

9-1-2005

Spring groundbreaking anticipated for science complex

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Recommended Citation

Kohrt, Carl '65 (2005) "Spring groundbreaking anticipated for science complex," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 48 : Iss. 3 , Article 12.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol48/iss3/12>

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Spring groundbreaking anticipated for science complex

You have no doubt read about Furman's plans to build the finest, most interdisciplinary science facilities possible by renovating Plyler Hall of Science and adding two new halls to the university's science complex.

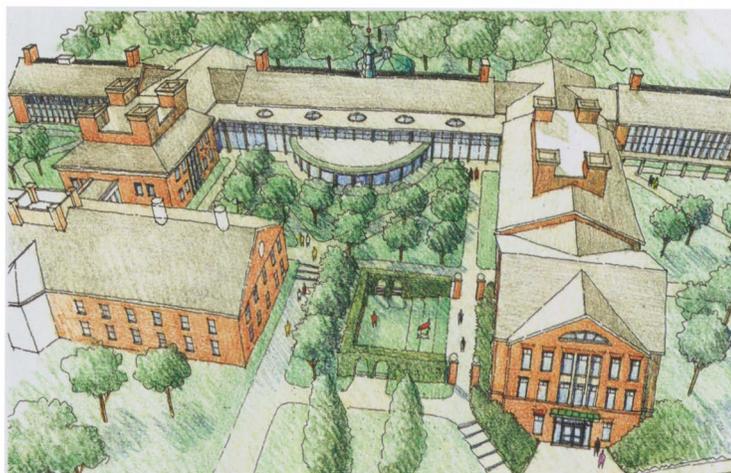
This project reflects the university's desire to provide, equip and endow undergraduate science programs that will promote collaborative learning, multidisciplinary research and student-faculty scholarship.

Planning for the project is off to a great start, thanks to the work of an on-campus steering committee and a Science Advisory Board of alumni and friends. They have worked to design a complex that will foster the intersection of basic and emerging scientific disciplines with the humanities, and will help future graduates contribute to solutions to critical societal problems such as energy, climate change and human disease.

Furman is now preparing to bring these plans to reality. The university anticipates breaking ground for the complex this spring, but the start of construction will depend on support from those who believe that the best facilities encourage the best teaching, learning and lifelong commitment to the sciences and to the betterment of society.

The current estimate for the project is \$56.3 million. Of this amount, half will come from a bond issue and half from individual gifts. It is hoped that the economic impact of Hurricane Katrina will not cause the \$56.3 million figure to increase.

To date, the total in new gifts for the complex has passed \$9 million toward the \$28 million needed. Fourteen areas of the building have already been provided and named in honor



of donors or their loved ones or favorite professors. These include research laboratories, the interdepartmental commons, the reading room and the new north hall.

To become part of this investment in Furman's future, call (864) 294-3436 or e-mail sciencecomplex@furman.edu. For more details about the new facility, visit www.furman.edu/wip/science/index.htm.

— Carl Kohrt '65

The author is vice chair of the Furman board of trustees and chair of the Science Advisory Board.

Furman, Clemson to collaborate on joint research institute

Furman has entered a partnership with Clemson University to establish joint research and educational initiatives centered on optical and laser science and engineering.

A key feature of the partnership will be the development of a research and educational institute to study lasers and optics and their applications for economic development, medicine, national defense and the improvement of society. The institute will be dedicated to Charles H. Townes, the 1935 Furman graduate and 1964 recipient of the Nobel Prize in physics for work that led to the invention of the maser and laser

The partnership is also expected to:

- Establish a fellowship program at Clemson's optics and laser laboratories for Furman graduates.

- Foster joint research between Clemson and Furman professors.
- Develop joint course work for Clemson and Furman undergraduates.
- Seek to establish an endowed chair in lasers at Clemson.

Clemson has major initiatives in optical material, bio-optics and laser technology, and Furman is renowned for strong programs in physics and chemistry.

Clemson president John Barker and Furman president David Shi describe the public-private school collaboration as a win-win for education.

"Any time we can tie our strengths together with a great educational institution such as Furman, with its strong science foundation, it's a victory for all students," says Barker. "Students will

be exposed to cutting-edge knowledge in this field."

Shi says, "Sir Isaac Newton reminded us that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and I can think of no better way to honor the lifelong work of Charles Townes, for he is a true giant in his field. He is also a model as a scientist and as a man of humane instincts for the students and scientists who will work and study in the research center dedicated to him."

The partnership was announced in early October at the University of California-Berkeley, where scientists and scholars from throughout the world were gathered for a symposium honoring Townes on his 90th birthday. For more on the "Amazing Light" symposium, visit www.foundationalquestions.net/townes.