

The Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building

Our Vision

Nearly every day, headlines suggest new explanations for why we act and think the way we do. Is social behavior rooted in genetics? How are our personalities related to brain structure? Do chemical triggers act as a “switch” for depression? Without question, we are at the threshold of a new understanding of the human mind, and SAS faculty are already poised at these frontiers.

The study of behavior and its biological roots has long been one of Penn’s signature strengths. We seek to promote the best research to enhance our understanding of the biology and psychology of memory, perception, emotion and other aspects of human consciousness – knowledge that enables breakthroughs in medical treatment as well as our understanding of what it means to be human.

Our goal is for Penn to continue to attract scientists who are extraordinary not only for research accomplishment but for dedication to teaching. We seek to maintain the quality of undergraduate programs like Biological Basis of Behavior, Psychology, and Biology – programs that define the intellectual experience of more than 25 percent of all students at the College. We also seek to establish Penn’s reputation as a hub for examining the issues that lie at the intersection of our emerging understanding of the mind and the applications of this knowledge to a range of disciplines spanning from law, education, and medicine to music, politics, and philosophy.

Our Need

To retain Penn’s position of leadership in the behavioral sciences, the School of Arts and Sciences is planning to build a 100,000-square-foot Neural and Behavioral Sciences (NBS) facility. The new building will serve to attract and retain

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teacher-scholars of the highest caliber. It will bring biology and psychology faculty together in a single location, fostering interactions and generating excitement. It will provide a home for Penn’s pioneering Biological Basis of Behavior major. And it will expand opportunities for our undergraduates to take part in cutting-edge research, bringing them into contact with faculty and graduate students on a daily basis.

The completed complex will stand as a powerful symbol of the synergy that occurs when scientists who work on problems associated with living systems have opportunities to interact on a regular basis with each other and the next generation of researchers who are our students.

Supporting the Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building

The School of Arts and Sciences is seeking to raise \$25 million for the construction of the Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building. *Full architectural plans are being developed for the NBS Building. We anticipate that naming opportunities will start at \$500,000.*