Looking for a way to support McMurry sciences?

We are looking for you!
Here are some ways you can contribute:

- Send us the names of prospective students. We’re sure you know some students who could benefit from the exceptional opportunity and attention provided by McMurry’s science programs.

- Host recruiting events in your area. Invite alumni and prospective students to a reception in your area. We’ll supply the program!

- Distribute recruiting materials to schools and students in your area. If you know where the talented students are, we’ll provide accurate and timely information.

- Support SMAB projects financially. The work of SMAB is underwritten by contributions from alumni and friends impacted by McMurry.

- Become a SMAB member. You’ll be expected to attend two meetings annually and help with SMAB programs supporting McMurry.

- Become a Friend of the Board. You’ll receive email updates on McMurry events and receive invitations to special SMAB events. This group is chaired by Elaine Harmon, ’95.

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McMurry’s Science & Mathematics Advisory Board (SMAB) was formed in the early 1990’s to provide counsel and support for the science programs at McMurry. SMAB is composed of McMurry science alumni who have become successful in their fields of pursuit.

Over the years, SMAB has helped the science programs in a variety of ways—some tangible and others not so readily apparent. They have successfully completed four fundraising projects totaling over $50,000—new microscopes for Biology, a research computer for Physics, a classroom set of graphing calculators for Math, and a match for a grant received by Chemistry.

These contributions from science alumni have helped modernize and enhance the science programs for teaching and research. In addition, the fundraising projects have helped to improve relations with alumni and re-connected many alumni with McMurry.

The Wall of Honor was created by SMAB to honor former faculty and alumni who have led distinguished careers in science and who have left their marks on McMurry. Nominations come from the campus community and alumni with elections held by SMAB. To date, a single class of three honorees, all former McMurry faculty, has been inducted: Virgil Bottom, W. Norton Jones, and Richard D. Moore.

The Board plans to select another class of honorees this fall and is currently seeking nominations (see page 6). An induction banquet is anticipated in spring 2005, at which time plaques with the likenesses of the inductees will be added to those already displayed in the Finch-Gray Science Center. Plaques will be centralized on a true “wall of honor” when new facilities are completed.

In 1998, SMAB hosted the first of its on-campus lecture series in the sciences with the inaugural edition of the Nobel Laureate Lecture Series. This event, featuring Nobel Laureate Dr. Stanley Cohen of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, consisted of morning lectures and panel discussions with Dr. Cohen and two other medical researchers—McMurry alumnus and SMAB member Dr. Max Wynn of UT Southwestern Medical School and Dr. Lemuel Moyé of UT Houston School of Public Health. In the evening, Dr. Cohen gave a public lecture. Plans are underway for SMAB to sponsor another Nobel Laureate Lecture in Spring 2005.

McMurry hosted its first Science Frontiers Symposium in January 1999, also hosted by SMAB. This event, “New Frontiers in Astronomy”, featured Dr. Alan Hale (Hale-Bopp comet), Dr. James Kasting of Penn State University, and Dr. Craig Robinson of NASA, in a fascinating look into the search for planets beyond our solar system, near-earth objects, and other recent developments in astrophysics. That evening, Dr. Hale gave a public lecture on discovery of comet Hale-Bopp before a huge crowd. The following year, another Science Frontiers Symposium was held entitled “Mars or Bust”, featuring Dr. Jeevan Pereira of Johnson Space Center—Houston. He explained the planning going into the proposed manned mission to Mars. At each of these events, SMAB provided meals where students could gather with these high-profile scientists, a life-changing experience for all.

In addition to bringing science events to McMurry, SMAB has organized and funded student enrichment trips to a variety of science events and facilities. These have included trips to the induction ceremonies for the International Inventor’s Hall of Fame in Ohio to Raytheon in Dallas to learn about use of satellite imaging systems for medical applications, to NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston to tour “behind the scenes” research labs, to the Pittsburgh Conference chemistry meetings in New Orleans, to UT Southwestern Medical School, and to the DIRAC Conference on particle physics held at Baylor University (SMAB support enabled McMurry to help sponsor that meeting). The Board has also supported faculty trips to important science conferences to help defray costs not covered by faculty development funds.

Less glamorous but equally important, SMAB members have donated their time to serve as external reviewers for departmental program reviews in their discipline. This feedback from practitioners has enabled departments to confirm the excellent work being done in many areas and to draw upon this expertise to make important curricular recommendations. And Board members are always willing to make phone calls to prospective students, helping to recruit the next crop of outstanding McM science alumni. These varied activities demonstrate the impact a vital Science & Mathematics Advisory Board has had on the life of McMurry’s science students, programs, and faculty. It is an outstanding example of partnership between the campus community and its alumni aimed at enriching the education and op-