

SHE IS A SCIENTIST

Mark your fall calendars and tell your students! The launch of the *She is a Scientist* speaker series will take place on October 20th at 4:30 pm in Seelye 106 with Katherine Aidala, Professor of Physics at Mount Holyoke College.

In her presentation, “Why aren’t more women in science?,” she will unpack the complexities of this question and provide an overview of the most common explanations for women’s underrepresentation, describing which have compelling supporting evidence.

We will have three additional series speakers in the spring of 2015, culminating with a May faculty development workshop to discuss the lessons and recommendations gathered from our visiting experts.

Lectures are free and open to the public. Come one and all!

FROM THE CLARK SCIENCE CENTER DIRECTORS’ OFFICE

Summer 2014

SUMMER TIME IN THE CLARK SCIENCE CENTER

It’s been a busy summer. *We mentored and taught.* Approximately 60 of our faculty and staff supervised almost 140 summer undergraduate research fellowship students and about 100 high school girls from around the country and the world participated in our Summer Science and Engineering Program. *We hosted.* A group of Carleton College faculty and staff involved in planning new science facilities came to see how we use and planned for our spaces. Faculty from 8 other colleges and universities also came to participate in a two-day long HHMI-sponsored conference on course-based research experiences. *We collaborated.* Over 20 faculty and staff members came together to craft an institutional Beckman Foundation grant submission and we helped plan the *She is a Scientist* lecture series launch (see side bar).

We also did something that we do not always find the time to do. *We imagined.* A group of 12 faculty and staff members worked diligently on the science’s summer strategic planning process, building on the ideas and momentum of the Science Planning Committee’s 2013 white paper and our all-division workshop in May. These conversations have been vibrant and energizing, as we focused on articulating Smith’s distinctive strengths and values as well as our curricular vision for the sciences in the future. Inputs to the planning process were as wide-ranging as conversations among staff and faculty over the last year to ideas highlighted by national task forces on science education. A partial list of these readings is provided on the reverse. We invite you to take a look at them and tell us what you think.

The strategic planning committee will share its full report in draft form by early September. We will then invite input from departments/programs, Science Planning, and the entire Division III community in a process similar to the one we used to craft last year’s white paper. We look forward to working with you to hone our ideas in order to represent a collective notion of the future of the sciences at Smith.

--Patty DiBartolo, Faculty Director of the Sciences

KEY READINGS INFORMING OUR STRATEGIC PLANNING

- Association of American Colleges and Universities (2011). *Liberal education and America's promise*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from http://www.aacu.org/leap/documents/Introduction_to_LEAP.pdf
- American Association for the Advancement of Science (2010). *Vision and change in undergraduate biology education: A call to action*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved from <http://visionandchange.org/files/2011/03/VC-Brochure-V6-3.pdf>
- Hill, C., Corbett, C., St, Rose, A., & American Association of University Women. (2010). *Why so few? Women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics*. Washington, D.C: AAUW. Retrieved from <http://www.aauw.org/research/why-so-few/>
- National Research Council (1999). Key findings. In *How people learn: Bridging research and practice* (pp. 10-24). Washington, DC: National Academies Press. Retrieved from http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=9457
- National Research Council (2012). Instructional strategies. In *Discipline-based education research: Understanding and improving science and engineering* (pp. 119-139). Washington, DC: National Academies Press. Free download at http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13362
- Rowlett, R.S., Blockus, L., & Larson, S. (2012). Characteristics of excellence in undergraduate research (COEUR). In the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR), *Characteristics of Excellences in Undergraduate Research (COEUR)* (pp. 2-19). Washington, DC: CUR. Retrieved from http://www.cur.org/assets/1/23/COEUR_final.pdf
- Steele, C.M. (2010). *Whistling Vivaldi: How stereotypes affect us and what we can do*. New York: W.E. Norton & Co.

UPDATE ON OUR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TEAM

August marked some changes among the Science Center's administrative assistants: new roles, one new location, and a new face (shortly to be confirmed). The reorganization followed from Heather McQueen's request to reduce her hours from 35 to 17.5 per week and the resignation of Roberta Youmans, half-time departmental administrative assistant in psychology.

- Kelly DeForest is the new Administrative Assistants Supervisor. Congratulations to Kelly on this promotion! Kelly will continue as departmental administrative assistant for chemistry and biochemistry. Kelly's office is Ford 255B.
- A search is underway (interviews next week) for a new full-time administrative assistant. Half of the new appointee's time will support psychology, with the other half applied to support other Science Center units. The new appointee will be based in Bass Hall.
- Donna Kortes is the new departmental administrative assistant for mathematics and statistics. Donna continues as departmental administrative assistant for geosciences. Donna's office is Burton 115.
- Daryl Jett continues to serve as the departmental administrative assistant for computer science, but will add support for physics and astronomy to his responsibilities. This is a return performance for Daryl: he worked with the physicists and astronomers until 2009. Daryl's office remains Ford 255A, but he will also have space in McConnell 208 to facilitate his work with the McConnell-based departments.
- Amy Avard, based in Burton 115, continues as departmental administrative assistant for BIO and NSC.
- Shelley Barnett (who works half-time) and our Quick Admin student assistants will provide Science Center reception in Burton 115 and by telephone.
- Science Center Administrative Coordinator Heather McQueen will work Tuesday-Thursday. Her office will shift from Burton 117 to McConnell 208. Heather continues to have responsibilities for SURF, as well as work with the Directors on Science Center equipment, facilities, and budgets.

The Science Center administrative team will do everything we can to make this reorganization as seamless as possible, getting work done and moving quickly to the point where all staff, including our new hire, are very effective in their roles.

–Margaret Lamb, Administrative Director

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

August 30th 2014

September 4th 2014

Claude Steele's (*Whistling Vivaldi*) first-year book lecture, 7 pm, JMG Hall

First day of classes

CONTACT US: Patricia DiBartolo (pdibarto@smith.edu); Margaret Lamb (mlamb@smith.edu)