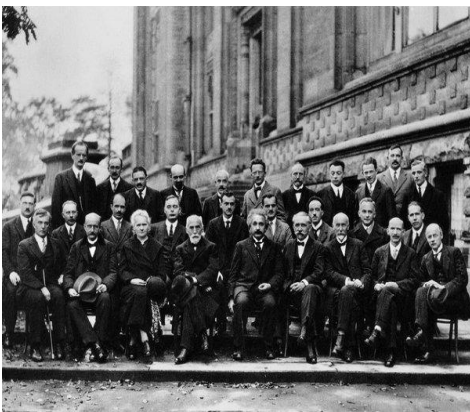


## SHARING OUR MISSION

This fall, our science faculty, staff, and students shared our work with a number of visitors to the Science Center, including President McCartney; Patricia Soochan, our HHMI program officer, for a site visit; and faculty from St. Catherine's University, a women's college in Minnesota, as they launch planning for a new science facility. Thanks to all who made these visits so successful!



Attendees of the Solvay Conference on Physics in 1927 (from the Mondadori Portfolio via Getty Images). Marie Curie (first row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) was the only woman in attendance.

# FROM THE CLARK SCIENCE CENTER DIRECTORS' OFFICE

October 2013

## WOMEN IN SCIENCE

In a sobering article in this weekend's *New York Times Magazine*, Eileen Pollack asks the provocative question, "Why are there so few women in science?" Pollack explores the question by reading research, talking with accomplished senior scientists, and visiting Yale, her alma mater. Her investigations identify the variety of ways in which women become discouraged from pursuing a career in the sciences. Pollack's story title is overlaid on the photo included to the left here which vividly illustrates the isolation that women in science can experience, a feeling that Pollack argues is still relevant to today's generation of female students.

As I was reading the article, I thought about the ways in which Smith works hard to address and surmount the obstacles that face women in STEM fields. Everywhere our students look, whether at senior honors students, undergraduate teaching assistants for introductory lab courses, or our own distinguished staff and faculty, Smith works to create communities that model and support excellence in science education for women. As I led President McCartney through a recent tour of four of the Clark Science Center's buildings, I was buoyed by the recognition that everywhere we went, female student scientists were passionately and meaningfully engaged with their education.

As we all know, there is still work to do to help the next generation of Smith scientists overcome all of the obstacles that Pollack's article identifies. We're excited to launch our work with you as we collaborate together on "preparing women of promise for lives of distinction."

For Pollack's full story, go to:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/06/magazine/why-are-there-still-so-few-women-in-science.html?smid=fb-share&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/06/magazine/why-are-there-still-so-few-women-in-science.html?smid=fb-share&_r=0)

Patty DiBartolo  
Faculty Director of the Sciences



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*“The most powerful determinant of whether a woman goes on in science might be whether anyone encourages her to go on.”*

*– Pollack, 2013*

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## Contact Us

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## GETTING LAUNCHED

As we hope you all know by now, the Science Center launched a new administrative structure this past summer. We welcomed Margaret Lamb as the Science Center’s new full-time Administrative Director. Margaret is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Science Center. Patty DiBartolo is the new half-time Faculty Director and her primary responsibilities include development and strategic planning.

This fall, we are launching a few changes to better communicate and serve the Science Center community. This inaugural Directors’ newsletter is one way we plan to share our work. We will continue to use appropriate Science Center listservs as well as the Science Planning webpage to keep everyone informed of important announcements and news items. We have also reached out to various offices across campus that help us in our work. From those efforts, Margaret now meets monthly with key individuals at Facilities to coordinate and monitor progress with their office and staff.

Margaret and I welcome your feedback and input as we work to support the excellent work we do in the sciences at Smith. Our contact information is listed to the left. Drop us a line or stop by any time to share your concerns and ideas.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FOR THE SCIENCES, 2013-2014

There are three important strategic initiatives on which we plan to make meaningful progress during 2013-2014, with the help of Div III faculty and staff. They are:

- Evaluating and addressing the Clark Science Center’s equipment needs
- Evaluating and addressing our Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program needs
- Establishing and launching a strategic long-range planning process for the sciences

Look for more on each of these topics in our upcoming columns. We will be seeking advice, input, and ideas from the science community as we work to address each of these issues.

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

October 14 <sup>th</sup> 2013	Scheduled Campus-wide Power Shutdown for all buildings from 5 a.m. – 9 a.m. (see Facilities Management email from Art Usher dated 9/27/13)
October 16 <sup>th</sup> 2013	Internal deadline for Churchill Fellowship
December 4 <sup>th</sup> 2013	Internal deadline for Goldwater Scholarship

see Margaret Lamb’s email dated 10/7/13