Maxine Frank Singer '52 Hall
One of the explicit priorities of Swarthmore’s *Changing Lives, Changing the World* comprehensive campaign is to create vital spaces, including a space to encourage interdisciplinary connections, promote community gathering, and shape how scientific knowledge is discovered, expanded, and applied. **MAXINE FRANK SINGER ’52 HALL** is the realization and expansion of that vision, and will shape scientific discovery and the growth and application of science at Swarthmore College for generations. With flexible classrooms, state-of-the-art laboratories, and indoor and outdoor common areas — including a pavilion overlooking the Nason Garden—the building will be a place for all campus community members to study individually and learn collectively in a creative and collaborative environment. The project’s environmentally intelligent construction practices include thoughtful engagement with the surrounding landscape and reflect the College’s commitment to sustainability.

Renowned alumnus, philanthropist, and former engineering student Eugene Lang ’38, H’81 committed $50 million to this project, the largest gift in Swarthmore’s history. With that gift, and $85 million in additional support from donors like you, Singer Hall will foster collaboration — within biology, engineering, and psychology and throughout the larger community.

**BIOLOGY** is one of Swarthmore’s largest majors; each honors major must produce a substantial research project. Singer Hall will provide the department with more space to accommodate larger enrollments, and upgraded classrooms and laboratories that keep pace with changes in technology, instrumentation, and pedagogy.

**ENGINEERING** is the model for a collaborative, problem-based, and innovative program that points toward the future of the liberal arts. Singer Hall will provide space for group work, for senior-level design projects, and for engaging students in faculty research. Swarthmore is one of only nine premier liberal arts colleges with a dedicated engineering program.

**PSYCHOLOGY** will have more space in Singer Hall to accommodate its substantial enrollments, a growing emphasis on experimental psychology, active student-faculty research programs, and a major that requires an independent project of all its students. Singer Hall offers donors the opportunity to directly impact the way students engage in and interact with the natural sciences at Swarthmore College.
Discovery

Singer Hall is intentionally designed to serve all students — no matter their major field of study. The building serves as a gateway into scientific discovery for students who might concentrate their studies in history or French as well as students who will leave Swarthmore to pursue graduate research at the finest biology, engineering, or psychology Ph.D. programs in the world. Discovery will occur throughout Singer Hall in many ways, including:

» PROFESSIONAL-GRADE EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY
In the Cognitive/Perception Suite, psychology students will have access to rooms devoted to testing, eye tracking, and other resources. Large-scale student and faculty engineering research projects will be on display in the two-story, glass-enclosed Engineering High Bay.

» HANDS-ON LEARNING The Woodshop and Welding Shop will house items such as a lathe and milling machine for engineering students. The Biology Imaging Room will house some of the most technologically advanced equipment to allow students to see what would otherwise be invisible. The Psychology ERP-EEG suite will support the growing neuroscience program with electroencephalography equipment.

» VIVARIUM AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS The Vivarium Suite, used by Biology and Psychology, will provide a secure, environmentally-controlled animal holding area — a rarity for schools of Swarthmore’s size — and a behavioral suite. The Biology Collections will contain plant specimens, bird skins, skeletons of vertebrate animals, preserved animals, fossils, and 1,500 drawings of local flora and fauna.

» SENSORY GROVE This new outdoor area, positioned adjacent to the Psychology Department’s Child Development Lab, will be child-focused and child-scaled. In addition to supporting the study of child development, it will be a place for local families and children — including the Swarthmore Friends Nursery School — to play.

» SUSTAINABILITY Singer Hall creates new opportunities to discover how to live, learn, and work sustainably. Classes will monitor the building’s energy and water systems in real time. Groundwater probe locations will improve understanding of the impact of stormwater management systems on the local aquifer. Landscape design will represent different natural ecologies of the Delaware Valley.
“There is so much potential for interaction among these disciplines, spawning research and collaborative ideas that will surely be improved by putting engineering into a building with other types of science.”

KATHY SIWICKI, Howard A. Schneiderman Professor Emeritus Professor of Biology
Expansion

Physical spaces in Singer Hall are planned to generate the expansion of ideas and knowledge that most often occurs at the intersection of disciplines. Creating common spaces for conversation is central to stimulating critical and creative thinking.

Large and small classrooms are designed with extensive collaboration in mind. Seminar rooms will double as department meeting and conference spaces. Biology faculty will teach in labs that facilitate the research activities of intermediate and upper-level honors classes. Many of these multipurpose and multidimensional learning spaces will be used by departments from across the curriculum, not just those housed at Singer Hall.

» A 48-SEAT CLASSROOM will be available for use by all campus departments. As the Biology program grows, the room will be converted into a teaching and research lab for a new faculty member, most likely within 10 years of Singer Hall’s opening.

» A 50-SEAT COMPUTER CLASSROOM will supplement the Engineering Department’s computer labs and draw users from across campus.

» A 65-SEAT TIERED CLASSROOM designed to let students interact in small groups will have cinema-quality audio and visual equipment to support the projection of movies for courses in film and media studies and other disciplines.

» A 79-SEAT DIVISIBLE CLASSROOM will feature tables for group work (up to six students each), screens, and writing boards. A movable curtain will make it possible to divide the room into two separate spaces when needed.

» A 2,300-SQUARE-FOOT GREENHOUSE will feature a headhouse and two plant-growing chambers, and its rooftop placement will allow for optimum light. The greenhouse will offer direct access to vegetated green roofs (planned for the future) that will provide additional teaching and research opportunities.
Collaborative and departmental spaces throughout Singer Hall will also provide ample room, resources, and opportunities for group study, informal interactions, and meetings.

