

EQUIPMENT FUNDING, 2018-2020

Our top budget priority in this year's strategic planning process was investment in our **scientific equipment and specialized computing**. After four years of planning, calibration, analysis, and collaboration, we delivered a data-driven capital plan that relied on improved governance structures for strategic investment in our scientific equipment assets.

We are pleased to announce that the College has agreed to fund the plan as a pilot for the next 3 years in order to bring us to a place where we invest in our significant asset base to preserve its value and allow renewal and replacement of highest priority needs.

This spring, the Science Center Directors met with Div III units to describe the Equipment Advisory Committee's principles and processes. This group will work to implement our plan and will liaise with units to promote grant writing along with responsible stewardship of college funds for equipment investment.

Thanks to all individuals who worked closely with the Directors to develop and deliver the plan, especially CATS, the Equipment Committee, Science Planning, and the Office of Finance and Administration.



May/June 2017

FROM THE CLARK SCIENCE CENTER DIRECTORS' OFFICE



A Fond Farewell...

At colleges and universities throughout the country, commencement is a time for reflection and endings. This season has been especially so for the two of us as we hand over the reins of our Directorships (see next page) to move on to new adventures—Margaret in the Fellowships' Office and me in the Provost's Office. We are extraordinarily grateful for your ideas, input, collaboration, and collegiality over these past four years as we've worked alongside you to strengthen the experiences, opportunities, and education of all of the College's students who enter our classrooms and laboratories.

The division has witnessed remarkable growth over the last 5 years, with its contributions to new interdisciplinary programs and growing numbers of student enrollments and majors. This growth has been supported by a range of renewed investments in our mission, ranging from SURF to our equipment assets (see sidebar). It's been a busy time for our division. We built a strategic plan. We invested in addressing climate change and assessing campus climate. We renovated spaces, revised curricula, and revamped policies and governance.

We have achieved other successes. The college and division continue to promote values of access and equity through our [thriving AEMES programs](#), including the recently added Posse cohorts, as well as our recently launched math readiness project (see next page). We fostered interdisciplinary pedagogical innovation through our HHMI grant focused on course-based research experiences (see next page for additional grant news) as well as our PKAL/TIDES grant to expand access for women in computer/data sciences.

The work we began will continue. Science Planning Committee and the new Directors already have a number of important issues on their future agenda, including the status of lab instructors at the College as well as planning the Young Science Library renovation for when the Neilson project is complete.

Margaret and I look forward to opportunities to work with you all in the future. As we move on, we both agree: your hard work and dedication on behalf of our students has buoyed and inspired us. We cannot thank you enough for your partnership. As they say, it takes a village. What an extraordinary one we have here!

--Patty DiBartolo & Margaret Lamb

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ENABLING INNOVATION & EXCELLENCE

- Smith's departments of Chemistry and Biological Sciences recently received one of 12 **CUR Transformations Project** grants nationwide. This joint venture between the Council on Undergraduate Research and the National Science Foundation supports a 4-year project to engage departmental leadership teams to develop cohesive research-rich departmental curricula through departmental work, conversations with fellow grantee institutions, and consultation with disciplinary experts.

- As you may recall, our pre-proposal to **Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Inclusive Excellence** competition focused on two areas: enhancing systems to address math readiness within our gateway calculus sequence and expanding course-based research experiences throughout our science curriculum. We are disappointed to inform you that Smith was not invited to submit a full proposal to the competition but we have been exploring other avenues to propel this work. Our CUR Transformations grant will enable us to engage in significant work on developing and sustaining course-based research opportunities. A pilot effort to assess and advise incoming students with an interest in prehealth, economics, or any STEM discipline relying on calculus success launches this summer, supported by Provost's Office funds. We also have a grant under review with the **Booth Ferris Foundation** to support our work on fostering math success for all students.

- We continue to seek funding to support our students' work, submitting a recent proposal to create a new **Beckman Scholars Program** here. Another proposal is underway to the **Sherman Fairchild Foundation** to expand and enhance our Summer Research Program (SURF).

