Biological Sciences Building

$50M endowed naming gift

Coming together for the first time in decades, the biological sciences in LSA is now under one roof and adjacent to the Undergraduate Science Building (USB) and the Life Sciences Institute (LSI). Not only is the face of biological sciences in LSA changing, with the construction of the Biological Sciences Building (BSB), but the way scholars work is as well. Previously cloistered in small labs within a 104-year-old building, LSA researchers and students now have access to a building that integrates leading-edge technology with modern collaborative workspaces. Within the three towers of five floors, the BSB’s design enables faculty, graduate and undergraduate students to work collaboratively, and provides the public with unprecedented access to see science in action. This impressive structure includes two glass atria that display unique university collections. As another resident of the BSB, the Museum of Natural History will be a partner in engaging the public in science and will house two labs where undergraduates will interact with community visitors. Researchers from across campus will benefit from these facilities, such as the biological imaging core that is engineered to enable ultra-high resolution microscopy.

The Departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) and Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (MCDB) use lab neighborhoods, where heterogeneous, functional groups of researchers benefit from sharing these open, flexible areas. Differing from traditional labs of the past, the modern design of the physical space – complete with plug-in networking and technology services, state-of-the-art wet and dry lab areas, and a corridor
area that centralizes shared equipment – fosters idea exchange, increases efficiency, and encourages adaptable research partnerships. Graduate students’ experiences become more robust through enhanced opportunities for spontaneous interactions and interdisciplinary connections, promoted by the lab neighborhood design and common areas throughout the building. On the second floor, the administrative suite brings biological sciences leadership together with a shared support structure, and provides regular opportunities for increased communication. The hallmark of the Biological Sciences Building is collaborative engagement on all levels.

An endowed gift of $50M to support the innovative research science that takes place in the Departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) and Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (MCDB) will be recognized with the naming of one of the most spectacular new buildings on U-M’s central campus. The LSA Innovative Research Fund will provide stable support to make science happen – funding start-up research, cutting-edge equipment and visionary concepts.

The dynamic people and programs that are housed in the BSB will leverage these premier facilities to advance teaching in the biological sciences and create new knowledge that will make a powerful and positive difference in the world. As thousands of EEB and MCDB graduates go on to successful careers in research and medicine, they will build their formative research experiences and foundational scholarship in these departments. Diverse world-class faculty will continue to join these highly ranked departments, attracted by the leading research and teaching capabilities presented in the BSB. Gifts of all sizes are needed to provide funding for this important research and teaching. A $2.5M endowed gift could be recognized with signage in one of the two BSB five-story glass atria. An endowed gift of $1M will be recognized with a naming opportunity for one of the 19 Research Lab Neighborhoods.

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Research Lab Neighborhoods (#7-24)

$1M endowed naming gift for each lab neighborhood

Solutions to the world’s greatest challenges – such as preventing the worldwide spread of disease, helping end world hunger, or reducing the impact of global climate change – all begin with basic science. The Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) is at the core of this work. In the new EEB research lab neighborhoods, today’s most pressing global issues are studied. U-M scientists explore the interaction of earth’s history with ecological and evolutionary processes, and deepen our understanding of the causes and implications of populations in space and time.

As human activities continue to impact ecological systems around the world, EEB research is identifying ways to build a more sustainable future. The structure of the new BSB, with its laboratory neighborhoods of commonality and functionality, not only enhances a high level of cross-field interaction, but stimulates entirely new possibilities. The cutting-edge research done here daily thrives on a new paradigm – one that is collaborative, interactive, and flexible. For more information about individual lab neighborhoods, please see BSB floorplan.
Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Research Lab Neighborhoods (#7-24)

$1M endowed naming gift for individual lab neighborhoods

The BSB features lab neighborhoods where MCDB researchers work in open and adaptable space that encourages collaboration with colleagues. Grouped by research themes, principal investigators across the department work beside other researchers doing complementary work. Together with graduate and undergraduate students, faculty in these new research lab neighborhoods are developing new knowledge and preparing the next generation of scientists and medical professionals. Biomedical and health research is conducted here by research teams focusing on Alzheimer’s disease, aging, obesity, cancer biology, psychosocial development and the microbiome, and more. Extensive research on plants builds an understanding of the processes that affect our world’s food, fiber, and energy supplies. BSB collaborative lab neighborhoods help advance the compelling research that is building knowledge on the foundations of the studies of health, disease, plants, animals, and bacteria. For more information about individual lab neighborhoods, please see BSB floorplan.

Biodiversity/Genomics Lab Neighborhood (#6)

$1M endowed naming gift

The biodiversity/genomics lab neighborhood is the only research lab space in the building that provides public viewing to offer a window into the inner-workings of LSA scientists. Visitors are able to look through a glass wall, via a second floor walkway, to see EEB researchers studying evolutionary genetics, which is linked to advances in health research. Onlookers see the rapidly changing methods of genomics research, sparking interest in the biological sciences.

BSB Entry Atrium (#1)

$2.5M endowed naming gift

Two glass atria serve as architectural anchors for the new Biological Sciences Building – one welcomes visitors into the Museum of Natural History, while the other is the main entry for the BSB research and teaching space. The five-story BSB Entry Atrium is a spectacular backdrop for the tyrannosaurus rex and pterodactyls in flight displayed in this space.

The sweeping glass facade looks out on the Ruthven Building, the future office of the president and central administration, and makes this a highly prominent location on central campus. A public walkway at the second floor level spans the atrium and connects the Museum of Natural History exhibit galleries to the public viewing area of a research lab. The BSB atrium is the core pulling together five floors of research laboratories, teaching spaces, and offices providing a visually stunning space for students and faculty to engage in study or conversation. Nestled throughout the five floors looking out on the atrium are nooks for individual study or group collaboration encouraging students and faculty to come together across disciplines to share ideas and discover new connections.
BSB Active Learning Hall (#2)
$500K endowed naming gift

Students who actively participate in the learning process develop a deeper understanding of the material. The student-centered, technology-rich active learning hall has been designed to strengthen that process. The large hall’s flexible design space, easy-to-configure furniture and movable monitors will accommodate up to 200 people auditorium style, or can be arranged to facilitate small group work. This is the primary location for classes from the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, along with interdepartmental courses. Top-of-the-line audio/visual systems and technology make this space an ideal location for symposiums, guest lectures, and conferences.

Seminar Room (#3)
$250K endowed naming gift

To guarantee the best learning experience, the seminar room has been outfitted with furniture that can be staged in a variety of functional layouts, enhancing each educator’s presentations. The room features elegant infrastructure with state-of-the-art technology. This premier ground-level space in the west tower is easy to access, situated just off the BSB Entry Atrium and next to the active learning hall. The seminar room is ideal for graduate student seminars and a variety of small group sessions.

Classrooms (#4 - 5)
$250K endowed naming gift

The first floor classrooms create an environment that supports modern teaching techniques in a flexible learning environment. These two classrooms each have adjoining instructional labs, and are adjacent to holding space specimen collections. Students are able to easily move back and forth between learning course content and doing hands-on laboratory work. Specimens will be readily available for use, and as class topics change, collections can be rotated to accommodate the focus of study. These classrooms epitomize the very best in cutting-edge science education.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

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