

In the Spotlight: 30 Years of McKinly Lab

October 2007 -- Back in 1975, the students and faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences regularly made the walk from Wolf Hall to Drake Hall instead of McKinly Lab in order to participate in teaching labs. That's because back then, McKinly Lab didn't exist. However, the department desperately needed a building closer to home that could handle its increasing enrollment, so in January 1976, construction of McKinly began. "They had to build it," said [Dr. David Smith](#), "we were expanding so much."

It turned out that Dr. Smith and his graduate students would have a front row seat for the construction. His lab was located on the third floor on the east side of Wolf Hall, and what was once just a view of a parking lot turned into a daily show that lasted almost two years. On a whim, the lab decided to take an occasional picture to chronicle the crew's progress. "We had a camera and were just watching one day and decided to take pictures," he explained. "You know, boys and their toys."

While those pictures were made into slides, they ended up sitting in a box for 30 years. Coincidentally in 2007, construction on McKinly began again - this time, to replace the roof on the basement level to prevent leaks. Dr. Smith thought it might be a good idea to do the same thing a second time, so he asked to have pictures taken from the same vantage point (his old lab space is now occupied by Drs. [Carlton Cooper](#) and [Erica Selva](#)). In the meantime, he located those original construction slides from 1976-1977. We are pleased to provide the best images from both sets here as a tribute to the 30 years of McKinly Lab.

McKinly Lab Construction (Photos by David Smith)



January 1976



February 1976



June 1976



November 1976



December 1976







February 1977



March 1977



McKinly Lab Basement Renovation (Photos by Marc Drumm)



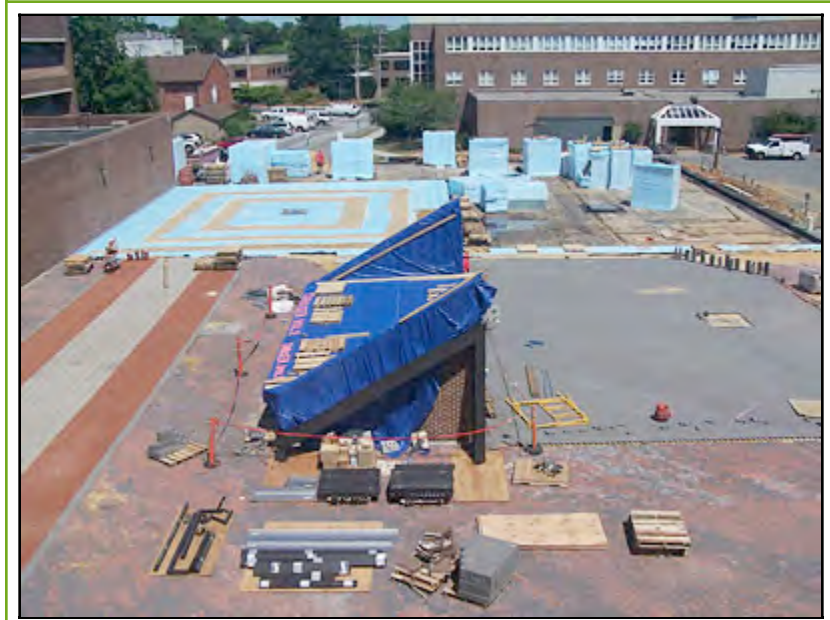
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McKinly Lab Renovation Completed (Photo by Kathy F. Atkinson)



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