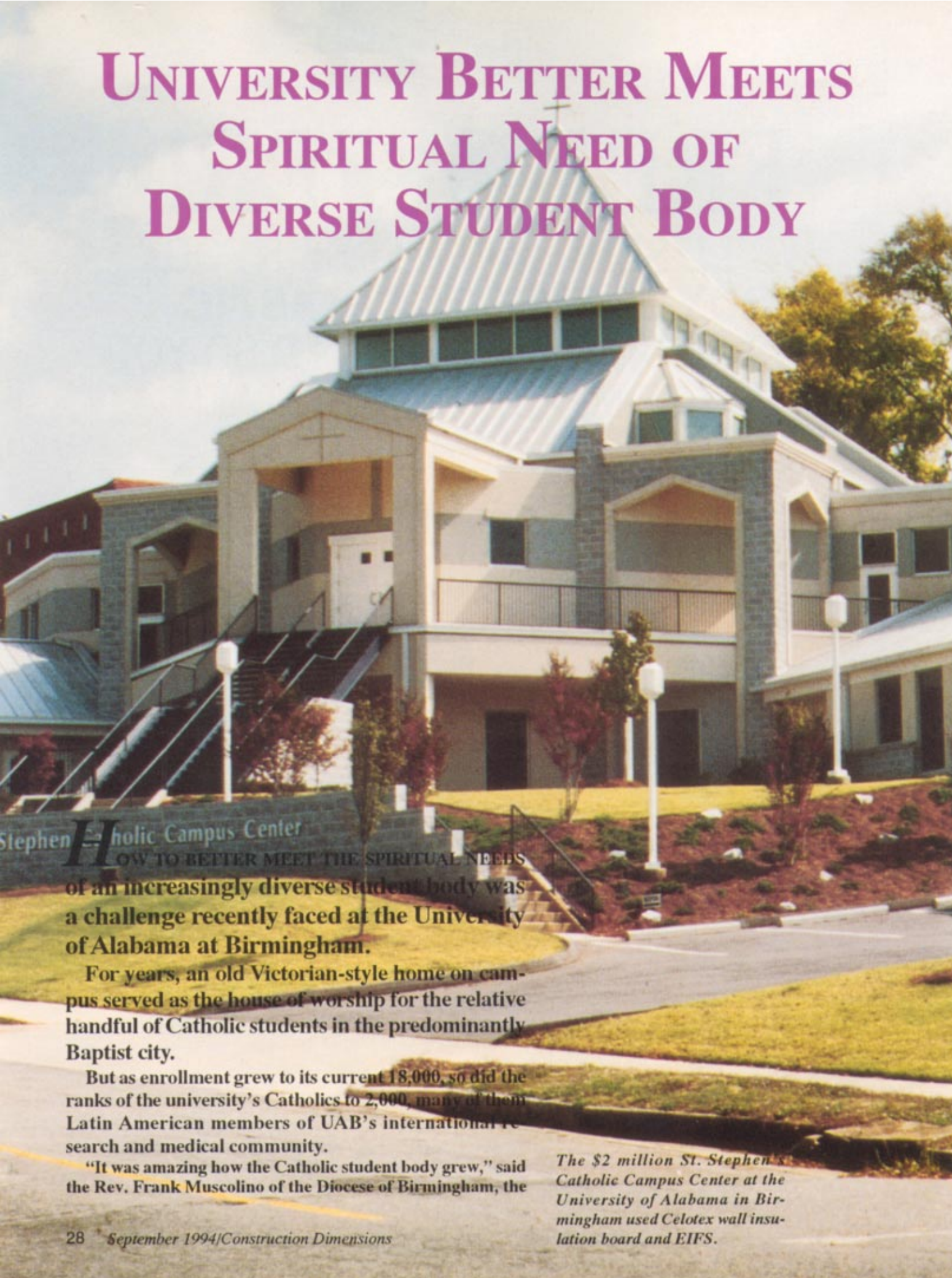


UNIVERSITY BETTER MEETS SPIRITUAL NEED OF DIVERSE STUDENT BODY



Stephen's Catholic Campus Center


HOW TO BETTER MEET THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS of an increasingly diverse student body was a challenge recently faced at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

For years, an old Victorian-style home on campus served as the house of worship for the relative handful of Catholic students in the predominantly Baptist city.

But as enrollment grew to its current 18,000, so did the ranks of the university's Catholics to 2,000, many of them Latin American members of UAB's international research and medical community.

"It was amazing how the Catholic student body grew," said the Rev. Frank Muscolino of the Diocese of Birmingham, the

The \$2 million St. Stephen's Catholic Campus Center at the University of Alabama in Birmingham used Celotex wall insulation board and EIFS.



*Father Muscolino
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campus priest since 1983. "There was a specific multicultural, multi-lingual presence to address."

Muscolino went to work. He raised the \$2 million needed to build a new student center, largely through the generosity of Birmingham businessmen and Muscolino's friends.

In addition, Muscolino began interviewing architects, eight in all, among them Birmingham's largest design firms. He had something specific in mind.


"We wanted it to be something indicative of an up-to-date theology and liturgical practice, but in keeping with a 2,000-year-old religious tradition," he said.

Muscolino selected Stephen Coker/W. Scott Anderton Architects of Birmingham. The work of this partnership, founded in 1987, has included churches, public buildings, medical facilities, historic preservation, retail and residential projects.

Picking the Products

The assignment represented Coker/Anderton's largest undertaking to date. Working closely with Muscolino, they designed the St. Stephen's Catholic Campus Center, which officially opened in November 1991.

The exterior of the two-story, 18,000-square-foot center features a



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high degree of geometric articulation. For the project, Coker/Anderton selected Celotex's Quik-R™ Wall Insulation Board for Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems, a rigid polyisocyanurate foam core insulation with a 5.6 per inch R-value and special coated glass fiber facets.

Approximately 24,000 square feet of one-inch-thick Quik-R in 4-foot by 10-foot sheets was applied over 5/8-inch gypsum board and 6-inch light gauge metal studs. Acrocrete, applied over polypropylene mesh and a base coat of adhesive, was used for the exterior finish.

Designed to Please

"From a design standpoint, we wanted a smooth, clean surface. Using Quik-R allowed us to follow the geometry of the building," said Coker of the product's selection.

"We looked at a lot of different systems, and this one gave us a lot of benefits the others didn't have ... (including) insulating ability coupled with the board's compressive strength," Anderton said.

Celotex Representative Dick Edwards said using Celotex products and gypsum sheathing in combination is what provides the attractive walls with excellent insulation performance.

"It's the best system you can possibly get," Edwards said. "The insu-



Celotex wall insulation was applied to the geometrically articulated exterior of St. Stephen's Catholic Campus Center at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

lation performance of the system, its stability and aesthetic appeal are what's important."

Meanwhile, Muscolino reaped one of the benefits apparently sown by having an architecturally dramatic campus center—46 prospective Catholics soon underwent rites of initiation.

"We've had young people coming in just because of the building ... Everybody's been talking about it," Muscolino said. "Beauty is epitomized in simplicity The architects really understood my concept of what the design of St. Stephen's should be from a liturgical standpoint."

Coston Construction of Birmingham was the general contractor on the project. J.E. Higgins Plastering, Inc. of Birmingham applied the EIF system. □

About the Author

The Celotex Corporation, based in Tampa, is a manufacturer of building and roofing products for commercial and residential use.