Endowed Professorships

INVESTING IN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, REIMAGINING THE LIBERAL ARTS
Smith College’s strategic plan, *Lives of Distinction and Purpose*, calls for critical investments in people and programs across the curriculum. Through new programs in design thinking, data sciences and new media, we are reimagining the liberal arts for the 21st century. Endowed professorships are a key driver of Smith’s academic enterprise and represent a unique opportunity for donors to shape Smith’s future.
An Enduring Investment

An endowed professorship is the highest tribute Smith bestows on a faculty member and is a key strategic investment to advance teaching and scholarship across disciplines and in new subject areas, allowing Smith to remain responsive to the needs of students now and in the future. The financing provided by endowed professorships ensures Smith students have access to great minds, creative researchers and engaged teachers and assures stability and continuity for the faculty member and the college.

The power of Smith’s liberal arts curriculum lies in its ability to adapt to the demands of the times, and Smith’s faculty are the principal agents of change. Throughout the college, Smith professors are developing innovative curricula and new modes of teaching, affirming the value and importance of research and inquiry in creating the thinkers and doers who will advance solutions to the most pressing issues of the day. Smith professors collaborate with colleagues across academic disciplines to ensure that students incorporate multiple intellectual perspectives in their studies. The scholarly activities of our faculty inform their teaching and, in turn, transform their students’ lives.

Smith faculty inspire innovation in teaching and scholarship at the college.
The Benefits of Endowed Professorships

To the College
Endowed faculty professorships are crucial for recruiting and retaining the highest-quality faculty. Building a strong base of faculty talent enriches the academic environment, which attracts the brightest students.

To the Faculty
Endowed professorships support faculty already performing at a high level, enabling them to make even more significant contributions to the college and to their respective fields. The funds generated by endowed professorships are available to faculty members to advance their instructional programs, to develop new research ideas, to fund students’ work and to make innovative advances in their own portfolios of scholarly work.

To the Students
Professors can impact hundreds of lives through the courses they teach, the students they mentor or through the academic work they pursue. Endowed professorships give students the opportunity to collaborate with the most talented scholars in the world, sharing in their research and contributing to innovative scholarship and new discoveries.

To the Donor
When donors fund endowed professorships in specific areas of interest to them, they provide resources that allow leading scholars to focus on particular fields of study and spur advances in those areas.

“With the guidance and care of our faculty, Smith students develop essential capacities—the ability to think critically, to speak and write compellingly, to apply evidence and quantitative analysis, to know the world, its ideas, its culture and history. These are abilities that the world so urgently needs.”

—Kathleen McCartney
President of Smith College
Vicky Spelman, Barbara Richmond ’40 Professor in the Humanities, Professor of Philosophy
The Gift of Knowledge

A world traveler, trustee emerita Janet Wright Ketcham ’53 knows the value in understanding different cultures, their history and influence on world events. That’s why she made a significant gift to Smith to endow a professorship in Middle East studies, a new position designed to ensure that Smith students better understand this critical region and create a pipeline of women into international policy roles around the world.

Ketcham’s gift has allowed the college to bring to campus a senior scholar whose expertise will build on an already strong program in Middle East studies. Steven Heydemann joined the Smith faculty in 2015 as the inaugural Janet Wright Ketcham ’53 Chair in Middle East Studies. He has a long and distinguished history in both academic and policy settings. He’s served on the faculty at Georgetown and Columbia, and also held leadership positions at the U.S. Institute of Peace and at the Social Science Research Council. A political scientist who specializes in the comparative politics and political economy of the Middle East, with a particular focus on Syria, Heydemann has research interests in authoritarian governance, economic development, social policy, political and economic reform, and civil society.

Ketcham hopes her gift will expand students’ interest in a region of the world that might benefit from more scholarship, especially from women, and she believes that educated women can be part of solving the region’s many challenges, from poverty to extremism and the oppression of girls and women. “Studying the culture and history and language and religion of this region is critical in our hope to live together peacefully,” Ketcham said. “I hope this professorship will lead to women in leadership positions who can contribute meaningfully to resolving some of these issues.”
Andrea Hairston ’74
Louise Wolff Kahn Professor of Theatre and Professor of Africana Studies
Andrea Hairston joined the Smith faculty in 1989. Alongside her teaching, Hairston is active as a playwright, novelist, theater performer and director. She has also published two award-winning novels, *Mindscape* and *Redwood and Wildfire*. In 2011, Hairston received the International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts Distinguished Scholarship Award. In 2013 she was awarded the Kathleen Compton Sherrerd ’54 and John J. F. Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished Teaching.

