

More Strategic Planning

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At the last faculty meeting of the year, President McCartney presented a draft of the [College's strategic plan](#). It consists of five themes:

- Face-to-face education
- Inclusion, diversity and equity
- Experiential and applied opportunities
- Emerging methods, fields and pedagogies
- "Wicked problems"

CMP is seeking community input on the draft plan. Please consider [sharing your feedback](#) by September 15th.

You'll recall that Science Planning submitted 10 linked proposals to CMP for this process of college-wide strategic planning, with the goal of **Changing the Face/s of Science**. In the fall, Science Planning will also organize a response to the plan so please share your reactions with us (at pdibarto@smith.edu).

We are pleased to see the ways in which many of our submissions are embedded in the college's draft strategic plan. We will continue to articulate the division's [Vision for the Future, 2015](#) as we work to cultivate the scientist in our students.



May/June 2016

FROM THE CLARK SCIENCE CENTER DIRECTORS' OFFICE

Enabling Curricular Innovation



Last fall, a significant number of you shared your ideas about how to build institutional capacity to create access to the sciences for all students. In December, we submitted a pre-proposal to HHMI to use two interlocking and empirically-informed interventions to catalyze institutional change that achieves inclusion of diverse students in science: establishing multiple entry points for students to engage in course-based research experiences across core curricula and creating learning communities headed by student assistants who model and support research success.

Unfortunately, our pre-proposal was not one of the 91 invited for submission for a full proposal. Here's the more promising news. Our pre-proposal did advance to the second stage of review (183 of the 511) and the reviewers' comments help provide direction for the revision that we plan to submit for the next round of [Inclusive Excellence](#) grant competition in December 2016.

In the meanwhile, we are continuing our efforts to build on the successes and momentum from our previous HHMI work. This May, 12 science faculty and staff from five departments/programs participated in a two-day workshop on course-based course experiences at the introductory and intermediate levels of our curriculum. We plan to continue conversations about these curricular efforts in the fall, likely through a Teaching Circle. Look for further announcements at the start of the academic year. All are welcome. Through the College's strategic planning process (see sidebar), we will also continue to share a vision for the sciences that recognizes the importance of student-centered learning tying our labs and classrooms to authentic inquiry in our disciplines. Further, we will continue to inform the ongoing work of the Office of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity in its campus climate survey project since these findings will inform actions to expand inclusive excellence across the college and within the sciences.

Going forward, through conversations in Science Planning and other venues, we will continue conversations about the best ideas for our curriculum, pedagogy, and resources. Our next Faculty Director (turn the page to see who it is!) will continue these efforts well into the future.

I want to provide a huge thanks to you all for your hard work, good counsel, and willing collaboration supporting the mission of the college and our division over these past few years. I hope you all enjoy a happy and productive summer!

--Patty DiBartolo

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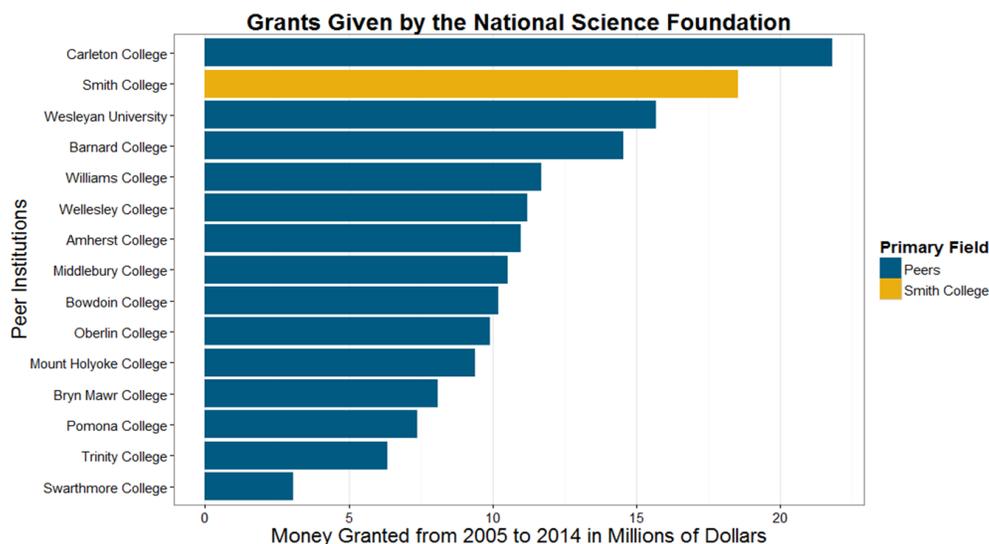
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NEW NEWSLETTER FEATURE: FACULTY GRANT SUCCESS



Our strategic plan in the sciences includes a guiding principle that “faculty-student research collaborations will result in optimal learning and future success for our students.” Faculty members throughout the sciences integrate students as intellectual collaborators in their programmatic research, which is often propelled by external funding. For this reason, we have decided to include news of faculty grant success in our Directors’ newsletters in order to highlight the ways in which faculty scholarship is intertwined with the college’s educational mission.

