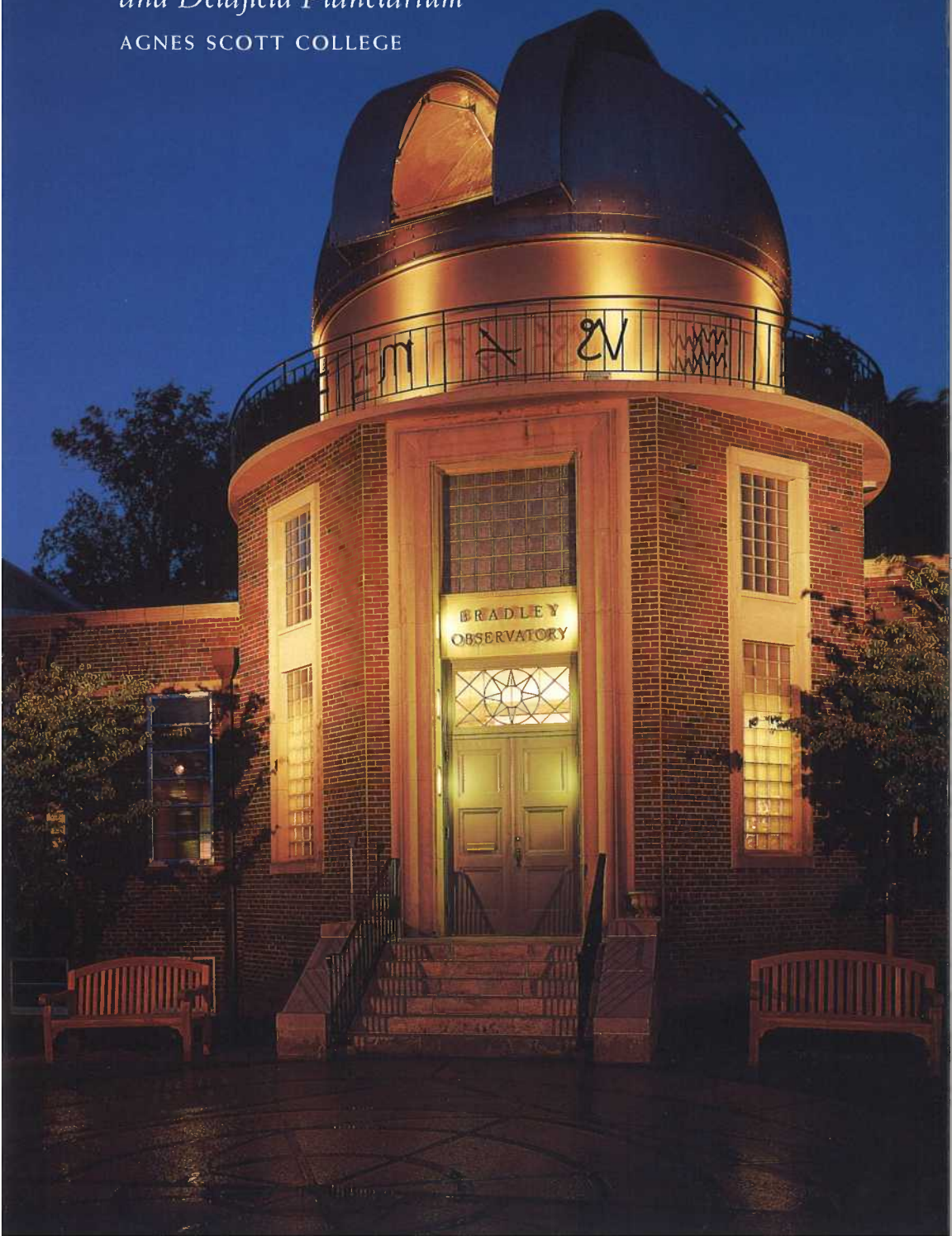
