

RIVIER OPENS THE SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CENTER

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Rivier enters a new era of innovation in the sciences with the opening of the Science and Innovation Center



The opening of the Science and Innovation Center this fall serves as a pivotal moment in Rivier’s history. A cornerstone of Rivier’s Vision 2020 strategic plan, the Center ushers in a new era of innovation in the sciences. The University celebrated the completion of this milestone with a Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in October. Local dignitaries, benefactors, Trustees, and University administration, faculty, staff, and students attended the event, which honored the many individuals whose leadership, talents, and dedication brought the facility to life.

“Our enthusiasm is not merely based on the completion of this project—it is amplified and energized as we anticipate a future full of promise,” said **Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM, Rivier’s President**. “Today, Rivier recommits its resources to the work of understanding the natural world, whether it’s the vastness of the planets or the process of cell mitosis ... Our University’s core mission of transformation, our values of innovation, collaboration, integrity, service and faith, and a motto that has sustained us down through the years—*Altiora et Meliora, Higher and Better*—brings us to this new era.”

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Pictured above at the ribbon cutting are Rivier Board of Trustees Vice-Chair The Honorable Joseph Laplante; Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess; Provincial Superior of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary Sister Helene Cote, pm; Rivier President Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM; Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Brian Ernsting; and Keily Pozo, a Rivier University Class of 2022 biology major.

Karen Cooper '03G, Vice President for University Advancement, recognized the University's generous benefactors. "As we fulfill our Vision 2020, we do so with you proudly by our side. You transform our students' experiences so they can go forth and transform the world. To each and every one of our benefactors, we thank you for your partnership, and we know that we can't do it without you," said Cooper.

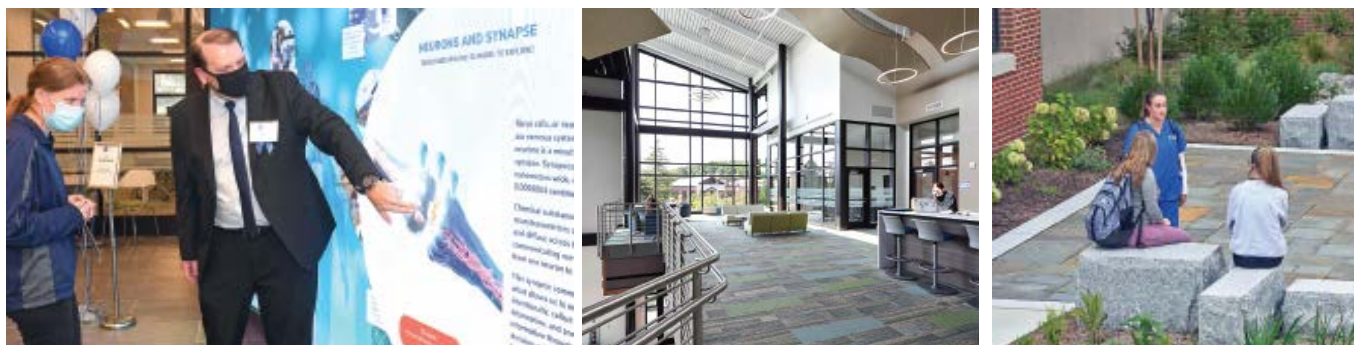
Vice President for Academic Affairs **Dr. Brian Ernsting** provided insight on the potential for future learning and discovery referencing enhanced classroom technology, expanded research opportunities, and students' greater enthusiasm for study and exploration. "Students are training on the equipment and technology currently in use at cutting-edge scientific and biotech firms, and they are conducting research with faculty mentors in new, fully equipped laboratories. At graduation, our students will be well-positioned for the most desirable jobs and graduate programs," said Dr. Ernsting.

Keily Pozo, a biology major from the Class of 2022, spoke on behalf of students, thanking those who made the facility possible and sharing her expectations, "With greater innovation in the



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sciences, we, as students, have an advantage and are one step ahead in the game. By furthering our research and use of technology, we will be better equipped to go out into the world and excel in the careers of our choosing—biotechnology, nursing, medicine, and more.”



Investment in the new Science and Innovation Center highlights the University’s commitment to advancing education in the life sciences. The 36,000-square-foot facility features state-of-the-art laboratories, equipment, learning spaces, and instructional technology to foster experiential learning. Students use the same advanced instrumentation that they would use in the workplace and in graduate study. The Science and Innovation Center will benefit all Rivier students, but especially those majoring in biology, biotechnology, nursing, health science, and public health.

The program began with an invocation and blessing offered by **Sister Helene Cote, pm**, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. She acknowledged those pioneering Sisters who advocated faith through science in years past; those who planned, supported, and participated in the building of the facility; the professors who will teach there; and, of course, Rivier students. “The task of shaping future leaders is one of immense importance,” she said. “We pray for each and every student who will ever grace these halls—that their enthusiasm for learning will not ever wane. God’s blessings upon you as you embrace science and innovation as a way of life.”

City of Nashua Mayor Jim Donchess recognized the University as a valuable community resource and partner. “Rivier consistently responds to the needs of businesses and industries throughout our city and state as a partner in workforce development,” Mayor Donchess said. “Their significant contributions each year to the nursing workforce, educating the largest number of nurses throughout New Hampshire, are critical to our state and region. This new facility is another significant contribution and another resource for the city of Nashua.”

The world of science on display



The Science and Innovation Center was designed to put the world of science on display and features glass walls showcasing the learning that takes place inside each classroom and lab. When students and visitors enter the lobby, they are greeted by a twelve-foot interactive, motion touch wall featuring content areas of anatomy and physiology, biology and biotechnology, chemistry, genetics, physics, environmental science, nursing and health science, public health, space and astronomy, and cybersecurity.

The wall is populated and continually refreshed with hundreds of news headlines, videos, and photos directly from Science Photo Library and live subscription feeds from PBS,

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NOVA, and other scientific resources. Students can interact with 3-D models illustrating the human heart, skeleton, a synapse, and microbes. In addition, alumni stories, the University's mission and heritage, and recognition of benefactors are incorporated into the display.



State-of-the-art laboratories foster experiential learning and collaborative spaces for faculty and student research.



An array of monitors in the Great Room showcases the University's social media feeds, and through an interactive touch screen, students can take their photo and add it to a Science in the World magazine cover and send it to display on the Great Room screen. Dual monitors in the lobby feature social media and science headlines, as well as a building map, academic and study tips, and more.

New Biology Innovators Grant offers BIG reasons to visit Rivier

During the dedication ceremony, Sister Paula announced the creation of the Biology Innovators Grant (BIG). The University is strengthening its commitment to innovation in the sciences through the launch of this scholarship for undergraduate students. "The University is invested in the advancement of the life sciences and establishing the Biology Innovators Grant demonstrates our commitment in a BIG way," says Sister Paula.

Made possible through a generous \$350,000 bequest from **Vivian Cunha** of the Class of 1965, incoming students pursuing biology and biotechnology degrees in fall 2021 will be awarded a \$3,000 grant each year for four years for a total of \$12,000 in financial support, in addition to a competitive financial aid package. Additional one-time grants are available to nursing students.

"We encourage students to go BIG and pursue their dream careers in the sciences," says **Paul Brower**, Vice President for Enrollment Management. "The Biology Innovators Grant, new Science and Innovation Center, and the Rivier Early Acceptance Program incentives make a compelling case for students to apply to the University early this fall." ■