh – a Linderman that is truly unbound.

#### **More than Books and Beauty**

Located at the heart of the historic Asa Packer Campus, Linderman is Lehigh's first library. Then and now, its grandeur and architectural beauty impress students and faculty, as well as visitors to campus, and invite them to serious study and contemplation.

Donated by Asa Packer, and named for his daughter Lucy, the Linderman Library was built in 1877 and opened its doors to the Lehigh University community on April 29, 1878. Addison Hutton of Philadelphia, architect for Packer Memorial Church, designed the original building.

While earlier university libraries were primarily storehouses for books, Linderman is the first American academic library to have three distinct spaces: space for the readers, a semi-circular stack area for the books, and separate work space for the staff. In 1929, to accommodate the increasing size of the library collection and the growing student body, a large addition was built around the rotunda building. This addition included the magnificent reading room, a beautifully appointed rare book room, seminar rooms and gallery space.

Since the completion of the 1929 addition, there have been no structural modifications to Linderman.

#### **A Dynamic Intellectual Center**

More than seventy years have passed since Linderman was expanded. The time is right to make the changes necessary to make Lehigh's oldest library the dynamic, flexible resource today's students demand. To that end, we envision:

- Existing spaces re-purposed to create classrooms and group seminar rooms. An increased number of humanities-based spaces will provide greater visibility for the humanities programs.
- A sophisticated infrastructure to support state-of-the-art classrooms and seminar rooms and access to the electronic resources beyond the library's walls.
- A humanities commons and café space where students, faculty and staff can enjoy a cappuccino while reading the newspaper or preparing for class.
- The latest in computer technology unobtrusively incorporated, allowing unprecedented access for users. Wired and wireless spaces will be available for students working on team projects.
- New climate control systems installed to preserve the collections and to provide a comfortable environment for students, faculty and staff.
- Building access and navigation enhanced for both entering the building and finding your way once inside.
- Lectures, musical performances, readings and other events scheduled regularly to promote intellectual dialogue on campus.

Success will make Linderman Library a destination point for all members of the Lehigh community.

### **A Strong Tradition, A Strong Foundation**

From the beginning, Lehigh has been grounded in the humanities. The library originally housed all of Lehigh's library collections; since 1968, it has been the home of the humanities collections. And from the day Lehigh was founded, Asa Packer insisted the university offer a rich and varied education that included the classics, literature and other subjects complementary to engineering and science.

Lehigh's humanities tradition remains strong. The university boasts significant doctoral programs in English and history, an interdisciplinary master's program in American Studies, and unique learning opportunities for students. In Fall 2002, Lehigh inaugurated its first Humanities Learning Community offering first-year students the opportunity to live together and also share in a college seminar. Linderman Library provides a wealth of material to support humanities scholarship in the broadest sense, as well as the academic course offerings of the Berman Center for Jewish Studies, the proposed Islamic Studies initiative, and the innovative Global Citizenship program.

In addition, the humanities faculty is engaged in groundbreaking scholarship. One member is working on the first translation of the Old Testament from Greek to English over the course of 150 years; another's work questions the concept of the Scientific Revolution. Yet another is engaged in comparative studies of medieval literature and contemporary films, while a colleague analyzes bamboo texts from a Chinese tomb. Such research in the humanities at Lehigh spans centuries, religions and cultures.

Lehigh's tradition of strong engineering programs gives our humanities programs a quality not always found elsewhere. At Lehigh, it is understood that the humanities and technology are not separate spheres, but modes of thought and action dependent on each other. Creativity is essential

to the built environment, just as the development of new technologies brings into sharp relief the central questions of the humanities. From the steam engine to the computer, new technologies change the very culture that creates them and make us redefine what it means to be human. In a revitalized Linderman, group study rooms, seminar rooms and wireless access encourage students to move between seemingly disparate fields and foster conditions in which understanding *and* innovation thrive.

With total holdings of 1.2 million volumes, the Lehigh libraries also serve as an important resource for the entire region. Linderman houses a collection of about 270,000 volumes in the core humanities disciplines (English, history, fine arts and architecture, modern languages, philosophy and religion studies). It also holds most of the library's rare and special collections of books, manuscripts and archival materials – another 40,000 volumes. These collections complement the social sciences, business, science and engineering materials housed in the newer, E. W. Fairchild-Martindale Library. In addition to physical volumes, academic libraries today offer a wide range of electronic journals and databases and multimedia tools. Lehigh's libraries have taken the lead in making these electronic riches available as part of the campus information arena.

Lehigh is committed to building upon this significant foundation as it strives to achieve its vision of a revitalized and transformed Linderman Library.

### **Linderman Unbound**

Libraries will always be a place to study, to get help from a librarian, to socialize and to contemplate. But today's academic library is also about learning and teaching—informal and formal, in a classroom or a seminar room, in a group study with several classmates, over a newspaper, by oneself, over a cup of coffee, or by interacting with a librarian, a professor, or another student.

The revitalization of the Linderman Library is critical to meeting changing student needs, to supporting new methods of instruction, and to providing the latest technology available for research and scholarship. Linderman Library, the library for the humanities for the past 125 years, has the potential to be a dynamic library and intellectual center for another one hundred years, and a valuable resource for generations of students to come. While the functions of libraries evolve, the essential mission of the library remains vital to the university and will continue to remain so. Libraries are here to stay.

4/16/04