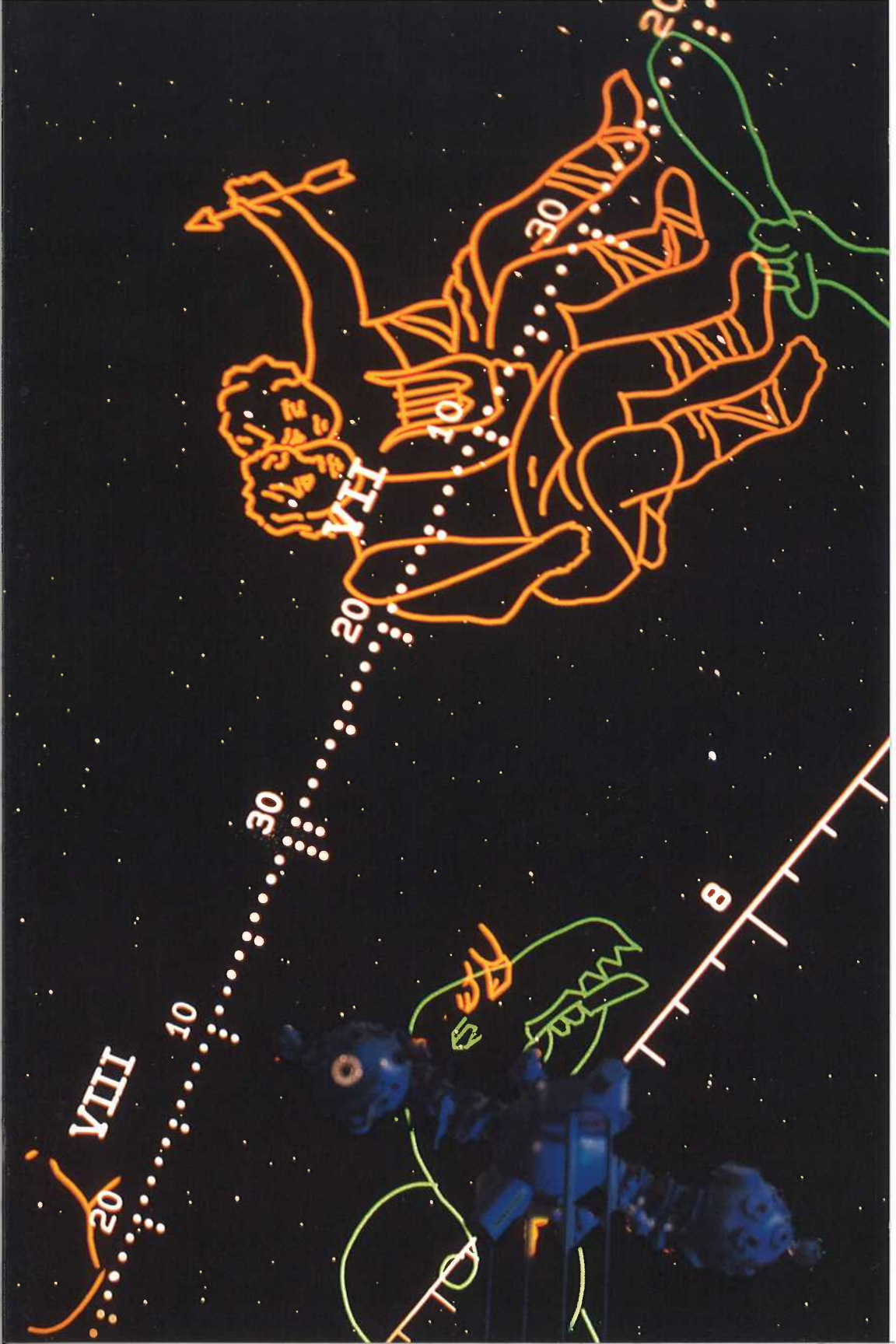


