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Scientific Evolution: Designed for research

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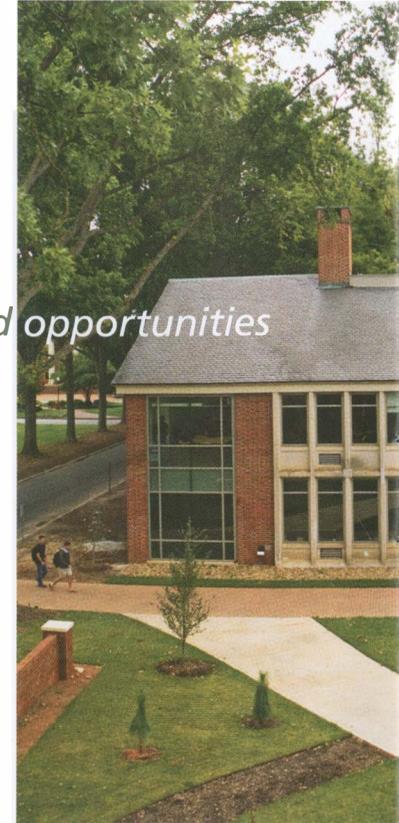
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Expanded opportunities



Designed for research

As a result of decades of intense effort on the part of its faculty, Furman's chemistry department now houses one of the largest, if not *the* largest, arrays of chemistry research instrumentation of any undergraduate institution in the country. To meet our goal of exposing every undergraduate chemistry major to each of these pieces of instrumentation, we needed a building designed with this specific strength in mind.

The chemistry teaching labs in the Townes Center provide ample space for these state-of-the-art instruments and for the dozens of students who are trained on them each year. In addition, each of our faculty members directs a research lab in his or her area of expertise. The training that our majors receive during their early years at Furman prepares them to collaborate in the ongoing efforts of one of these research labs.

The fruits of these efforts are most apparent during the summer, when our department runs the largest summer undergraduate chemistry research program in the country. The Townes Center chemistry research labs have ample space for all of our research students, each of whom applies the training he or she has received to solve cutting-edge research problems.

Current research centers on such projects as detecting trace metal hazards in water supplies, discovering new pathways of DNA-drug interactions for the treatment of disease, and investigating the molecular basis of clean energy production. My lab focuses on developing new chemical reactions to facilitate the synthesis of potential cancer chemotherapeutics.

I can say — with absolute certainty — that there is no better campus than Furman to work with undergraduates on these challenging problems, and with the completion of the Townes Center for Science, there is no better facility in which to pursue our goals. Simply put, the Townes Center for Science is the finest teaching and research laboratory in which I have been privileged to work.

— BRIAN GOESS

The author, who holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, joined the chemistry faculty in 2006.