» **OPEN AND CLOSED STUDY AREAS** will contain comfortable furniture and writing surfaces. Open areas along wide corridors will allow for quick stops between classes; closed study areas will have doors for increased privacy. Closed group study rooms will also have a flat-screen monitor so students can share images from their laptops.

» **STUDENT LOUNGES** are part living room, part group study area. Engineering’s long history of offering this type of dedicated gathering space to students inspired lounges for biology and psychology to better help students establish a physical connection—a home base—with their departments. All three lounges will provide pantries for student use, writable walls, and bulletin-board space for announcements.

» **FACULTY OFFICES**, although private, will be clustered to facilitate interaction.
Common areas in Singer Hall will function as town squares—open, inviting gathering places for discussion, study, and relaxation.

» THE COMMONS, with a four-story skylit atrium, will be a dramatic feature of the building. As Singer Hall’s largest open area, it will be a hub of activity — social, creative, and intellectual. Much like the Science Center’s Eldridge Commons, the space is designed to be inviting to students across the campus community, particularly those working in Singer and neighboring buildings such as Trotter, Beardsley, and Pearson. The Commons will also support the building’s sustainability. Since the energy needs for offices differ from those of laboratories, it is beneficial to physically separate these sections of the building. The Commons serves that purpose.

» THE TERRACE, a visual and functional extension of the Commons, will provide a transitional space between indoor and outdoor activities and an attractive link to the Nason Garden, which will be enlarged and augmented with an outdoor grilling area near Beardsley Hall. The Terrace will provide shelter from the elements, extending the usability of outdoor space on campus. Tables with illumination and accessible power outlets will make it easier for students to gather for socializing or study.

» A SMALLER INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMONS on the lower level will bring natural light into the building at an important entrance from the Nason Garden, with direct connections to the Engineering shops and the Biology and Psychology animal facilities. Informal seating and vending machines will make this area a hub for after-hours study and group work, where students can brainstorm on a large, writable glass wall.

» FRONT PORCHES will be found at the entrance to each department, welcoming all into the building. Each porch area will have a combination of study tables and lounge seating, providing casual gathering space to enliven the administrative areas of each department.

» THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE will feature four regional landscape typologies within the Delaware River watershed. Native species improve the potential for long-term viability and support the mission of the Scott Arboretum to provide inspiration for local and regional horticulturalists and gardeners. Stormwater runoff will be collected, stored, and then used to support the varied landscapes and restore groundwater—one of the many ways in which the project supports sustainable design. Vegetated swales will filter stormwater runoff from impervious asphalt paving on Whittier Place.
“The new building will give us more space and room for everyone—room for faculty and students to collaborate closely on projects.”

FRANK DURGIN, Elizabeth and Sumner Hayward Professor of Psychology
Application

More than 70 labs and shops will span the building’s five floors. Your gift could advance faculty research such as:

» Vidya Ganapati will use the ENGINEERING LAB to support her research on optical system design in medical and biological imaging.

» Biology professor Dawn Carone’s GENETICS LAB will include a tissue culture space essential to her research on causes of uncontrolled growth in cancer cells.

» The COGNITIVE CONTROL AND MULTIPURPOSE ROOMS used by Psychology’s Cat Norris will provide her and her students ample space for data collection and other lab work related to her specialization in neuroscience.

» The ADVANCED COMPUTER LAB will provide Matt Zucker in Engineering with the tools he needs to pursue his interests in multidisciplinary approaches to robotics, laboratory automation for biology researchers, and rapid prototyping.

» The INSECT SUITE AND INSECT TESTING ROOM will allocate space for Associate Professor of Evolution Vincent Formica to study forked fungus beetles to understand how natural selection shapes and is shaped by social behaviors.

» In the BEHAVIORAL SUITE, faculty like Centennial Professor of Psychology Allen Schneider and his behavioral neuroscience lab will continue to study the neurochemical basis of emotional memory.

» Professor of Engineering and Environmental Studies Arthur McGarity will use the ENVIRONMENTAL ADVANCED LAB to continue his research on engineering solutions for environmental problems.

» Professor Elizabeth Vallen will use a new AQUATICS SUITE for her research on coral and the causes of coral bleaching that can result in the collapse of reef ecosystems.

» In psychology, Jedidiah Siev’s CLINICAL LAB will support his work on anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and other cognitive issues in adolescents and adults.

All faculty labs will have advanced customization to meet individual needs. Although labs are tailored to the research interests of individual faculty members, the flexibility of HVAC, plumbing, and bench design will support updates and enhancements as each department grows and evolves.
About Maxine Frank Singer ’52

A pioneering molecular biologist whose research is widely admired for its rigor and creativity, the Lang family chose to name the building for Singer in recognition of her exemplary contributions to science. Singer has also been an influential science administrator and a leader in science policy, ethics, and advocacy. Singer Hall is one of very few science buildings named for a woman on an American college campus.

“By naming the building for Maxine Singer, we seek to expand recognition of the women who graduated from Swarthmore who have made significant contributions to the sciences in research, writing, and leadership.” – Lucy Lang ’03

Following the name announcement, 18 members of the Board of Managers pledged gifts to recognize two more Swarthmore scientists. The Psychology Seminar Room will honor eminent psychologist, ethicist, and educator Carol Gilligan ’58, H’85. The Biology Front Porch will be named for Isaac H. Clothier, Jr. Professor of Biology Amy Cheng Vollmer, who has educated generations of students since joining the College faculty in 1989.

Take joy in creating change

Your gift to Changing Lives, Changing the World will broaden the transformative impact of a Swarthmore education. By naming one of the many vital spaces within Singer Hall, you are making an investment in the discovery, expansion, and application of scientific knowledge at Swarthmore.

For more information, please contact:

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