

## ENGINEERING SCIENCE HAS NEW HOME

**By Adam Reger**

Although still a young program, Saint Vincent College's engineering science program in the Herbert W. Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computing is growing rapidly, with approximately 55 majors in 2017.

Dr. Paul Follansbee, James F. Will Professor of Engineering Science and the director of the four-year program, predicts continued growth for the major, which was founded in 2013, especially once it moves into its new home in the brand-new James F. Will Engineering and Biomedical Sciences Hall.

The new two-story building will provide an extension of the Dupré Science Pavilion, which the engineering program currently calls home, adding 11,260 square feet of classrooms, laboratory spaces, offices and meeting areas featuring an array of advanced technologies.

"This new building really offers us a home for this growing department," said Follansbee.

In addition to features such as a the dedicated computer lab, a conference room with state-of-the-art teleconferencing capabilities and a materials lab, Follansbee pointed to a few simpler features that he believes will help the thriving program continue to grow.

"We'll have two bulletin boards, and there are meeting places for students," he said, emphasizing the importance of the program's having a home base. Follansbee expects the Yodel Lounge, a spacious corner meeting area with two large windows, to be popular among students.

The Engineering Science program was developed by Dr. Stephen Jodis, dean of the Boyer School; Follansbee; Dr. Daryle H. Fish, associate professor of chemistry; and Dr. Mohamed Anis Maize, professor of physics. In addition to these experienced faculty members, Dr. Derek Breid was hired as an assistant professor.

The program was designed to offer a broad background in engineering, utilizing the college's liberal-arts curriculum to give students a well-rounded education that emphasizes math, science and the development of problem-solving skills.

When the engineering science major was introduced, it became Saint Vincent's second engineering-focused program: the mathematics/engineering program is a 3-2 program that grants Saint Vincent College students a bachelor of arts degree in engineering/liberal arts after three years of study, followed by their entering a B.S. degree program in an engineering discipline from one of its partner schools, Catholic University of America, Pennsylvania State University, and the University of Pittsburgh.

The opening of the James F. Will Engineering and Biomedical Sciences Hall is just one of several exciting future developments for engineering science. More courses are being added each term, covering topics such as electrical, electronic, chemical, biological and civil engineering, joining existing course options in thermodynamics, design, computation, project management and materials engineering, among others.

"The curriculum allows students to paint their resumes as they want to paint themselves," said Follansbee. Early graduates of the program have had success finding jobs as researchers and entering graduate programs, he said.

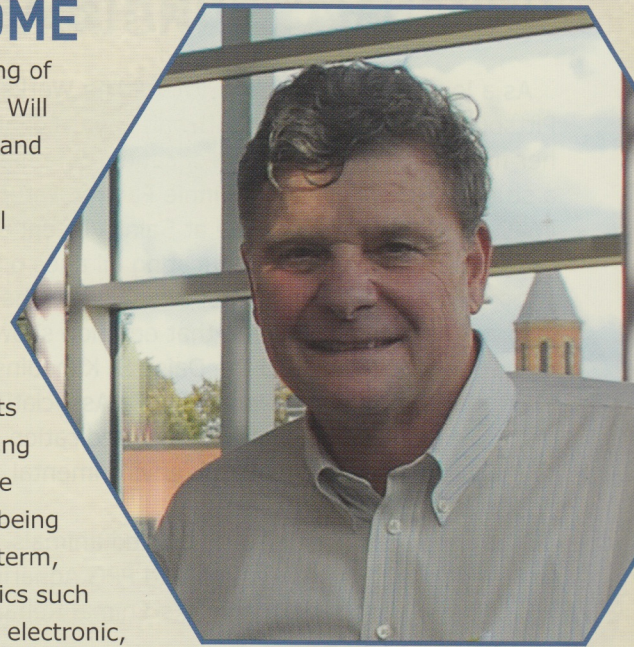
When the first full cohort of engineering science students graduates in the spring of 2019, Follansbee and other faculty members will work toward earning accreditation, a major milestone in the development of the new program. ABET, which accredits college programs in natural sciences and engineering, requires extensive proposals, featuring deep data analysis, but will only consider programs once a full cohort has graduated.

"Once we get accreditation, I expect we'll see a big bump in enrollment," Follansbee predicted.

The process of laying the groundwork for that extensive proposal is already underway, with faculty members conducting extensive self-assessment and collecting a range of data. Follansbee expressed gratitude to have the help of Dean Jodis, who has considerable experience in the accreditation process.

As the program expands, Follansbee expects to hire more faculty members to fill student demand.

"Because we're Saint Vincent College, we can teach specialized courses and continue to add courses," he added, contrasting the College's approach to other schools where a small class enrollment would lead to the class's being cancelled. "It's one of the beauties of Saint Vincent."



**DR. PAUL FOLLANSBEE**