

Celebrating the “Mathematics” Chairs of the Past 100 Years at Hood College

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Lillian O. Brown

As a professor at Hood for forty-five years Lillian Olive Brown helped multiple freshman classes ease into the college experience. In 1954 students dedicated the year book to Professor Brown and made it a point that she was of great help in many aspects of their college experience. Professor Brown was here when the college changed its name to Hood College and she was the first Mathematics Department Head Professor of Hood College. Due to her dedication to Hood College a prize was made in her honor. This prize was awarded from 1958-1988.



Figure 1 : Lillian Olive Brown

Time as Head Professor: 1908-1949

Department Name:

Mathematics (1908-1916)

Mathematics and Astronomy (1916-1924)

Mathematics (1924-1946)

Mathematics, Astronomy and Physics (1946-1949)

Undergraduate Studies: Dickinson College (A.B.)

Graduate Studies: Columbia University (A.M.)

Helen E. Whitney

Helen Whitney was at Hood College for one year where she took over as the Mathematics Department Head Professor position for Lillian Olive Brown. She spent her year teaching in mathematics. It is possible that Professor Whitney took over for Professor Brown while Brown was on leave. Professor Whitney held a Bachelor’s degree at the time of working at Hood College.

Time as Head Professor: 1914-1915

Department Name: Mathematics

Undergraduate Studies: Institution Not Given

Elinor Ware

Professor Elinor Ware was the Head Professor of the Department of Physical Sciences which encompassed astronomy, chemistry, physics, and mathematics. This was a big responsibility because the department changed and Professor Ware was taking over for Professor Brown. Professor Ware taught chemistry classes along with doing research in the field during her time at Hood College. She published multiple chemistry papers that provided necessary information for research of the time.

