



ScienceMATTERS

An update on the Sciences at Randolph-Macon College

Focus on the Future

Exciting Changes at Copley Science Center

Renovations to the Copley Science Center began in summer 2013. One of the most exciting changes is the creation of a Psychological Sciences Complex in Smithey Hall.

The Complex houses a Developmental/Cognitive Human Subjects laboratory for students and professors to work side-by-side in research. Also included are an improved Behavioral Neuroscience Animal laboratory, a microscopy lab and a sophisticated behavioral analysis space.

Copley's major lecture rooms, 100 and 101, were renovated to increase slightly the seating capacity, giving us space to grow. New and upgraded technology, sound, and seating configurations were integrated into the rooms to be more ideally suited to learning and engagement.

The lobby of the Copley Science Building was also renovated. A highlight of the lobby is the colorful aluminum sculpture, created by Mathematics Professor Eve Torrence, now suspended from the ceiling.

The Copley Science Center project was made possible through a \$5 million challenge gift from Joan and Macon F. Brock Jr. '64. The Copley Science Center is named for benefactor W. Henry Copley '34.

Fundraising continues for a much-needed new science building, which will be attached to the northwest corner of Copley Science Center. The anticipated cost of the 27,000-square-foot building is \$13 million. It will include teaching laboratories, classrooms, faculty offices, and the Office of Pre-Health Advising.



Renovated lecture rooms in the Copley Science Center feature upgraded technology and a new seating arrangement.



Professor Eve Torrence's aluminum sculpture hangs in the Copley Science Center lobby.

Partnership

R-MC Establishes Field Laboratory

A new field laboratory at the DuMond Conservancy for Primates and Tropical Forests in Miami, Florida offers students and faculty new research opportunities.

“After receiving support from the administration and generous alumni such as Stuart and Frank E. “Pepper” Laughon Jr. ’59, I set out to establish a modest primate lab in summer 2013 along with Psychology Professor Massimo Bardi,” says Kelly Lambert, the Macon and Joan Brock Professor of Psychology. They were accompanied by three adventurous students.

January Term

Bardi and Lambert plan to take a Comparative Animal Behavior class to the new laboratory during January Term 2014. Students will spend two weeks observing Java monkeys with opportunities to observe raccoons and visit the Dolphin Research Center at Grassy Key. Lambert is thrilled that R-MC supported the idea of adding a little “monkey business” to the college’s curricular and research offerings.

“Although students still have access to the more traditional rodent behavioral neuroscience laboratory in the newly renovated Psychology Department in Smithey Hall, their



Meredith Eckles '13 at the DuMond Conservancy located on the grounds of Monkey Jungle, a wildlife park.

research opportunities have expanded in exciting ways,” she says. “Now is the time to explore behavioral neuroscience at Randolph-Macon!”

Giving Back

John and Mary McManus '84

1984 graduates John McManus and Mary Loving McManus recently established the Loving-McManus Endowed Fund for Computer Science. This fund will provide hardware and software needs for faculty-student research.

“There is a positive energy at the college, and we want to be a part of it,” says John. “We have had a really good life because of the quality of education we received. It was an obvious choice for us in terms of where we designated our gift, as we both minored in computer science.”

John says that R-MC professors are nothing short of amazing. “Computer Science Professor John Rabung is an outstanding professor and mentor, and our relationship with him extended far past our experience as students,” he says. “With our gift, we hope the department will have the resources it needs to continue to provide excellent opportunities to students.”



John and Mary Loving McManus

Major News

Wornom Fellows on Path to Success

The Dr. Paul H. Wornom Pre-Medicine Endowment was established in 2011 with a generous \$3 million gift from the estate of Dr. Paul Wornom '37. The gift provides full tuition pre-med scholarships to R-MC science students who excel academically. To date, the college has recruited seven bright, capable Wornom Fellows who are highly engaged, goal-oriented students with an eye on the future.

A Scholar's Perspective

Philip Wyatt Jr. '16, a member of the inaugural class of Wornom Fellows, is a chemistry and biology major and Spanish minor. He has completed an EMT course at R-MC and is a member of the Hanover Fire/EMS staff. He currently volunteers at the CrossOver Health Care Ministry, Virginia's largest free healthcare clinic, where he works alongside **Dr. James R. Darden '54**. Wyatt says the experience is a great way to gain hands-on training.

"I am grateful to have been selected as one of the first Wornom Fellows," he says. "Wornom Fellows benefit from mentorship, hands-on training, and one-on-one interaction



with medical personnel. These are experiences I know other colleges just don't offer."

To read more about the extraordinary Wornom Fellows, visit www.rmc.edu.

Extraordinary Student Hands-on Experience

Jen LaBarge '15, a chemistry major and biology minor, recently gained hands-on experience at the Science Museum of Virginia (SMV), where she created and implemented an educational module.

SURF

Before putting her project into motion, LaBarge conducted research in conjunction with the SURF program. Her project, titled *STEM Education in Action: Forming a Partnership between R-MC and the SMV*, focuses on the creation of educational modules that convey the science of cooking to middle-school-age students. (STEM is the acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.)

STEM

"Our science departments are committed to contributing to STEM education opportunities," says Chemistry Professor April Marchetti '97, the Garnett-Lambert Professor of Chemistry. "Research shows that early exposure to science



(l. to r.) Jen LaBarge '15 and Laura Kramer, manager of science conductors, at the Science Museum of Virginia.

can greatly increase students' chances of being engaged in it when they're older."

The Project

LaBarge worked with the SMV staff to help create the curriculum for the demonstration kitchen in the museum's newest exhibit, "Boost!" She created several modules, which focus on the scientific processes involved in cooking and convey the importance of good nutrition.

Quick Facts!

Did You Know ...

The 27,000-square-foot Science Center will include:

- LEED “green building” standards
- Energy- and water-saving technologies
- Recycled and renewable materials
- State-of-the-art research laboratories
- Faculty offices, conference rooms, teaching laboratories

As a Friend of the Sciences at Randolph-Macon College, your support will make an extraordinary difference for the next generation of Yellow Jackets.

For more information or to make a gift to this state-of-the-art science facility, please contact:

Myra Legg
Executive Director of Development
myralegg@rmc.edu • 804-752-7218

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