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Appointment of Dr. Claude E. Shannon, one of the world's leading scientists, to the recently established Donner Chair of Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was announced today by Dr. Julius A. Stratton, Acting President.

The new professorship was made possible by a \$500,000 grant from the Donner Foundation of Philadelphia, the largest ever received by M.I.T. for endowment of an academic chair. At the time of the M.I.T. grant, Harvard, Yale, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania received equal amounts to endow chairs in the physical sciences.

A mathematician, an electrical engineer and regarded throughout the world as a leader in the vital new field of information theory, Dr. Shannon will commence his duties this month. He has just returned to M.I.T. following a year at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, California.

The 42-year-old native of Gaylord, Mich., received his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan in 1936, and was awarded an S.M. in electrical engineering and a Ph.D. in mathematics from M.I.T. in 1940. In 1941 he became a research mathematician with the Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J., specializing in research on communication theory and computing machines and automata.

In January, 1956, Dr. Shannon was granted a leave of absence from the Bell Telephone Laboratories and returned to M.I.T. as a

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SHANNON  
APT. TO  
DONNER  
CHAIR

visiting professor of electrical communications. In 1957 he joined the Institute faculty as a permanent member, with the dual title of professor of communications sciences in the Department of Electrical Engineering and professor of mathematics. While holding the Donner Chair of Science, he also will have the rank of full professor in the two subjects.

The field in which the newly honored professor has achieved special eminence is that of information theory, a branch of science which combines methods of mathematics and electrical communications in computing, automation, and areas of the behavioral sciences that bear on the relation of man to his environment.

Dr. Shannon's work in this field has had practical applications in automatic telephone systems, and improved systems by which information is coded for transmission.

Among honors that have been received by Dr. Shannon are the Alfred Noble Prize of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Morris Liebmann Award of the Institute of Radio Engineers, the Stuart Ballantine Medal of the Franklin Institute, and the Research Corporation Award.

The \$2,500,000 grant which M.I.T. will share with four other eastern universities has been hailed by educational leaders as a timely and pace-setting action that will aid the national effort in basic scientific research and teaching. Under terms of the grant, there will be no restrictions as long as the funds are used to create chairs in the field of the physical sciences.

The Donner Foundation was established in 1932 by the late William H. Donner, president of the Donner Steel Company of Buffalo, N.Y.,

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Shannon appointment - M.I.T.

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until its sale to Republic Steel in 1929. Mr. Donner named the Foundation in honor of his son, Joseph, who died of cancer at the age of 35.

Early grants were issued by the Foundation to combat cancer, but since 1949 it has supported other activities, including higher education. Since its inception, the Donner Foundation has paid out a total of more than \$6,000,000 in grants.

The Donner Chair of Science brings to four the number of permanently endowed chairs at M.I.T. Others are the Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Industrial Management, the Jerome C. Hunsaker Professor of Aeronautical Engineering, and the Edwin Sibley Webster Professor of Electrical Engineering.

Original announcement of the grants for professorial endowments by the Donner Foundation was made last May in Philadelphia.