Science and mathematics have been an integral component of a Carleton education since the beginning of the college. The education of STEM students today is built upon decades of faculty teaching and research experiences, as well as a sum of money gifted to the college by various foundations, trustees, and other generous donors. This intricate web of support provides scholarships for students, pays faculty salaries, provides funds for research, and equips science facilities and instrumentation. This moment in time is part of the Carleton STEM continuum. The foundation of STEM education at Carleton today is embedded in our strong history, as well as the future promise of each new student.

### History of STEM at Carleton

**Growth and Change**

- Department of Mathematics and Statistics established in 1880
- Physics and Astronomy established in 1892
- Biology Department established in 1961

**Building Science Over Time**

- 1878: Old Observatory (Demolished)
- 1880: Math and Science Hall
- 1887: Science Hall
- 1905: Laird Hall of Science
- 1920: Biology Building
- 1961: Mathematics and Statistics Building
- 1975: Geology, Biology, and Chemistry Buildings

**Postgraduate Honors**

- Make Science Accessible to a Diverse Student Community
- Foster opportunities for STEM education and immersive learning opportunities that address the needs of all students
- Provide disciplinary encouragement

**Leaders, Innovators, and Change-Makers**

- Mary Claire-King '67: BRCA1 gene
- Charles "Jim" Kade '36: Co-discovered the mechanism of action of the pain reliever acetaminophen

**Fun Facts**

- As of 2020, Carleton College’s women graduates ranked 6th among all U.S. institutions in the number of women who receive PhDs in STEM.
- In the past five years (2016-2020), 77% of STEM graduates were accepted to medical school in their first try. 
- Despite a note left on the building reading “This building-size costume as part of a contest to obtain the Largest Fort so far” in June 1909, students removed the decorations almost immediately, leading to a brief newspaper report: “All the beasts of the field and fowls of the air, which were accepted, are now back in the museum. Though the stuffed animals are not the largest specimens, they are in excellent condition, and are soon to be returned, with many other specimens.”

**Current STEM Departments**

- Mathematics, computer science, environmental science, GIS and geography, psychology, cognitive science, neuroscience, archaeology

**Current Academic Programs**

- Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Economics, Environmental Science, Geology, Mathematics, Neuroscience, Physics

**Student and Faculty Participation**

- 18% of Carleton students participate in research opportunities

**Future Focus**

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