

Endowing Exceptionality

Endowed professorships are essential in the college's effort to provide a transformational education.

Highly prized within the academy, such named professorships give distinctive recognition to outstanding members of the faculty. They also provide significant resources that support their recipients in the work that they do so well, including their teaching and mentoring of students and their scholarship.

The college currently has 19 endowed professorships, spread across all four academic divisions. They are so indispensable that Hope would like to have a dozen more.

The college has added two professorships this year, each to be held beginning in July. Their stories reflect unique personal journeys and show that widely differing paths can lead to Hope. They also, however, share two crucial commonalities: generosity of spirit and a commitment to touching lives in perpetuity.

The Geneva Thome Begg Director of Libraries

Geneva Thome Begg's interest in the college stemmed from the one year early in the 20th century that her late husband Raymond had attended the high school that Hope had operated in its earlier decades. Married only 11 years prior to his untimely death in 1956, they had visited Hope and Holland together just once, because she wished to see one of



Kelly Jacobsma has been appointed to the college's new endowed director of libraries professorship, created through a bequest by Geneva Thome Begg.



Donna and Ronald Granger, pictured at left and right, have journeyed with Hope for more than a quarter century, first as parents and now as grandparents. Their appreciation of the impact of the Hope experience led them to establish an endowed professorship in economics, management and accounting. They are pictured with the professorship's first recipient, Dr. Todd Steen, at center.

"We at Hope are pleased when alumni support the college because of their own outstanding experiences and when parents support Hope because the college has made a positive difference in their children's lives, but it is also very meaningful to us when someone outside of the immediate Hope family values what the college has to offer and chooses to support Hope and its mission."

– President James E. Bultman '63

the places in which he had spent his youth. From that single visit her relationship with and appreciation for the college grew.

Following Raymond's death, she established the Raymond VanRenssalaer Begg Scholarship at Hope in his honor. She added to the fund over many years, and enjoyed corresponding with the dozens of students assisted by her generosity.

As she had received training in library science and worked for several years in a library, she began planning to also give an endowed professorship for the director of libraries at Hope. She died at age 95 on November 2, 2007, and her love of libraries and the college resulted in her bequest to establish the Geneva Thome Begg Professorship.

The first recipient of the endowed professorship is Kelly Jacobsma. A member of the Hope library faculty since 1988, she became director of libraries on July 1, 2008, following the retirement of long-time director David Jensen.

The Granger Endowed Professorship In Economics, Management and Accounting

For more than a quarter century, Ron and Donna Granger have seen Hope's impact, first as parents and then as grandparents. Three of their four children attended Hope, their eldest grandchild graduated in 2007, and three of their grandchildren and a grandnephew are attending Hope currently.

Ron and Donna have been longtime supporters of the annual Hope Fund. They also established the Ronald Keith and Donna Mae Granger Scholarship Fund at Hope in 2004.

The new chair is designated for an outstanding member of the faculty with a spiritually mature Christian faith whose teaching and actions are exemplary; and who makes a positive difference in the lives of Hope students, sharing his or her own Christianity to help them grow in their own faith, and the world beyond.

Ron is co-chairman of the board of his family-owned business, Granger III & Associates. Granger is a leader in performing environmental management-related services; specifically in the area of solid-waste collection and disposal, recycling, composting and landfill gas-to-energy applications.

Ron and Donna are active in their church, Mt. Hope United Methodist in Lansing, as well as their private foundation which was established with Ron's two brothers and their wives in 1978.

The first recipient of the Granger Professorship is Dr. Todd Steen, who has taught at Hope since 1988. 🙌

"Ron and Donna Granger are business leaders known for demonstrating their Christian faith by investing their time, talent and financial resources, and making a positive difference in the community. We are grateful for their longtime involvement in the life of the college."

– President James E. Bultman '63

More about each of the professorships, and about the faculty who have been appointed to them, can be found online.

More ONLINE www.hope.edu/pr/nfhc