We have much to be proud of. Between 2005 and 2014, Smith was second relative to peer institutions in the total grant funds awarded by the National Science Foundation to our faculty (see figure below). This analysis was presented at the 15th annual *Celebrating Collaborations* event by Alexandra Dupey ’18 a STRIDE Scholar who was supervised by Kate Aloisio and Minh Ly in the Office of Institutional Research.



Building on the successes represented by this figure, the College received word this spring that two of our junior faculty members [Will Williams in Physics](#) and [Dave Gorin in Chemistry](#), each received a prestigious Early Career Development (CAREER) award from the NSF.

Here in the sciences we share the notion that there is a strong link between our own research efforts and the work we do to educate the next generation of scientists. We foster these efforts through a wide variety of programs, from AEMES and STRIDE Scholars to course-based research experiences to our thriving SURF program, currently underway.

Look for future highlights of faculty grant success here. Please feel free to share your good news. Let’s continue to share the ways in which research is a core practice of scientific education in our labs and classes.

Announcing the Science Center Faculty Director, 2017-2020



Please join us in congratulating **Kevin Shea**, Professor of Chemistry, for his appointment as the Clark Science Center’s next Faculty Director.

Patty DiBartolo continues in this post until July 2017, when Kevin assumes the mantle of Faculty Directorship. During the 2016 academic year, Kevin will serve as a member of Science Planning Committee in order to smooth this leadership transition.

Kevin has served as CHM department chair as well as Faculty Director of the Sherrerd Center for Teaching & Learning, and participated in developing the sciences’ strategic plan.

**Congratulations,
Kevin!**

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DISTINGUISHED FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS NEWS

From Goldwater to Hollings to Amgen and beyond, our science students had another outstanding year in 2016-2017!

Read all about [their successes \(http://www.smith.edu/news/people-news-24/\)](http://www.smith.edu/news/people-news-24/)

Great News in Science Outreach



You may have heard [the recent news](#) that the Center for Community Collaboration has been renamed the **Jandon Center for Community Collaboration** after a generous gift from Don Cecil in memory of his wife, Jane Grossman Cecil '50. This gift in combination with other college funds has helped to provide sustained funding to stabilize the staffing of our vibrant science outreach program, led by Tom Gralinski. Last year alone, Tom, 145 of our students, and additional collaborating faculty and staff provided instruction in science and engineering for over 2,200 students in our region through these efforts.

LIBRARY ENABLING UPDATES

The Young Science Library and Green Street Classroom Annex (aka the "Green Box") will be reconfigured to serve from summer 2017 as the on-campus presence for both library services and special collections. Consequently, work has begun – including on several projects in the Science Center - to make possible relocation of existing users of the Green Box and Young Science Library by January 2017. Young Library will close in January 2017, with its staff and some functions transferred to Neilson for the Spring 2017 semester. With the closure of Young, the science collections will be relocated, with most books and other physical resources moving to the Five College Library Annex. During Spring 2017, the only accessible books will be those kept on campus (in reserve or those specifically requested to be kept on campus). Once books and resources taken to the annex are re-catalogued (by summer 2017), they will be accessible once again. Library staff confirm that 60% of science books are available via interlibrary loan.

Young Science Library will close in January 2017

Engineering Design Studio. Work is underway to transform **Burton 016/017** into a combined space that will serve as a replacement for the engineering design studio in the Green Box. This project also involves relocating a GEO mineral store (Burton 02) and the GEO sediments lab (currently in Burton 016) to Burton 01 and Burton 02 respectively. All of this work will be completed early in the fall.

Landscape Studies Design Studio. Preparatory work has begun for a project to transform **the old herbarium in Burton 406** into a flexible design studio to replace space in the Green Box used by landscape studies. Active construction will begin on July 5 and all but finishing work is expected to be completed by the start of the academic year. Because the construction is in an adjacent space and roof area, it

was necessary to relocate much of the *Center for Microscopy and Imaging* operation for the summer.

Thanks! These projects have required close and careful communication and cooperation between many individuals in the Science Center and Facilities Management. Special thanks to Geosciences and Physics respectively for their willingness to make moves in Burton and share space to accommodate the temporary relocation of the CMI to McConnell. Thanks in particular to Judith Wopereis, Nate Derr, Dick Briggs, Charlie Conant, Doreen Weinberger, and Dana Parsons who made possible to fast and effective relocation of the CMI. Many thanks to the wider Div 3 community for your patience during this busy project period. We are still working to craft a solution for providing self-scheduled exams for science classes during enabling and construction so look for further updates in the future.

More information about the library renovation project is available here: <http://www.smith.edu/news/transition-to-new-neilson-library/>. Enabling principles are summarized here: <http://www.smith.edu/libraries/sites/default/files/LibraryEnablingPrinciples.pdf>. Watch this space for news of the Neilson renovation: <http://www.smith.edu/libraries/redesign>.

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

CONTACT US: PATRICIA DiBARTOLO (pdibarto@smith.edu); MARGARET LAMB (mlamb@smith.edu)

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