

## **SUMMARY**

### **Alumni Distinguished Professor**

**April 9, 2024**

The Alumni Distinguished Professorship (ADP) is a preeminent faculty appointment recognizing faculty members who demonstrate extraordinary accomplishments and academic citizenship through substantive scholarly contributions across all three of Virginia Tech's core mission areas of teaching, research or creative activity, and engagement. Each ADP is expected to continue to make scholarly contributions in the university's three mission areas at the same high level as at the time of appointment.

Nomination of a faculty member to become an ADP is the culmination of an extensive vetting process that involves review by department and college honorifics committees, a specially convened university committee, the executive vice president and provost, and the president. The Board of Visitors confers upon an individual appointment as Alumni Distinguished Professor for a period of 10 years, at which time the appointment may be renewed. Currently, 10 ADPs may be appointed, and there is no quota by college, department, or department (Faculty Handbook, Section 3.2.2).

Having followed the established protocol and consistent with the recommendations received from the university committee, Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke recommends the appointment of Dr. Anthony Kwame Harrison, Dr. Raman Kuma, and Professor Patricia Raun as Alumni Distinguished Professors. This recommendation has been endorsed by President Timothy Sands and the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association Board. These faculty members are exceptional scholars and educators whose achievements have been recognized nationally and internationally. The appointment carries with it a base salary supplement from the endowment established by the Alumni Association and operating funds for scholarly support.

## ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

Dr. Anthony Kwame Harrison is currently the Edward S. Diggs Professor in Humanities in the Department of Sociology with a joint appointment in Africana Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. He has also served as the Gloria D. Smith Professor of Africana Studies from 2014 to 2019.

Dr. Harrison joined Virginia Tech in 2003 and he has made a broad impact across multiple fields of scholarship, transforming the lives of thousands of undergraduate students, mentoring numerous graduate students, and engaging in the Virginia Tech community in many highly visible capacities. For example, Dr. Harrison has taught more than 70 classes and an estimated 2,500 students. He has served on 27 Ph.D. committees, chairing six, and he has served on 23 master's committees, chairing or co-chairing eight. He has overseen 19 Independent Studies or Undergraduate Research projects.

Dr. Harrison is the recipient of numerous teaching awards, including two university-level awards: the Alumni Teaching Award and the Edward S. Diggs Teaching Scholar Award, and two at the college level: the Certificate in Teaching Excellence and the Carroll B. Shannon Excellence in Teaching Award. He has led a study abroad program in Ghana and he participates in the Presidential Global Scholars program at the Steger Center.

Dr. Harrison's research accomplishments include publishing two books, 15 peer-reviewed articles, 12 book chapters, 13 invited essays, and five invited introductions and co-editing three books. His leadership in the Race in the Marketplace network has significantly enhanced Virginia Tech by building bridges and improving scholarship opportunities across the university. For his varied accomplishments, Dr. Harrison received the Excellence in Research and Creative Scholarship Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences in 2022. In 2019, he was a Visiting Professor at the University of Paris-Dauphine, France. He was recently one of only two faculty nominated by President Tim Sands for the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.

Furthermore, Dr. Harrison has co-edited two books featuring student work published with Virginia Tech Publishing: *Standpoints: Black Feminist Knowledges* and *The Foundations of Hip Hop Encyclopedia*. He has published articles with graduate and undergraduates, which resulted in a peer-reviewed journal article and a special retrospective issue of the Federation of Small Anthropology Programs (FOSAP) newsletter for which a student was credited as a co-editor. Dr. Harrison also serves as a faculty ambassador for the Virginia Tech football team's recruitment weekend for prospective recruits and their families as part of the VT football team's recruitment weekend.

Dr. Harrison is the president of the International Society for the Study of Popular Music – US Branch, and he is past president of the General Anthropology Division of the American Anthropological Association. He is also the Vice President of the US Board of Directors of the Race in the Marketplace Network, on the Finance Committee for the American Anthropological Association, and the Executive Program Committee for the AAA's 2024 annual meetings. He serves on the editorial board for three journals and a book series.

