

SUMMARY

New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (1)

June 5, 2017

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Su Fang Ng

Clifford A. Cutchins III Professor of English

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Clifford A. Cutchins III Professor of English

The Clifford A. Cutchins III Professorship in English was established by a generous gift of the Sovran Financial Corporation in honor of Clifford A. Cutchins III in 1989. The purpose of this professorship is to attract and retain eminent scholars in the field of English at Virginia Tech. Rosemary Blieszner, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, nominates Dr. Su Fang Ng as the Clifford A. Cutchins III Professor.

Su Fang Ng (Ph.D., University of Michigan, 2001) received tenure and was promoted to associate professor of English at the University of Oklahoma, where she was affiliated with the Women's and Gender Studies program and the Asian Studies program. She is the author of *Literature and the Politics of Family in Seventeenth-Century England* (Cambridge University Press, 2007). She is the author of 16 articles and book chapters, and has published in *Modern Philology*, *Milton Studies*, *Genre*, and *ELH*, as well as other prestigious journals. Her second book, *Peripheral Empires: Alexandrian Renaissance from Britain to Islamic Southeast Asia*, is under review at Oxford University Press. Her current book project concerns the role of interpreters in Europe's encounter with Asia, involving English, Dutch, Malay, Arabic, and Persian languages. She has been the recipient of numerous prestigious fellowships, including ones at Oxford University, the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, the University of Texas at Austin, the National Humanities Center, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

Su Fang brings many strengths to the Virginia Tech English department, in terms of the innovation and excellence of her influential scholarship, and her innovative and expansive teaching expertise in the early modern period. She brings as well a capacity to teach world literature and expand offerings in that area, an ability to revitalize the literature program at both graduate and undergraduate levels, and experience with graduate teaching and mentorship. Her global focus and expansive knowledge is already transforming research in her field (as attested by her recommenders), and she indicated through the interview process how she was using it to transform her teaching—focusing, for example, on global versions of *Hamlet* (including an Arabic one). Another extraordinary element of her expertise includes her prodigious knowledge of languages and her ability to learn new ones when her projects require it. One of the things that she mentioned in her interview is that interactions between Europe and Asia were key to the rise of the scientific revolution in Europe, and she has a demonstrated interest in collaborating with scientists in teaching. She has an exceptional record of scholarly achievement and intellectual leadership for an associate professor.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Su Fang Ng be appointed as the Clifford A. Cutchins III Professor of English effective for a period of five years beginning August 10, 2017, with a salary supplement and operating budget as provided by the endowment and if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

June 5, 2017