

A photograph of a Smith College campus scene. In the foreground, a green lawn is partially covered by a dark green banner. Several students are walking on a paved path. In the background, there are two brick buildings. The building on the left is a multi-story brick building with a prominent white portico entrance. The building on the right is a more modern brick building with large windows. The sky is clear and blue.

SMITH COLLEGE

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS

Investing in Academic Excellence
Reimagining the Liberal Arts



Smith College's commitment to excellence calls for critical investments in people and programs across the curriculum. Through new programs in climate studies, data sciences and racial justice, we are reimagining the liberal arts for today's challenges. 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.



The Benefits of Endowed Professorships

To the College

Endowed professorships are crucial for recruiting and retaining the highest-quality faculty and allowing Smith to develop depth in newly prioritized and interdisciplinary areas. 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.



“Education is all about challenge. Scholars who are advancing the boundaries of their fields bring the newest knowledge into their classrooms, challenging students to develop essential capacities in the context of cutting edge research. At the same time, accomplished scholars enable their students to participate in the creation of knowledge, to ask new questions and to address complex, urgent problems.”

Michael Thurston
Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Helen Means
Professor of English Language and Literature

The Gift of Knowledge



A world traveler, trustee emerita Janet Wright Ketcham '53 knows the value of understanding different cultures, their history and their influence on world events. That's why she made a significant gift to Smith to endow a professorship in Middle East studies, a 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 builds on an already strong program in Middle East studies. Steven Heydemann joined Smith as the inaugural Janet Wright Ketcham 1953 New Century Professor in Middle East Studies. He has a long and distinguished history in both academic and policy settings. He has served on the faculty at Georgetown and Columbia, and also held positions at the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Social Science Research Council, The Brookings Institution and the Syria Policy Coordination Group of the International Commission on Missing Persons. 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 the Middle East. 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 says. "I hope this professorship will lead to women in leadership positions who can contribute meaningfully to resolving some of these issues."

Steven Heydemann, Janet Wright Ketcham 1953 New Century Professor in Middle East Studies



Teachers and Scholars of Distinction

Smith's outstanding faculty talk about the power of endowed professorships.



“As Sophia Smith Professor of Sociology, my research and teaching feed into each other. As a scholar, I write about how feminist movements achieve change. In my courses on gender and social movements, my research allows me to bring up-to-the-moment scholarship into the classroom. Bringing students inside the process of knowledge creation encourages them to think of their own research as entering an ongoing scholarly conversation. In turn, class discussion enriches my thinking and makes its way into my published work.”

—Nancy Whittier

Sophia Smith Professor; Professor of Sociology



“My research interests encompass the intellectual history and the social, political and cultural thought of the African Diaspora. My work, which is multidisciplinary in nature, has focused on Africana political and social thought, political philosophy, critical race theory and Caribbean intellectual traditions and popular culture. The Ruth Simmons chair has allowed me to engage deeply with these interests in a highly productive scholarly environment and to work with amazing students who will undoubtedly be global thought leaders over the next generation.”

—Aaron Kamugisha

Ruth J. Simmons Professor of Africana
Studies

“At Smith, I fully embrace the teacher-scholar model. With international collaborators, I investigate and model how vegetation and land cover affect water movement through landscapes. I share the excitement of that research with my students in the lab, and bring that knowledge to the classroom to inform our engineering designs.”

—Andrew Guswa

L. Clark Seelye Professor of Engineering



“My scholarly research is deeply interdisciplinary, cross-cultural and collaborative. The philosophy classes I teach—on Indian philosophy, the varieties of cosmopolitanism and the possibility of shared aesthetic experience across cultures—reflect these scholarly commitments. My newest research project, conducted with my colleague Jay Garfield, involves six of our students in an unusual collaboration. In our ‘humanities lab,’ we are collectively engaged in writing a translation into English of *The Subject as Freedom*, by K.C. Bhattacharyya. Since the original text is also written in English, the lab provides us with the opportunity to discuss important questions about the meaning of the term ‘translation’ and to consider the political, social and ethical implications of an experimental project of this kind.”

—Nalini Bhushan

Andrew W. Mellon Chair in the Humanities; Professor of Philosophy

Smith's Endowment

Investing in Smith's endowment delivers 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.

Smith's endowment is also a smart investment. The college benefits from years of strong financial management with a focus on balanced budgets, prudent spending and endowment growth designed to support the college's mission. Along with robust long-term investment performance, these factors have helped place Smith in a select group of about 30 schools ranked by Moody's Investors Service as Aa1 or better. Smith's endowment value is among the largest in the nation.

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 critical to sustaining the strength, quality and success of the college.

Investment returns from Smith's endowment account for roughly 40 percent of the college's annual operating revenue.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO Shape Smith's Future

Endowed professorships support Smith's mission and priorities, and have direct impact on key initiatives such as advancing social justice and equity, reducing the impacts of climate change, developing engaged global citizens and leaders, and expanding the impact of classroom learning through co-curricular and real-world applications.

Smith is seeking new endowed funds to:

- Advance an inclusive and equitable educational community founded on the free and open exchange of ideas.
- Open new areas of thought and inquiry.
- Encourage the discovery of new knowledge and expand perspectives.
- Explore emerging interdisciplinary areas.
- Attract exceptional scholars from around the world.