*Bradley Observatory
and Delafield Planetarium*

AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE







We shall not cease from exploration

When Bradley Observatory opened its doors—more than half a century ago—Agnes Scott College had long been dedicated to astronomical exploration. In 1912, for example, faculty member Charles P. Olivier published his observations of Nova Geminorum 2, made with “with either an opera-glass or an 8 cm telescope . . . at Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia.” Today, Agnes Scott women study comets and brown dwarfs, radio interferometry and star formation. And the renovated Bradley Observatory and new 70-seat Delafield Planetarium support them as they continue our tradition of cosmic curiosity.

Twenty-first-century students, of course, require state-of-the-art equipment, like our Meade and Celestron optical telescopes, Bradley Radio Telescope and software capable of processing data from observatories throughout the world. Within the Delafield Planetarium, our computerized Zeiss projector displays astronomical coordinate systems and the motions of celestial bodies, allowing three-dimensional viewing of objects difficult to grasp in flat projection. Even our Beck Telescope, the 1930 vintage Cassegrain that Chris De Pree, observatory director, describes as “the grain of sand around which this pearl of a building has grown,” has been modernized and upgraded.

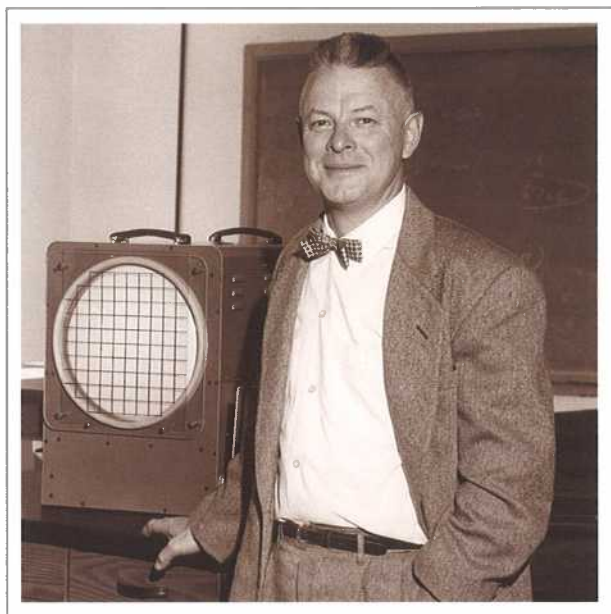


And the end of all our exploring

At Bradley Observatory, our exploring has two primary ends: advancing knowledge and advancing women in the sciences. A case in point is the building's new Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) facility, where, in collaboration with the Georgia Tech Research Institute, Agnes Scott students and faculty will construct a LIDAR instrument that uses a powerful laser to monitor Atlanta's atmosphere for pollutants.

"We're interested in particulate matter emitted from diesel engines and power plants, as well as natural particulates, like dust," explains Art Bowling, chair of our Department of Physics and Astronomy. "If we can characterize how much particulate pollution is present above Atlanta and describe its components, we'll be able to help policy planners make better decisions." Eventually, the students running these experiments will publish their findings, paving the way for careers in teaching or research.

"We are proud to offer the only liberal arts degree in astrophysics in Georgia," President Mary Brown Bullock '66 declares. "This is a college that takes women scientists seriously." Still, Bullock believes an Agnes Scott education has a larger purpose: preparing graduates "to engage as citizens in the great scientific, social and ethical debates of this new century."



Will be to arrive where we started

The impetus for the original Bradley building began in 1947, when a young astronomer set out from Harvard University, having heard that his discipline was virtually nonexistent in the Southeast. Dr. William A. Calder became a beloved professor at Agnes Scott. His enthusiasm for his subject was infectious, his love of music (an art form long associated with the heavenly spheres) was fabled. In fact, Calder inspired President James Ross McCain to purchase the Beck Telescope, then to envision an observatory to house it.

Agnes Scott students today follow Calder's example by exploring far afield and pursuing their work with passion. They study at observatories in locales ranging from Socorro, New Mexico, to Manchester, England; they intern at *Sky & Telescope* magazine and they publish in respected journals such as *Nature*.

Having established their independence, alumnae often come back — and give back — to the place where they started. Amy J. Lovell '90, for instance, is now an assistant professor in our physics and astronomy department, while JoAnn Sawyer Delafield '58, co-chair of The Campaign for Agnes Scott College, and her husband, Dennis, made a gift to support the construction of the planetarium that now bears their name.



And know the place for the first time

—T.S. ELIOT

Who would think that such a terrestrial substance as water-cut granite would lead to a better understanding of the heavens? De Pree, observatory director, and Terry McGehee, professor of art, made just such an imaginative leap in designing the observatory's telescope observing plaza. Their "Celestial Spheres" is a carefully scaled representation of the solar system and the Milky Way galaxy wrought from contrasting shades of granite. "We searched for astronomical scales that could be translated into geometric patterns," De Pree explains. The result? A living work of art that's a teaching tool by day, observing plaza by night.

This collaboration between astronomer and artist is just one instance of how Bradley Observatory fosters interdisciplinary discovery. In fact, year round, the building welcomes the College and surrounding community to concerts and lectures, art exhibits and poetry readings. Thus the new Bradley Observatory itself provides a lens through which we can view Agnes Scott and perceive afresh our school's commitment not only to advancing scientific knowledge but also to placing liberally educated women at the forefront of intellectual exploration.

Features

Delafield Planetarium

30-inch Beck Telescope

Auditorium/Multimedia Classroom

Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) Facility

Darkroom

Seminar Room/Library

Student Research Computer Laboratory

Faculty Offices

Telescope Observing Plaza

The Building in Brief

Zeiss Skymaster ZKP-3 projector
(1 of only 9 housed in this country and 23 in use around the world),
capable of projecting more than 7,000 stars

Complete audiovisual system with slide and video projectors,
3-channel sound and laser disk, video, CD and DVD players

8 Meade ETX-90EC Maksutov-Cassegrain telescopes
with Autostar computer controller

6 Celestron 8-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes

2 Meade LX50 8-inch and 10-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes
with Magellan II system

Recently modernized and upgraded Beck Telescope,
1930 vintage Cassegrain with 30-inch primary mirror,
refurbished by Perkin-Elmer in 1947,
upgraded with computer control in 1998

Bradley Radio Telescope (BRaT),
3.1 m diameter radio telescope with receivers at
K, U and L bands (1.3 cm, 2 cm, 21 cm)

Architects: Warren Epstein & Associates, Warren Epstein, AIA, Principal

Construction Management: Brasfield & Gorrie

Program Management: Carter & Associates

Landscape Architect: Carol R. Johnson Associates Inc.

Photography: Kieran Reynolds, Richard Howard, Caroline Joe, David O'Connor



AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE
THE WORLD FOR WOMEN

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