Dr. Harrison's commitment and dedication to Virginia Tech are exhibited by his service on two University Strategic Planning Committees, the Beyond Boundaries Advisory Board, ten search committees for deans, department heads, associate/assistant deans, and center and program directors, as well as fourteen department search committees of which he chaired three. He has chaired the Sociology department's Honorifics Committee for three years and led the nomination process for over a dozen faculty, staff, and graduate student awards and recognitions. Dr. Harrison is recognized as a highly respected mentor to new faculty hires and was invited by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs to present to recently tenured faculty on good mentoring.

Dr. Harrison has made significant contributions to the professional community as well as the Virginia Tech and Sociology communities. He is a trusted and valued member of these communities and truly embodies the values of *Ut Prosim*. He is nationally and globally recognized for outstanding scholarly contributions in teaching and research throughout his career, all of which have advanced the stature of his department and of the university.

Recognition of Dr. Harrison as an Alumni Distinguished Professor is a testament to his exceptional contributions to academia, his unwavering commitment to mentorship, and his profound impact on students and colleagues alike. His dedication to advancing knowledge, to fostering intellectual curiosity, and to the spirit of *Ut Prosim* exemplifies the values of Virginia Tech. Recognizing Dr. Harrison as an Alumni Distinguished Professor will enrich our academic community and inspire future generations of scholars.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Dr. Anthony Kwame Harrison be appointed Alumni Distinguished Professor for a period of ten years, effective April 10, 2024

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## **ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**

Dr. Raman Kumar is the R. V. and A. F. Oliver Professor of Investment Management in the Department of Finance, Insurance, and Business Law at the Pamplin College of Business. Appointed to the faculty in 1985, Dr. Kumar has spent his entire career at Virginia Tech. He has made extraordinary contributions to the university's teaching, research, and service missions, toughing the lives of generations of students and expanding Virginia Tech's brand internationally.

Dr. Kumar's commitment to classroom and experiential learning is inspiring. He teaches some of the most difficult Finance classes and consistently receives some of the highest evaluations. He is an outstanding teacher who makes complex material intuitive and understandable and he is generous with his time to ensure students comprehend the material. Dr. Kumar has received the Virginia Tech William E. Wine Award in 2015, five MBA Outstanding Faculty Awards, and the College of Business Certificate of Teaching Excellence Awards among his many teaching awards. He has also received Pamplin's Ph.D. Teaching Excellence Award twice and the Holtzman Outstanding Educator Award.

Dr. Kumar has served on over 50 Ph.D. dissertation committees, 14 of which he chaired or co-chaired, comprising approximately 50 percent of the dissertations in the Finance department. Dr. Kumar's dedication to undergraduate experiential learning and education is exemplified by his service as faculty co-advisor to BASIS, a student-managed bond investment portfolio of approximately \$5 million in Virginia Tech Foundation funds. Under his leadership, BASIS thrived and placed nationally among the top 10 percent of all fixed-income managers (including professional fund managers).

Dr. Kumar has had an illustrious research career, having published ground-breaking work in some of Finance's top journals and significantly influencing how the stock and options markets are regulated. His research has been recognized by the US regulatory body and led to regulatory changes by the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ, requiring shareholders to approve the repricing of executives' stock options.

Furthermore, Dr. Kumar has expanded Virginia Tech's brand internationally, presenting research papers at several international conferences in Paris, Hamburg, Jakarta, and prestigious universities in India. He has held workshops for junior faculty and Ph.D. students at international universities. Top institutions often call upon him to serve as an external expert for faculty searches and promotion & tenure decisions. He teaches regularly at the Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) in Mumbai, India, as part of VT-NMIMS collaboration under the VT-India program.

Dr. Kumar's commitment to the university is best exemplified by his generous dedication of time and effort to department, college, and university service. For example, he serves as the Finance department's and Pamplin's database manager; he creates datasets, programs, and reference files to help researchers working with different datasets at Virginia Tech and beyond. He spent an entire semester overhauling Yale's dataset. He served as department head of the Finance department from 2000-2002 and 2009-2011,

hiring key faculty and catapulting the department to one of the top departments nationwide. In his almost 40-year career, he has served on two search committees for Pamplin College of Business Deans, numerous department and college search committees, the department promotion and tenure committee, the Honorifics committee, the Commission on Research, and many others.