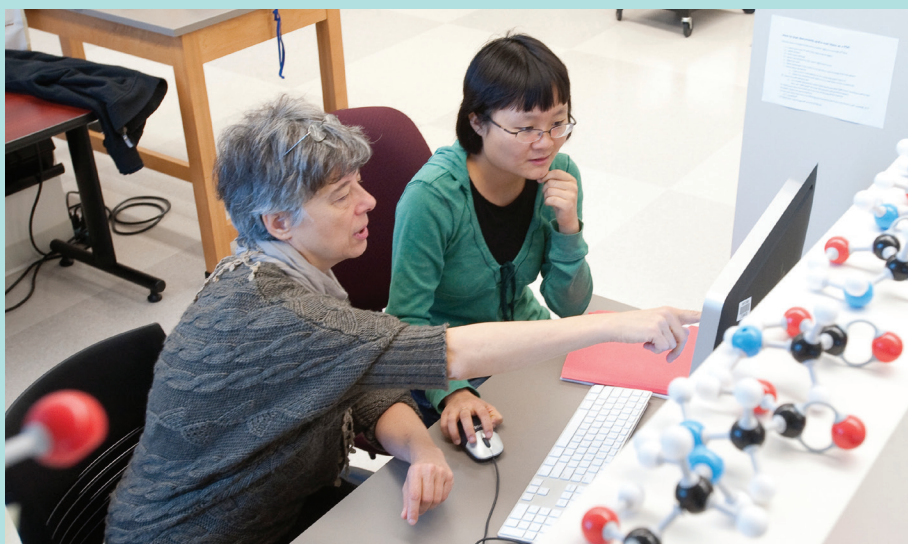
With your support, our students will graduate with powerful intellectual capacities, gained inside and outside the classroom, and manifest the value of their Smith education in the world.

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.

Ileana Streinu, Charles N. Clark Professor of Computer Science (left)



Current Endowed Professorships

| | |
|--|--|
| Achilles Professor | Maconda Brown O'Connor Chair |
| Afro-American Studies Chair | Spencer T. and Ann W. Olin Chair in Computer Science |
| Sylvia Dlugasch Bauman Chair of American Studies | Sydenham Clark Parsons Professor |
| Alice Pratt Brown Professor | Jessie Wells Post Professor |
| Gwendolen Carter Chair in African Studies | Phyllis Cohen Rappaport '68 New Century Term Professorship |
| Charles N. Clark Chair | Barbara Richmond 1940 Professor in the Humanities |
| Esther Cloudman Dunn Professor | Barbara Richmond 1940 Professor in the Social Sciences |
| Jill Ker Conway Chair in Religion and East Asian Studies | Roe/Straut Professor in the Humanities |
| Louise Ines Doyle 1934 Professor | Grace Jarcho Ross 1933 Professor of Humanities |
| Mary Maples Dunn Professor | L. Clark Seelye Professor |
| Mary Huggins Gamble Foundation Chair | Myra M. Sampson Professor |
| Gates Foundation Chair | Helen and Laura Shedd Professor |
| Irwin and Pauline Alper Glass Professor | Harold Edward Israel and Elsa Siipola Professor |
| Louise C. Harrington 1926 Professor | Doris Silbert Professor |
| Rosemary Bradford Hewlett 1940 Professor | Ruth J. Simmons Chair |
| Iva Dee Hiatt Professor | Elsie Damon Simonds Chair |
| Anne Hesseltine Hoyt Professor | Sophia Smith Professor |
| Mary Augusta Jordan Professor | Gloria Steinem Chair in Women & Gender Studies |
| Louise Wolff Kahn 1931 Professor | Elsie Irwin Sweeney Professor |
| William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor | Tippit Chair in the Life Sciences |
| Janet Wright Ketcham 1953 New Century Professor in Middle East Studies | Elizabeth Marting Treuhaft Professor |
| Helen Means Chair | Priscilla Paine Van der Poel Chair |
| Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities | Caroline L. Wall '27 Professor |
| Morningstar Professor of Jewish Studies | Esther Booth Wiley 1934 Professor |
| Dwight W. Morrow Professor | Robert A. Woods Professor |
| Mary Elizabeth Moses Professor | Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Professor |
| Marilyn Carlson Nelson Chair in Economics | World Religions Chair |

Kate Soper, Iva Dee Hiatt Professor





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.

AFRICANA STUDIES

This field examines the experiences of people of African descent throughout the diaspora and how racial blackness influences the modern world.

CLIMATE STUDIES

Climate change is one of the world's most pressing issues. Smith is committed to engaging students and scholars in work related to this critical topic.

CREATIVE WRITING

Smith students are eager to explore the writing of fiction and poetry, working with faculty active in these creative fields.

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.

DIGITAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Students are drawn to the intersection of technology and the arts and humanities as a means to develop creative work (electronic music and video art, for example), acquire knowledge and publish work digitally.

EDUCATION

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

GLOBAL STUDIES

From international policy to religious studies, Smith students are eager to engage the world, develop cultural fluency and collaborate across boundaries.

JOURNALISM AND PUBLIC DISCOURSE

Smith is primed to lead in the development of programs and curricula designed to prepare students to engage in impactful public discussions and writing about important topics.

NEW MEDIA

In the context of interdisciplinary, technology-based projects such as game design, students use media to explore new modes of storytelling and hone design-thinking skills.

RACIAL JUSTICE

Smith students will explore intersectional systems of power in the context of race, racism and anti-blackness through new curricula and related programming

WOMEN'S HISTORY

Smith's special collection of women's history is unparalleled and offers 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. | |

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|--|-------------|
| 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 |
| Concentrations organize intellectual and practical experiences around an area of interest, combining multidisciplinary coursework with internships or other co-curricular opportunities. In increasing demand among students who find them useful for career development, concentrations 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 |
| Humanities and Social Science Labs | \$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, associate vice president for development, at ewcarpen@smith.edu or 413-585-2052.

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Betsy Carpenter
Associate Vice President for Development
413 585 2052
ewcarpen@smith.edu

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