FACILITIES' UPDATES

If it's summer, there must be renovations somewhere in the Science Center! The big project this summer is combining two antiquated physics labs (McConnell 203 and McConnell 204) to become a flexible lab classroom for introductory physics (PHY 118). This work is well underway and on target to be completed by the end of July, ready for PHY to get the room ready for fall teaching.

Sabin Reed will get a new domestic hot water system this summer. This work has been planned with almost no interruption to service. The project will deliver more reliable and economic service ... and no more leaks to the sub-basement!

A summer planning project – and a renovation scheduled to get started a year from now – concerns the updating of the HVAC system of temperature and humidity controls in the Sabin-Reed animal care facilities. Users of the ACF and Sabin Reed neighbors can expect invitations to meetings with staff and consultants as the details of the project and its proposed schedule are developed.

The Clark Science Center's next Administrative Director



We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Tom Richardson** as the Clark Science Center's next Administrative Director. In July, Tom will join **Kevin Shea**, our incoming Faculty Director of the Sciences, in leading the Clark Science Center.

Tom received his undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and his M.S. in Administration from Boston College. Most recently, he worked for 15 years at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford in a variety of roles including Director of Academic Administration, Grants & Sponsored Programs and most recently, as their Chief Strategy Officer and VP of Marketing & Communication. Tom also held previous administrative positions at Brown University as well as Harvard Medical School in biomedical departments and units. He brings deep budget, staff, regulatory, and equipment and facilities management experience.

Tom lives in West Hartford, Connecticut with his husband and two daughters. He serves on the Board of a not-for-profit day care and volunteers at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. Tom avidly gardens, annually trying in vain to protect his flowers and plants from voracious bunnies and squirrels. He also paints digitally and manipulates photographs on his iPad.

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Cassie Kemmler '19, Leanna Troncoso '20, Ji Young Yun '18, Naomi Murata '19 & Emely Tejada '20 presenting their research

DEVELOPMENT’S FIELD TRIP TO SURF 2017

On a recent day in June, you may have noticed a large group of visitors to the Clark Science Center as Smith’s Development Office embarked on a “field trip” to visit our SURF program in action. It was a wonderful day, showcasing the thoughtful research mentorship of our faculty and the intellectual engagement of our students as they collaborate together on authentic scientific problems using cutting edge

SURF FIELD TRIP 2017

25 STAFF MEMBERS FROM DEVELOPMENT, MEDIA RELATIONS, & CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION RELATIONS | VISITED 3 FACULTY LABS | HEARD FROM 12 STUDENTS FROM THE CLASSES OF 2018 TO 2020 | WHO REPRESENTED 10 MAJORS ACROSS ALL 3 DIVISIONS OF THE COLLEGE | AND EVERYONE EARNED A WEALTH OF PRAISE FROM OUR VISITORS

Thanks to the following people who helped make the day so successful:
 Michael Barresi, Jordan Crouser, Sandy Doucett, Valerie Joseph, Margaret Lamb, James Lowenthal, Heather McQueen, Sarah Moore, & Ty Ruwe

equipment and technologies in our state-of-the-art facilities. **See the photos and side bar for for a glimpse of the day.**

and other opportunities; and – once you meet them -- the new first years who knock your socks off! Creating an early awareness of fellowship opportunities is the best way of ensuring the student is ready to make the application when the time comes!

Margaret’s email remains mlamb@smith.edu and from August 14th she can be found in Drew Hall, home of the Lazarus Center for Career Development and the College’s Fellowships Program.

IMPORTANT DATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| July 1, 2017 | Kevin Shea’s term as Faculty Director 2017-2020 begins |
| July 5, 2017 | Welcome Tom Richardson to campus as our next Administrative Director |
| July 5, 2017 | SSEP classes begin |
| July, 2017 | Welcome the latest group of STEM Posse students to campus! |
| | HAVE • A • GREAT • SUMMER! |

CONTACT US (UNTIL JULY 1): PATRICIA DiBARTOLO (pdibarto@smith.edu); MARGARET LAMB (mlamb@smith.edu)
(AFTER JULY 1): KEVIN SHEA (kshea@smith.edu) | **(AFTER JULY 5):** TOM RICHARDSON ([email to be announced](#))

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