Borjana Mikic
R.B. Hewlett ’40 Professor of Engineering
Borjana Mikic came to Smith in 2001 to help build the nation’s first engineering program at a women’s college. In 2007, her work in the classroom earned her a Kathleen Compton Sherrerd ’54 and John J. F. Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished Teaching. In 2015, Mikic was named faculty director of the Design Thinking Initiative, a pilot program at Smith incorporating design thinking into interdisciplinary work across new and existing classes, and supporting student- and faculty-led design projects, including campuswide design challenges to rethink our working and learning spaces.

Gregory White
Mary Huggins Gamble Professor of Government
Gregory White teaches courses on global environmental politics, international relations, migration and refugee politics, and international political economy. His research and publications focus on Moroccan politics, environmental politics, and international security. White served as the Elizabeth Mugar Eveillard ’69 Faculty Director of the Phoebe and John D. Lewis Global Studies Center from 2012 to 2015 and is currently a member of the Environmental Science & Policy program committee.
Smith’s Endowment

Smith’s endowment is one of the smartest investments because it has such powerful returns: lives changed through education. Endowed gifts exist in perpetuity. The gift is invested, the principal value remains untouched, and an established percentage of the income is distributed annually for Smith’s use. Behind each endowment gift is a personal motivation—to repay a debt of gratitude for the donor’s own education, to honor a loved one or teacher, or to make a positive impact on society. Beyond the specific uses of the income from these funds, the endowment is fundamental to the college’s ability to plan for the future and to manage the ups and downs of the economy.

Gifts to the endowment provide long-term sources of funding, and are critical to sustaining the strength, quality and success of Smith College. Endowed professorships, scholarships, academic and research programs and facility funds provide permanent support for our faculty’s teaching and research and for our students’ educational experience.

Investment returns from Smith’s endowment account for roughly one-third of the college’s annual operating revenue.
An Opportunity to Shape Smith’s Future

Smith is seeking new endowed funds to secure the college’s teaching mission, open new areas of thought and inquiry, encourage the discovery of new knowledge, explore emerging interdisciplinary areas and attract exceptional scholars from around the world.

With your support, our students will graduate with powerful intellectual capacities, gained inside and outside the classroom, and manifest the value of their Smith education in the world.

**Gift Opportunity**
**Endowed Full Professorship ($3,000,000)**

The stature and productivity of our faculty, as both teachers and scholars, are among Smith’s most distinguishing characteristics and are key to the college’s excellence. A gift of $3 million will endow a full professorship and place the donor’s choice of name on that endowment in perpetuity. Annual returns from the endowment will underwrite the salary and benefits for a distinguished member of the Smith faculty.

Clockwise from top left: Ruth Ozeki, Elizabeth Drew Professor; John B. Brady, Mary Elizabeth Moses Professor of Geosciences; Brigitte Buettner, Louise Ines Doyle 1934 Professor of Art; Ileana Streinu, Charles N. Clark Professor of Computer Science; Andrew Zimbalist, Robert A. Woods Professor of Economics
Current Endowed Professorships at Smith

Achilles Professor
Afro-American Studies Chair
Sylvia Dlugasch Bauman Professor
Alice Pratt Brown Professor
Gwendolen Carter Chair in African Studies
Charles N. Clark Chair
Esther Cloudman Dunn Professor
Jill Ker Conway Chair in Religion and East Asian Studies
Louise Ines Doyle 1934 Professor
Elizabeth Drew Visiting Professorship
Mary Huggins Gamble Foundation Chair
Gates Foundation Chair
Irwin and Pauline Alper Glass Professor
Louise C. Harrington 1926 Professor
Rosemary Bradford Hewlett 1940 Professor
Iva Dee Hiatt Professor
Anne Hesseltine Hoyt Professor
Mary Augusta Jordan Professor
Louise Wolff Kahn 1931 Professor
William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor
R&C Kennedy Chair
Janet Wright Ketcham 1953 New Century Professor in Middle East Studies
Helen Means Chair
Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities
Morningstar Professor of Jewish Studies
Dwight W. Morrow Professor
Mary Elizabeth Moses Professor
William Allan Neilson Foundation Professor
Marilyn Carlson Nelson Chair in Economics
Maconda Brown O’Connor Chair
Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Chair in Computer Science
Sydenham Clark Parsons Professor
Jessie Wells Post Professor
Barbara Richmond 1940 Professor in the Humanities
Barbara Richmond 1940 Professor in the Social Sciences
Roe/Straut Professor in the Humanities
Grace Jarcho Ross 1933 Professor of Humanities
L. Clark Seelye Professor
Myra M. Sampson Professor
Helen and Laura Shedd Professor
Harold Edward Israel and Elsa Siipola Professor
Doris Silbert Professor
Elsie Damon Simonds Chair
Elsie Irwin Sweeney Professor
Tippit Chair in the Life Sciences
Elizabeth Marting Treuhaft Professor
Priscilla Paine Van der Poel Chair
Caroline L. Wall ’27 Professor
Esther Booth Wiley 1934 Professor
Robert A. Woods Professor
Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor
World Religions Chair
Areas of Emerging Priority in the Smith Curriculum