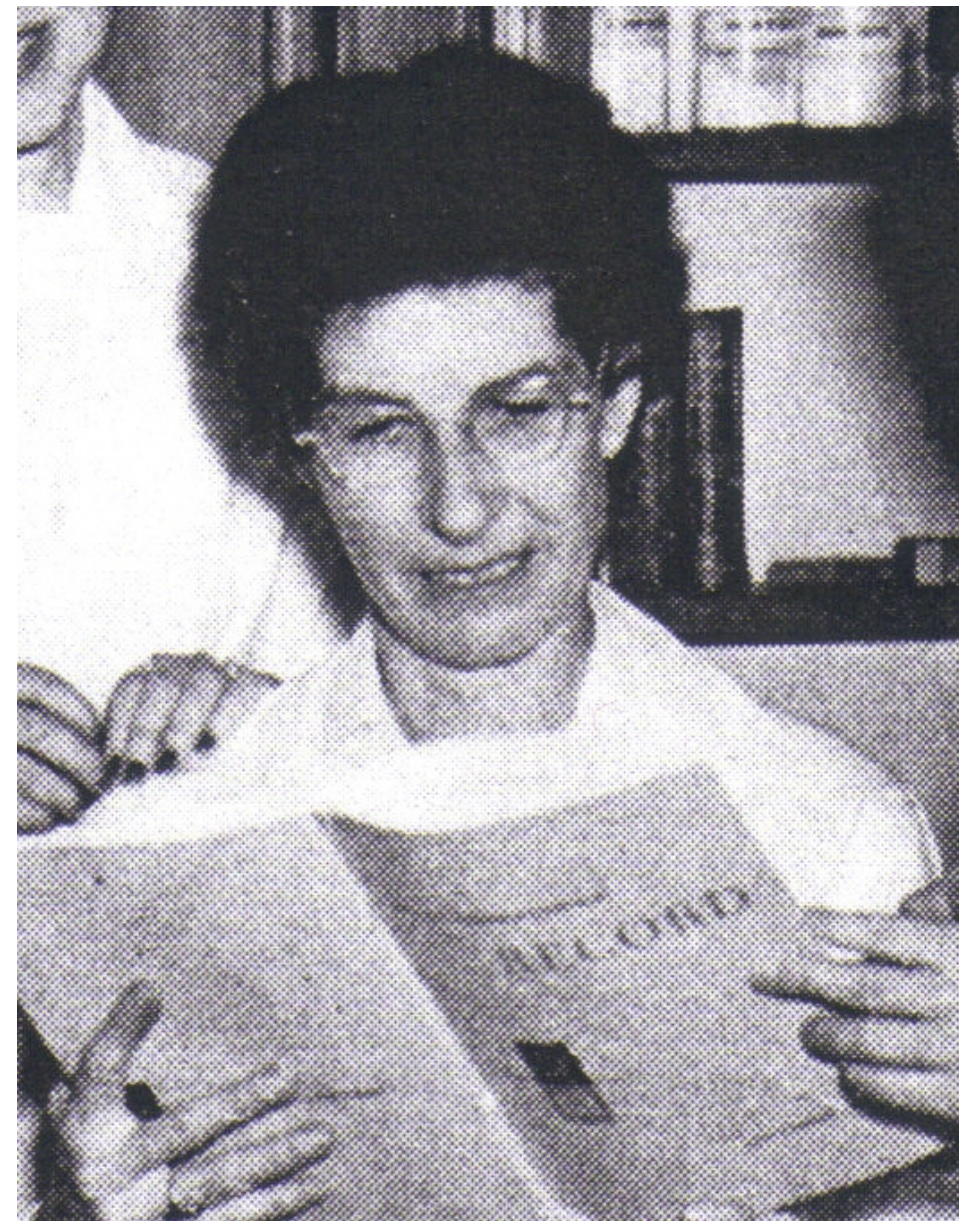


Figure 2 : Elinor Ware

Time as Head Professor: 1949-1960

Department Name: Physical Sciences

Undergraduate Studies: Mount Holyoke College (A.B)

Graduate Studies: Mount Holyoke College (A.M.)

Yale University (Ph.D.)

Phyllida M. Willis

Professor Phyllida M. Willis, a chemistry professor, was the first professor to have the title *Department Chair* of Mathematics. During her time as chair, mathematics became more emphasized as a field of study and the department title changed from Physical Sciences to Physical Sciences and Mathematics. Though it is not a large change it shows an important increase of interest in mathematics considering Hood College was still a female only school. Professor Willis was the Maryland Chapter Chair for the Phi Beta Kappa Society.



Figure 3 : Phyllida M. Willis

Time as Department Chair: 1960-1971

Department Name: Physical Sciences and Mathematics

Undergraduate Studies: Mount Holyoke College (A.B.)

Graduate Studies: Smith College (A.M.)

Columbia University (Ph.D.)

George N. Trytten

Professor George N. Trytten was the Department Chair of Mathematics for one year because mathematics became a separate department, splitting from the Physical Sciences department. This split was necessary due to larger interest in the study of mathematics by the female students. Professor Trytten was at Hood College for only two years which was spent teaching mathematics. He was able to lead the new mathematics department for a year until a new chair was found.

Time as Department Chair: 1971-1972

Department Name: Mathematics

Undergraduate Studies: Luther College (A.B.)

Graduate Studies: University of Wisconsin (M.S.)

University of Maryland (Ph.D.)



Figure 4 : George N. Trytten

Paul J. Gowen

Professor Paul J. Gowen took over as head of the Department of Mathematics in 1972. Computer science classes started as a part of the Mathematics Department under Gowen’s guidance. Computer Science started as a single elective course. During his time as chair he taught mathematics classes and computer science classes. Professor Gowen served as acting co-dean of academic affairs twice and served as president of the faculty senate in his thirty-four years at Hood College. Through the years he took the responsibility of being on every major committee of the college as well. Hood purchased its first computer for only 20,000 dollars under Gowen’s guidance.

Time as Department Chair: 1972-1984

Department Name: Mathematics

Undergraduate Studies: Georgetown University (B.S)

Graduate Studies: University of Virginia (M.A., Ph.D.)

The Johns Hopkins University (M.S.)

