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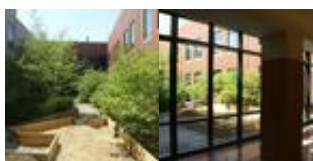
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Photo by Liv Combe '12



Teaching Garden Takes Root

by Liv Combe '12

Aug. 7, 2012

If you haven't yet noticed the changes happening in the courtyard of the Science Center, be sure to keep an eye out as the year progresses. The verdant area soon will be fulfilling its original purpose as a teaching space and resource for the green thumbs of the biology department.

The project began last year as a private study between two senior biology students, Stephanie Bonner and Karmi Oxman, both of whom graduated in May 2012, supervised by Mary Garvin, associate professor of biology. Bonner and Oxman drew up a blueprint for the layout of the garden and consulted faculty members

on which plants they could use in their classes. The result is a hodgepodge of North American flora — prairie flowers on the sunny side, dogwoods in the beds on the left, redbuds and shade loving spring [ephemerals](#) toward the cooler back of the courtyard.

“We’re building one piece at a time,” says Garvin. The topsoil went in shortly after these photos were taken, and soon the excess grasses will be replaced with more pedagogically useful shrubs. Though the biology department plans on being able to use the area for classes in the spring, “we’re not in any big rush,” says Garvin. “This is the kind of thing that will be constantly added onto over the years.”

Liv Combe is editorial fellow in the communications office.

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Nice story, and you even took the photo, too! Glad to see they are doing something with that space.

— Megan (Aug. 13, 2012)

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