Along with seeking professorships in the traditional liberal arts disciplines, Smith’s academic leadership has identified the following priority academic areas for new endowed positions. Those positions that are interdisciplinary may rotate departments over time.

- **AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**
  This multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary field examines the experiences of people of African descent with the aim of achieving deeper understanding of the complex reality of race in America.

- **CLIMATE STUDIES**
  Climate change is one of the most pressing issues the world faces today. Smith College is committed to engaging students and scholars in interdisciplinary work related to this critical topic.

- **DATA SCIENCES**
  This emerging field draws on statistical methods to answer questions in an array of disciplines in the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities.

- **DESIGN**
  The use of design practices is becoming an important teaching strategy to spark creative collaboration and problem solving across disciplines.

- **DIGITAL HUMANITIES**
  Smith faculty and students are eager to harness the power of new technologies to support interdisciplinary research that will shed new light on the human condition.

- **EDUCATION**
  Smith alumnae are on the front lines of urban education and the college is investing in faculty and programs to advance scholarship and prepare students for leadership in this critical field.

- **ENGINEERING**
  As a creative endeavor at the intersection of design, science, and mathematics, engineering draws on nearly all aspects of the human experience, including our history, politics, economics, arts, and societal aspirations.

- **GLOBAL STUDIES/INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
  From international policy and regional studies to religious studies, Smith students are eager to engage the world, develop cultural fluency and collaborate across boundaries.

- **NEW MEDIA**
  Faculty, students and scholars are eager to use film, the web, digital platforms and other media to create scholarship that explores and advances discussions and discourse around critical issues of the day.

- **PUBLIC DISCOURSE**
  Smith College is primed to lead in the development of programs, curricula and other initiatives designed to prepare students to engage in thoughtful, meaningful discussions about important—and sometimes challenging—topics.

- **WOMEN'S HISTORY**
  Smith’s special collections of women’s history are unparalleled and offer a unique opportunity to teach and learn from primary source material.
Giving Opportunities

**Endowed Professorship**

**GIFT LEVEL**

**Full Professorship**  $3,000,000

A gift of $3 million will endow a full professorship and place the donor’s choice of name on that endowment in perpetuity. Annual returns from the endowment will underwrite the salary and benefits for a distinguished member of the Smith faculty.

**New Century Term Professorship**  $2,000,000

These rotating, limited-term junior faculty appointments are designed to enhance intellectual vitality with fresh perspectives, providing a pilot period for new academic inquiries to take root. Funding in support of innovative New Century Term Professorships will allow Smith to respond to timely issues and topics by exploring or reinforcing emerging interdisciplinary areas in the curriculum.

**Curricular Investments**

**GIFT LEVEL**

**First-Year Seminar**  $1,500,000

**Faculty and Curriculum Development Fund**  $250,000

**Departmental/Programmatic Fund**  $250,000

**Concentrations Fund**  $250,000

A concentration organizes intellectual and practical experiences around an area of interest, combining multidisciplinary coursework with internships or other co-curricular opportunities that culminate with a capstone experience such as an advanced seminar or honors thesis.

**Student Research Opportunities**

**GIFT LEVEL**

**Student Research Fund**  $250,000

**Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)**  $250,000

Undergraduate opportunities for collaborative research with faculty provide hands-on learning as well as the broader benefits of peer and faculty mentoring relationships.

Contact

For more information and to make a gift, please contact Betsy Carpenter ’93, director of development, at ewcarpen@smith.edu or (413) 585-2052.