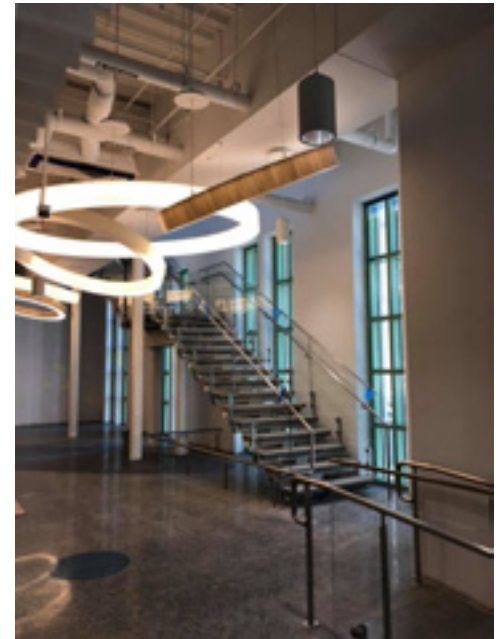




COLLEGE of
CHARLESTON
SCHOOL OF SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS

Michael J. Auerbach, Dean

RITA LIDDY HOLLINGS SCIENCE CENTER: OPEN FOR BUSINESS



After a four year renovation, “Rita” reopened for Summer I classes on June 1, 2018.

The renovation of this 120,000 sq ft space included upgrades to the existing structure, addition of a rain-water capture and reuse system, new interior finishes in all classrooms and labs, and a new astronomy deck. In addition, the old sloped-floor Physicians Auditorium has been replaced with a multi-use, flexible seating floor plan. The new auditorium building and the two buildings constructed in 1972 and 1985 that made up the old Rita Hollings Science Center have been merged into one, open concept space that offers plenty of natural light, new landscaping, informal student learning and public meeting spaces, as well as a coffee shop. Sustainable features of the new building allowed it to achieve a Green Globe certification (two green globes.)

RITA will house the Department of Biology and the Department of Physics & Astronomy. Faculty offices will be located on the new second and third floors, a 17,500 sq ft addition, above the auditorium building.

**Left to right: Biology teaching lab, student gathering space facing George Street, lobby of the old Physicians Aud.
Top Banner: The new astronomy deck, facing west.**

SSM Students Receive Prestigious Awards



GOLDWATER SCHOLARS

Katherine Duchinski, a double major in biology and data science, and Blaine Billings, a triple major in computer science, mathematics and Spanish, were named Goldwater scholars for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Endowed in 1986 in honor of the late Sen. Barry Goldwater, the Goldwater Foundation is arguably the most prestigious nationally competitive undergraduate scholarship in STEM disciplines. Duchinski and Billings are among only 211 undergraduate students, across the country, honored by this foundation.

Billings is the recipient of the Computer Science Elite Edge Scholarship, the Horatio Hughes Scholarship, and the Ewa Wojcicka Mathematics Award. Duchinski was also awarded the Maggie Pennington Scholarship in Biology.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, SMART SCHOLAR

Xandre Clementsmith is a triple major in data science, psychology and mathematics. He was recently awarded the prestigious SMART scholarship, a highly competitive U.S. Department of Defense initiative that supports undergraduate and graduate students in STEM disciplines. Xandre is working with Dr. Sorinel Oprisan on research in computational neuroscience. He is president of the Data Science Club and recently won the Wells Fargo Campus Analytics Challenge with classmate Jacob Mattox.



COLLEGE-WIDE HONORS

The College of Charleston has a small number of college-wide awards for graduating seniors, including the Bishop Robert Smith Award and the Alexander Chambliss Connelley Award. This year, chemistry majors Evan Bailey and Erin Day, won respectively. The Bishop Robert Smith award is the highest and most selective honor a graduating senior can achieve at the College and recognizes students who demonstrate exceptional leadership and academic excellence. The Connelley award is presented to a student in the senior class who has made the most unselfish

contribution to the student body and the College of Charleston. Erin is a past recipient of the Horatio Hughes Memorial Scholarship and Evan is one of 10 men's basketball student athletes recongized on the Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association Scholar-Athlete Team.



Summer Undergraduate Research

This summer over 100 students will be conducting undergraduate research projects on campus, many of which are funded by the Dean's office as part of a new initiative to keep students in a lab and out of service jobs unrelated to their future endeavors.

In June 2016, the College's Board of Trustees implemented school fees that would allow the College to provide critical support for the high-cost undergraduate academic programs in the School of Sciences & Mathematics. Fees took effect beginning with the 2017-2018 academic year and are supporting supplemental instruction, the South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation (SCAMP) program, student research stipends and support, and student travel. The allocations allowed SSM to provide 40 students with summer research stipends and five students with travel funding that will allow them to conduct research and present findings at professional meetings later this year. Other funding sources for undergraduate research in SSM include the South Carolina IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (SC INBRE) and Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) awarded by the College's Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URCA), as well as individual faculty research grants.



The School of Sciences and Mathematics supports experiential learning opportunities for its students. The intention of these awards is to provide students with the means necessary to focus on research with the ultimate goal of presenting findings at professional meetings and/or becoming credited as a co-author on a publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Maymester Abroad



This spring, chemistry students joined Drs. Kate Mullaugh and William Veal for a maymester program at the University of Georgia Costa Rica (UGACR) located on the Tilarán Mountain Range, adjacent to the famous Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve which protects one of the most biodiverse and endangered ecosystems on the planet.

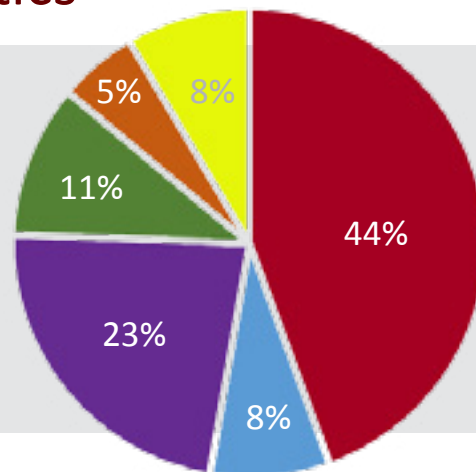
CHEM 483 provides upper level chemistry students an opportunity to conduct chemical analysis in natural settings. Students in Costa Rica collected water samples to understand the physical, chemical and biological processes that impact water quality. Local activities such as coffee bean farming and global phenomena, such as ocean acidification, were also investigated.

2018 Spring Commencement Statistics

UNDERGRADUATES BY DEPARTMENT

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Biology | 173 |
| Chemistry & Biochemistry | 32 |
| Computer Science | 89 |
| Geology & Environmental Geosciences | 41* |
| Mathematics | 21 |
| Physics & Astronomy | 33* |

*largest graduating class to date



UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES AWARDED

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|----|
| Astronomy | 1 | Computing in the Arts | 17 |
| Astrophysics | 8 | Data Science | 9 |
| Biology | 140 | Geology | 41 |
| Biochemistry | 12 | Marine Biology | 33 |
| Chemistry | 20 | Mathematics | 21 |
| Computer Info Systems | 11 | Meteorology | 5 |
| Computer Science | 52 | Physics | 19 |

GRADUATE DEGREES AWARDED

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Computer and Information Sciences | 3 |
| Environmental Studies | 15 |
| Marine Biology | 10 |
| Mathematical Sciences | 6 |