Dr. Raman is a nationally and globally recognized outstanding teacher and researcher of the highest caliber who has dedicated his life to his students, profession, and Virginia Tech. His guidance, mentorship, and friendship have benefited his students, colleagues, and profession. He has played an integral role in developing Pamplin's research culture and has built a legacy that will last for years.

Recognition of Dr. Raman Kumar as an Alumni Distinguished Professor underscores his remarkable contributions to the university, particularly his dedication to students, and his profound influence on students and colleagues alike. Recognizing Dr. Kumar as an Alumni Distinguished Professor will not only enrich our academic community but also inspire future scholars in business and finance.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Dr. Raman Kumar be appointed Alumni Distinguished Professor for a period of ten years, effective April 10, 2024.

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## **ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**

Professor Patricia Raun is a professor of theater arts at the School of Performing Arts in the College of Architecture, Arts, and Design. Appointed in 1986, Professor Raun has spent her entire career at Virginia Tech. Her impact on the Virginia Tech community is immeasurable, where she has demonstrated exceptional dedication, leadership, and expertise throughout her career.

Professor Raun's teaching effectiveness is evidenced by consistently high teaching scores, demonstrating her ability to inspire and engage students and her longstanding commitment to delivering exceptional educational experiences. She has served on 27 graduate committees in the theatre Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) program since 1992, playing a pivotal role in shaping many students' academic and professional journeys.

Professor Raun is the recipient of multiple teaching awards, including the Outstanding Educator at the Virginia Tech Governor's School, the College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Excellence Award, and the William E. Wine Award for Faculty Achievement, among many others. Her visionary approach to curriculum development is evident in initiatives such as the Company of Women – Virginia residency, the Company of Girls of Montgomery County, the Exploring Multiple Intelligences Through Theater Techniques (EMITT), and modules for the Executive Masters in Natural Resources program.

Professor Raun has demonstrated her ongoing commitment to experiential learning by directing 21 theater productions, actively participating alongside students in 14 plays, and providing voice and/or dialect direction for over 30 full-length productions on campus. Recently, she collaborated with 20 graduate student researchers from NFS-funded Research Traineeship programs nationwide, both online and in-person. In addition, Professor Raun seamlessly integrates her theatre expertise with cutting-edge research challenges, showcasing the interdisciplinary nature of her contributions as a collaborator on the Destination Area 2.0 proposal team for Pandemic Prediction and Prevention.

Professor Raun is the Founding Director of the Center for Communicating Science, which helps students learn the importance of conveying their passion for their work and using narrative and storytelling to convey meaning. Her achievements as the Center's founding director include creating and presenting over 100 workshops, presentations, and events for national and international audiences, which illustrates the growing demand for the work of the center; creating and implementing two courses with multiple sections; and creating opportunities for graduate students and faculty to develop their abilities to communicate and connect; creating and presenting 200+ workshops and learning experiences on VT campuses.

Professor Raun has also served in multiple administrative roles at Virginia Tech, including founding director of the School of Performing Arts from 2007 through 2017, and before its restructuring, she was the Director of the School of the Arts before its restructuring from 2003 through 2007. She served as Department Head of Theatre Arts from 2002 through 2013 and Assistant Department Head from 1994 through 2001. Her service as

the co-chair of the General Education Reform Process Discourse Task Force in 2014 and on the University Unions and Student Associations Advisory Committee from 2008 through 2016 demonstrates her commitment to shaping the educational landscape of the University. Externally, Professor Raun serves in multiple roles within the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST), including as an accreditation site visitor. She is also involved in the Association of Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) as a representative for “The Forum” and a Focus Group Representative.

Professor Raun is an exceptional artist-scholar whose remarkable dedication to teaching, leadership, and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations has deeply impacted the lives of students, faculty, and community members for decades, both locally at Virginia Tech and beyond. She has left a lasting impression on a national and global scale.

Recognition of Professor Patty Raun as an Alumni Distinguished Professor is a fitting tribute to her outstanding achievements in the field of theater. Her innovative approach to teaching and her profound influence on both students and colleagues have left an indelible mark on our university. Recognizing Professor Raun as an Alumni Distinguished Professor will enhance Virginia Tech reputation and strengthen the university’s commitment to excellence in the performing arts.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Professor Patricia Raun be appointed Alumni Distinguished Professor for a period of ten years, effective April 10, 2024.

April 9, 2024