

John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center—North Building

The Right Building at the Right Time

When you gave to the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center—North Building, you didn't just build a building. You impacted students and faculty members all across the St. Edward's community. Thanks to your contributions, more and more prospective students and members of the scientific community are discovering the School of Natural Sciences at St. Edward's University.

The John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center was designed to be advanced, inviting and spacious. It has become much more. A powerful recruitment tool. A center for innovative research. A place that's fostering unparalleled collaboration and academic development. A symbol of academic excellence.

IMPACTING THE SCIENCES

The John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center—North Building is having an enormous impact on the Natural Sciences program. Freshmen enrolling in the Natural Sciences increased from 9.5 percent in 2006 to 14.5 percent in 2007. To address current and future growth, the curriculum continues to be expanded in rapidly developing areas including Bioinformatics, Forensic Chemistry and Molecular Biology. Spacious, state-of-the-art laboratories are facilitating innovative and collaborative research among students and faculty — 80 students participated in undergraduate research in Fall 2007 and Spring 2008. These learning experiences are inspiring more of our students to apply to medical, professional and graduate schools and preparing them for the rigors of advanced study.

ELEVATING THE SCIENCES

For years, the School of Natural Sciences at St. Edward's has been known for its dedicated faculty and quality graduates. Now we have a building that both reflects this reputation for excellence and demonstrates the university's commitment to the Natural Sciences. Indeed, the building has elevated the Natural Sciences at the university by positioning it to compete for funding from prestigious organizations like the W.M. Keck Foundation, which awarded St. Edward's a \$260,000 grant for undergraduate HIV research in 2007.

MEETING NEEDS BEYOND THE SCIENCES

The building is also meeting critical needs of students and faculty members outside the School of Natural Sciences. Eighty-six non-science courses were taught in the building in the 2007–2008 academic year. And the St. Edward's community regularly takes advantage of the building's state-of-the-art classrooms, convenient technology bars and inviting lounges.

THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Stephanie Meyer, '07,

looks forward to a career in medicine, a path solidified by her time conducting research with



faculty in the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center—North Building.

"The research I did in the labs in the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center has already contributed in a meaningful way to my school search and career," says Meyer.

In fact, her experiences helped her earn a position as an associate scientist in a private laboratory and acceptance to the UTMB—Galveston School of Medicine for Fall 2008.





SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE

Here's what a few of the Natural Sciences faculty members are saying about the exciting possibilities for teaching and research created by the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–North Building.

I teach a section of Science in Perspective (a general education science course). It is clear that students from many majors find the new building inviting and comfortable. I think the physical structure goes a long way toward inviting students to understand and appreciate science. The building is an integral part of accomplishing the university-wide goal of scientific literacy.

— **Charlie Bicak, Dean of the School of Natural Sciences**



The new building played a critical role in the awarding of a \$260,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to St. Edward's. The building demonstrated the university's high level of commitment to the sciences and provided an incentive for the granting organization.

— **Eamonn Healy, Professor of Chemistry**

The lab used by my entomology students became a second home for them. Not only did they work on entomology but also their other courses. The students made this lab their own and were often found working in it until late at night. I've never seen students work so much in a lab before.

— **Allan Hook, Lucian Professor of Natural Sciences**



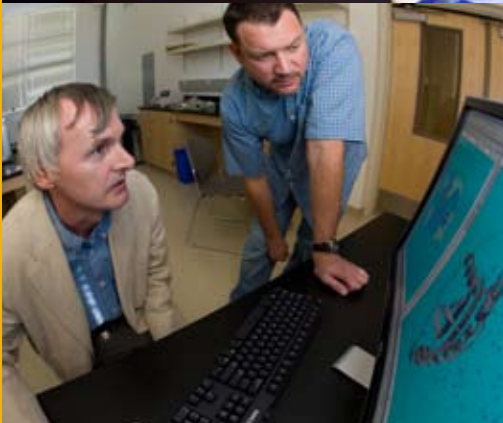
Students see science taking place in the labs, in conversations, and in the hallways. They can't help but catch some of the excitement of others with a professed interest in the subject.

— **Carol Gee, Assistant Professor of Mathematics**

A LEARNING LEGACY: JOHN BROOKS WILLIAMS

John Brooks Williams, owner of Houston's Markle Steel Company, named his friend **John Bauer, '62**, executor of his estate. When Williams passed away, Bauer, a trustee of St. Edward's University, knew a fitting way to pay tribute to him: directing a \$12.5 million gift to help the university build the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center.

"I knew a gift of this size could make a tremendous impact on St. Edward's," says Bauer. "I am proud that through the creation of the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center, future students will benefit from a world-class facility where they can think and dream and create their futures."



COMPLETING THE CENTER: THE SOUTH BUILDING

The John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–North Building was just the first phase. By 2011, we look to add the John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center–South Building, housing Mathematics, Computer Science and Physics. With continued support we can build on the exciting momentum that the North Building has already generated — creating opportunities for innovation, discovery and exploration.

To learn more about the South Building, visit www.stedwards.edu/giving.

