



LISA GOOFREY

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

by Dean Rebecca W. Bushnell

Now that we are more than halfway through the Making History campaign, we might ask: Is it indeed making a difference? In my daily life on campus, I can see the campaign's strong impact on the School of Arts and Sciences, both in our ability to assemble a community of the very best faculty and students and in the way those people do research, teach and learn.

I see the impact literally in the physical spaces that have been transformed by gifts we've received.

Witness, for example, the renovation of the newly opened Music Building, which nearly doubled the space of the old facility, adding practice rooms, better-equipped rehearsal spaces and new technology for teaching. Whenever I enter the building, I see the campaign's impact in the delight the music faculty and students find in this lovely space.

Other gifts led to a dramatic refurbishing of our undergraduate chemistry labs. The transformation of the space into bright, clean and safe teaching laboratories was coupled with a renovation of the curriculum, as the chemistry faculty rethought how to make the undergraduate lab experience come alive.

In partnership with the School of Engineering and Applied Science, we are moving ahead with construction plans for the innovative Krishna P. Singh Center for Nanotechnology, a spectacular structure that will provide our scientists with tools for making startling discoveries and promising inventions in the emerging field of nanoscale research.

I can also see the campaign's influence through the impact of the 199 new scholarships created for students in the College. Some of the brilliant and diverse students in my freshman seminar last fall were there only because we could offer them a scholarship. And campaign gifts to support graduate students have allowed us to raise stipends and provide summer support so that we can attract the best students from around the world to train at Penn to be the scholars and scientists of the future.

The 21 new endowed chairs established through the campaign are absolutely essential in sustaining the strength of the SAS faculty. All of them will be used to reward or

retain our most productive and effective faculty members or to recruit new faculty in the areas of highest need. For example, with the offer of a Christopher H. Browne Distinguished Professorship, we were able to attract Carolyn Abbate, who ranks among the world's foremost musicologists, away from Harvard.

Even as we celebrate success, we are still hard at work on the unfinished business of the campaign. Chief among our challenges is undergraduate financial aid. Nothing is more important to the future of the School, both in opening our doors to the most outstanding students and in assuring our own financial stability, than achieving our goal of \$150 million for undergraduate financial aid.

Funding for our Neural and Behavioral Sciences Building is also high on the campaign's to-do list. This facility is

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the cornerstone of the School's commitment to strengthening an already strong life-sciences program. It will house laboratories, classrooms and collaborative spaces that foster the cross-disciplinary work so essential to research in biology, psychology and other disciplines that explore the nexus of genes, brains and behaviors.

The Making History campaign has already been an exciting journey. It has allowed us to focus on the future of the School of Arts and Sciences. It has increased the engagement of volunteers and brought people together to talk about what's really important to SAS. In my travels, I have seen the campaign's impact in the passion of people who really care about the School and want to understand and support our priorities and our goals.

With this continued enthusiasm and engagement, I know that together we will meet the remaining challenges.