

Edgar Fellows Program  
Dedication

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Distinguished Teaching Professor of Philosophy, William (“Bill”) J. Edgar, conceived of and implemented an Honors Program for Geneseo in the mid-1980s. Bill began with the belief that the brightest students should be challenged by the best instructors to engage with the most significant ideas. On that premise, he developed a program that would be a place of student-centered learning, a place with the freedom to take risks. It would become a place where students recognize their own role in contributing to their peers’ learning, yet would be willing to be challenged to examine their own considered opinions. It has done so remarkably well for upwards of a quarter of a century.

Bill Edgar retired from the Geneseo faculty in 2005 after one of the most distinguished careers of service the College has ever seen. He was the Chair of the Department of Philosophy for 30 years, chair of the College Senate, coordinator of both the Honors Program and the Humanities core committee. He was actively involved in the development of the curriculum that still defines the heart of each Geneseo student’s education. And he mentored countless faculty; his mission would continue.

It is in the spirit of Bill’s dedication and service to SUNY Geneseo and in particular, to the College Honors Program that he sustained so successfully, that we dedicate the program to him: It is now the **Edgar Fellows Program**.