

VISION 2020, HIGHER AND BETTER: THE STEEL MAKES IT REAL

(From *Rivier Today*, Fall 2019)



Rivier students, community members, and partners crowded the corner of South Main and Clement streets on September 5, 2019 to celebrate placement of the final steel beam on the Science and Innovation Center structure.

An international traditional builders' rite, this "Topping Off" ceremony invites those invested in a building project to sign their names on the final beam, which, adorned with a small tree and flag, is then raised and secured to the top of the steel framework.

Scheduled for opening next fall, the 35,000-square-foot center will offer state-of-the-art laboratories, equipment, learning spaces, and technology to foster active learning and expanded student and faculty research.

While the large steel frame gives dimension to the physical structure of this campus landmark, it does not convey its potential. "Greater than its size is the promise of discovery and innovation that is sure to take place within its soon-to-be-added walls," says **President Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM.** ■

THE RELATED NEWS:

Innovation in the Sciences

(From *Rivier Today*, Spring 2019)

The University community celebrates monumental groundbreaking

VISION 2020, HIGHER AND BETTER: INNOVATION IN THE SCIENCES



Breaking new ground. From left-to-right: Megan Monroe '19, Biology Student Representative; Dr. Susan Barbaro, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Biology; Sister Helene Cote, pm, Provincial Superior, Sisters of the Presentation of Mary; Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, Rivier's President; Dianne Mercier, Chair, Rivier University Board of Trustees; and The Honorable Jim Donchess, Mayor, City of Nashua.

Rivier marked the newest chapter in its history, breaking ground on the construction of a 35,000-square-foot Science and Innovation Center in April 2019. Dedicated to expanding teaching and learning in the sciences, the facility will serve as a beacon for the city of Nashua and beyond, providing a community resource for the pursuit of scientific discovery. The Center is a priority in the University's strategic plan Vision 2020.



Before a standing-room-only audience of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends, University and community leaders offered insights on Rivier's contributions to education and workforce development. "All of our dreams and expectations can be joined in the belief that the Science and Innovation Center will provide opportunities to harness one of the great gifts of humanity—the power of curiosity to seek, to discover, to create, and to expand knowledge," said **Sister Paula Marie Buley**, IHM, Rivier's President. "This is no small task in today's world to seek the truth, to apply evidenced-based theory, and solve problems in the service of true human freedom and advancement."

Representing the city of Nashua, **Mayor Jim Donchess** applauded the University for its contributions to the workforce development of the region. "This state-of-the-art facility will expand Rivier's contributions to the life

sciences workforce in Nashua and throughout New Hampshire,” said Mayor Donchess. “This will add to the significant contributions that the University makes every year to our nursing workforce, educating the largest number of nurses throughout the state.”

The Science and Innovation Center will provide new experiences for biology, biotechnology, nursing, and public health majors, while also enhancing the general education of all Rivier students. The facility will feature learning spaces that foster experiential learning, laboratories and equipment designed to solve real-world problems, technology that brings science into the classroom, and collaborative spaces for faculty and student research.

Chair of the Board of Trustees **Dianne Mercier** provided perspective on the University’s commitment to its students and the community-at-large. “Today, we celebrate a new milestone,” said Mercier. “We are growing our commitment to student and faculty research and hands-on learning to prepare for the 21st-century workforce. We are expanding our contributions to the state, the region, and beyond, through workforce development in the life sciences, and we are marking our place as an institution dedicated to innovation and discovery.”■