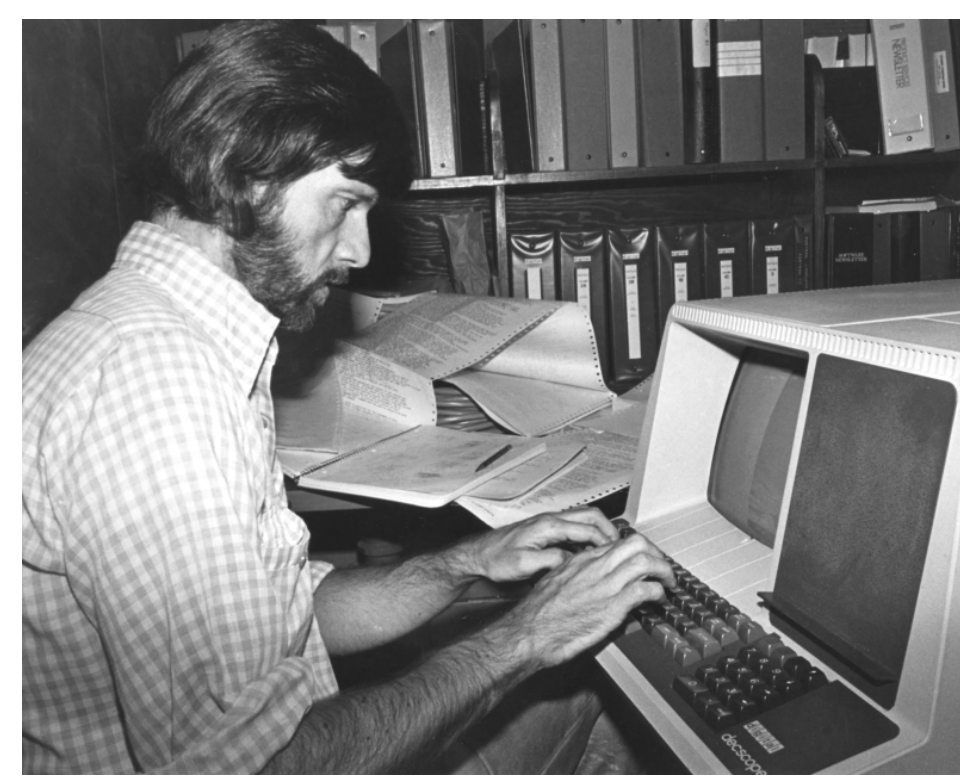


Figure 5 : Paul J. Gowen

Elizabeth B. Chang

In 1972 Professor Elizabeth Chang joined the Mathematics and Computer Science Department. Professor Chang was hired to teach mathematics and computer science courses. At the time computer science was just starting to grow at Hood College. Currently Professor Chang is the Department Chair of Computer Science, Director of the Masters of Science Program in the Management of Information Technology, and is teaching multiple courses in the department. Furthermore Professor Chang was elected Commissioner of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. She is proud to still be working for Hood College in the department because she was one of the original professors who taught computer science when only one elective computer science course was offered throughout Hood College’s curriculum. Professor Chang published a book titled *Practical Perl with CGI Applications* in 2004 with the help of the publishing company Addison-Wesley.

Time as Department Chair: 1984-1999

Department Name: Mathematics and Computer Science

Undergraduate Studies: Millersville State College (B.A)

Graduate Studies: University of Maryland (M.A., Ph.D.)



Figure 6 : Elizabeth B. Chang

Marie “Betty” Mayfield

In 1979 Professor Marie “Betty” Mayfield joined Hood College’s Mathematics Department. As the current Department Chair, Professor Mayfield is in charge of overseeing and organizing multiple mathematics activities along with teaching mathematics courses. She attends different mathematical meetings across the region and nation. This is due to Professor Mayfield helping students with summer research opportunities and national mathematical meeting presentations. She is also a strong advocate of the progress of women studying and working in mathematics.



Figure 7 : Marie “Betty” Mayfield

Her research on women mathematicians during the time of Euler is one of her published research materials.

Time as Department Chair: 1999-Current

Department Name: Mathematics and Computer Science

(1999-2003)

Mathematics (2003-current)

Undergraduate Studies: University of North Carolina at Greensboro (B.A.)

Graduate Studies: University of Rhode Island (M.S., Ph.D.)

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Mathematics Chairs of the Past 30 Years

In order from left to right is Pat Ropp (technical coordinator at the time) Professor Chang, Professor Gowen, and Professor Mayfield. The Mathematics Department has been heavily influence by these three professors since Professor Gowen took the position as Chair and was able to incorporate more computer science into the already strong Mathematics Department. Including computer science helped influence current and future students to come to Hood College to study in the field of mathematics at the time.



Figure 8 : Left to Right: Ropp, Chang, Gowen, Mayfield