

Investments in Faculty Talent Build Excellence

Debra Bradley Ruder '80

Endowed professorships enable Brown to compete for and support top-tier faculty members who are pursuing pioneering research, scholarship and teaching.

Endowed professorships are helping Brown recruit and retain some of the world's most exceptional faculty members. They are advancing groundbreaking research and scholarship, providing life-changing educational experiences for students and helping to find solutions to urgent societal and global challenges. More than 100 new endowed professorships have been created in recent years through generous gifts to the *BrownTogether* campaign, ensuring the continued strength and vitality of Brown's faculty and the University's educational mission.

Endowed professorships bestow a title that recognizes distinguished academic standing. They

also have staying power, providing critical financial support for generations of leading scholars holding that chair. A sizable share of the funds raised for these new positions is supporting the recruitment of world-class faculty from groups historically underrepresented in higher education.

The talented and inspiring educators profiled on these pages show how endowed professorships — by supporting salaries, research and scholarship — enable faculty members at Brown to pursue ambitious projects, engage deeply with their colleagues and students in classrooms and labs, and make discoveries that improve people's lives.



LINDA M. ABRIOLA

Joan Wernig and E. Paul Sorensen
Professor of Engineering

Groundwater pollution expert Linda M. Abriola studies how contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), the "forever chemicals" used in cookware, firefighting foam and other products, move and change underground. She develops mathematical models to address them.

An environmental engineer, Abriola joined Brown in January 2021 after many distinguished years at Tufts University, including as a university professor and the first dean of its school of engineering. She came eager to teach Brown students and to collaborate with her new faculty colleagues.

The Brown endowed professorship, named for devoted alumni Joan Wernig Sorensen and E. Paul Sorensen, was a significant draw. "When I was thinking about making the move," Abriola recalls, "it made a difference that Brown was willing to invest in me this way."



ERIC M. MORROW

Mencoff Family Professor of
Biology; Professor of Neuroscience;
Professor of Psychiatry and Human
Behavior; Director of the Center for
Translational Neuroscience

Physician-scientist Eric M. Morrow is dedicated to preventing babies born with certain genetic conditions from developing brain disorders. His lab is urgently combing the human genome for these debilitating conditions and using advanced techniques to identify treatments and dietary supplements to promote healthy brain development. His hospital-based team, meanwhile, helps affected families cope with the rare genetic diseases he studies.

Morrow's 2018 endowed professorship, established by University Chancellor Samuel M. Mencoff '78 and his wife, Ann S. Mencoff, bolsters this innovative research. "Support like this," Morrow says, "comes with a responsibility to do our best and most creative work."

At Brown since 2009, Morrow is an expert in autism and intellectual disabilities whose work bridges genetics, brain science and psychiatry. He developed a popular undergraduate class in human genetics and genomics and enjoys sharing the latest discoveries with his students.



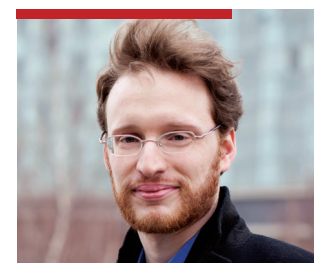
PRUDENCE L. CARTER

Sarah and Joseph, Jr. Dowling
Professor of Sociology

Sociologist Prudence L. Carter embraces education. Her parents were educators, she's a national expert on inequality in education, and she considers teaching "the noblest profession."

Carter '91 joined the faculty in July 2021 after five years as dean of the Graduate School of Education at University of California, Berkeley, where she held an endowed chair. She is delighted to be back at Brown and to receive the named professorship honoring the Dowlings. "I see endowed chairs as saying, 'Well done. We value the work,'" she says.

Carter hopes to inspire students to work toward closing the economic and educational opportunity gaps she studies. "It's a huge responsibility and honor to know that what I'm imparting can shape the vision of the next generation of change agents in society."



ERIC T. NATHAN

Associate Professor of Music;
Former David S. Josephson
Assistant Professor of Music
(2018-2021)

Eric T. Nathan's compositions have been performed around the world, from Boston's Symphony Hall to the Louvre Museum in Paris. Nathan relishes being at Brown, where he teaches composition, theory and popular music history and values its vibrant interdisciplinary community.

"I [once] thought of composing and teaching as mutually reinforcing endeavors; I now see them as inseparable," says Nathan, at Brown since 2015 and recently promoted with tenure. "Teaching keeps me learning and growing. I've become a better composer by helping my students find their way through new pieces of music."

The University has provided essential resources to support Nathan's "dream projects," including a 2018 endowed assistant professorship named for his colleague David Josephson, professor emeritus of music. "Brown," Nathan reflects, "is an absolutely terrific place to thrive as a composer."

BROWN

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT