SUMMARY
New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (6)

May 6, 2020

College of Engineering (4)

Mehdi Ahmadian	J. Bernard Jones Chair
Luiz DaSilva	Bradley Professorship in Cybersecurity
Christopher Williams	L.S. Randolph Professorship of Mechanical Engineering
Lei Zuo	Robert E. Hord, Jr. Professorship of Mechanical Engineering

College of Veterinary Medicine (1)

Orsolya Balogh	JoAnne S. O'Brien Endowed Professorship

Pamplin College of Business (1)

Candace Fitch	Feiertag Professor of Practice in Hospitality Leadership

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
J. Bernard Jones Chair

The J. Bernard Jones Chair was established by generous gifts from multiple donors. This Chair was created to be awarded to an outstanding professor within the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Mehdi Ahmadian to this position based on the recommendations of the head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Mechanical Engineering's honorifics committee.

Dr. Ahmadian has been a pioneer in the field of advanced technologies for improving road and rail transportation safety, efficiency, and comfort both in industry and academia. Since joining Virginia Tech in 1996, he has been one of the most prolific faculty in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the university with funding totaling $25M, of which $21.4M has been his share, from both the transportation industry and government agencies. In the process, he has been awarded 11 U.S. and international patents. He also has authored four book chapters, 145 archival journal papers, and 213 peer-reviewed conference publications. He has given hundreds of presentations, including numerous keynote, plenary, and invited lectures. He is well known internationally for his significant research in the area of vehicle system dynamics and safety. He is considered an eminent scholar in road and rail transportation research and engineering. He currently serves as Editor for the *International Journal of Vehicle System Dynamics* and Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal of Vibration and Control.*

In recognition of his many contributions, Dr. Ahmadian received many awards, including the 2019 Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International Magnus Hendrickson Award, the seminal award for vehicle dynamics and suspension technologies. In 2014, he also received the SAE International L. Ray Buckendale Award, which includes a plenary lecture at the SAE International Commercial Vehicle Engineering Congress (COMVEC). His speech was the highest-attended lecture in the 64-year history of the award. Additional awards include the 2015 SAE Lloyd L. Withrow Distinguished Speaker Award, the 2013 COMVEC Best Presentation Award, and the 2013 Simulation Multi-Conference Best Paper Award.

Finally, Dr. Ahmadian’s work over the last 24 years has helped transform Virginia Tech into a vehicle dynamic systems and safety research powerhouse. He has brought much recognition to the university via his scholarly work, groundbreaking research, leadership positions in conferences, editorships of multiple leading journals, and the mentoring of students, who have become accomplished researchers. He has been and continues to be an exemplary researcher, scholar, and educator.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Mehdi Ahmadian be appointed as the J. Bernard Jones Chair for a term of five years effective April 10, 2020, with a salary supplement and operating expenses as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

May 6, 2020

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
BRADLEY PROFESSORSHIP IN CYBERSECURITY

In concurrence with the recommendations of the honorifics committees of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the College of Engineering, Dean Julia Ross nominates Dr. Luiz A. DaSilva to hold the Bradley Professor of Cybersecurity. Dr. DaSilva is eminently qualified because of his pioneering research accomplishments in the fields of wireless communications, cognitive networks, and cybersecurity.

Dr. DaSilva received his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Kansas in 1998. Prior to receiving this degree, Dr. DaSilva had worked in industry for 6 years in Brazil with IBM. He joined Virginia Tech in 1998 as an assistant professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), became an associate professor in the ECE department in 2004 and then a full professor in 2011. In 2014 he moved to Trinity College in Dublin where he was professor of telecommunications, personal chair.

Dr. DaSilva's has had a notable academic career. He has co-authored two books, authored or co-authored 12 book chapters, 88 journal/magazine articles, and 148 conference/workshop papers. Among his journal articles, 45 were published in prestigious Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) transactions or journals. His work has been well cited by his peers. Based on Google Scholar, he has over 7,700 citations and his *h*-index is 39. Dr. DaSilva is very active in the academic community. He has given 60 invited talks, lectures, seminars, or keynotes around the world as an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer. He was named an IEEE Fellow in 2016 for contributions to cognitive networking and to resource management in wireless networks. When he was at Virginia Tech, he was recognized as a Virginia Tech College of Engineering Faculty Fellow in 2006.

Dr. DaSilva has received 39 funded projects as principal investigator on 16 projects. The funding amount of these projects exceeds €90M. His sources of funding are very diverse, including U.S., Irish, European, and other international funding agencies and from industry partners. He became the Director of the CONNECT Communications and Networks research center in 2018, which is a consortium of 250 researchers across Ireland with a research budget of €80M from the Science Foundation Ireland.

Dr. DaSilva has established a strong record of advising and mentoring of graduate students. Over his 22-year career in academia, he has advised 11 M.S. thesis students to completion and 17 Ph.D. students. This is an excellent and sustained record of degree production. He has also been an external examiner or opponent for 13 Ph.D. defenses in Europe, Singapore and India.

Dr. DaSilva has an impressive record of service to professional societies. He has served on the IEEE Technical Committee on Cognitive Networks (TCC) Awards Committee (2017). He is a member of the Editorial Board for *Computer Networks* (2009-present) an associate editor for the *Journal of Communication and Information Systems* (2011-present), and the *IEEE Transactions on Wireless Communications* (2016-present). He has previously been the associate editor on two other IEEE journals, and a guest editor for four special issues in various publication venues. Dr. DaSilva has been a tireless advocate for his profession by chairing or co-chairing of ten international conferences, serving on 12 National Science Foundation panel reviews, and reviewing proposals for at least fifteen other organizations in various countries around the globe.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Luiz A. DaSilva be appointed the Bradley Professor of Cybersecurity for a term of five years effective April 10, 2020, with a salary supplement and operating expenses as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

May 6, 2020

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
L.S. Randolph Professorship of Mechanical Engineering

The L.S. Randolph Professorship in Mechanical Engineering was established in 1985 to honor Lingan S. Randolph, who served as dean of engineering from 1913-1918, as well as professor of mechanical engineering from 1893-1918. He helped to design and construct a campus water system and was instrumental in the planning and designing of several campus buildings, as well as a railroad spur to Blacksburg. Randolph Hall, which houses many of the College of Engineering's programs, was named in his honor. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Christopher Williams for this position based on the recommendations of the head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and the Department of Mechanical Engineering's honorifics committee.

Dr. Williams is an internationally recognized expert in the area of additive manufacturing (also referred to as 3D printing). Together with his students and collaborators, Dr. Williams has co-authored 79 journal articles, 99 peer-reviewed conference articles, and four book chapters. His articles have appeared in top journals such as *Applied Materials, Materials & Design*, and *ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces*. He recently co-authored an invited perspective article on 3D printing for *Science*. According to Google Scholar, his work has been cited 5,338 times and has an h-index of 35 (i10- index of 87). Dr. Williams has given 85 invited talks in the industrial, federal agency, and academic forums. He has given four invited international keynote addresses, including one at the prestigious Dagstuhl Seminar on "Computational Aspects of Fabrication", where Dr. Williams was one of only three U.S. engineering academics selected to attend. Dr. Williams has given a number of invited webinars, hosted by professional organizations, regarding his research.

Dr. Williams and his collaborators have been extremely successful in receiving external funding for their research. Dr. Williams has been engaged in over $16.7M in external funding ($5.9M personal share). These awards come from diverse sources, including the National Science Foundation, industry, and other federal sources including the Office of Naval Research and the Department of Energy, among others. Through this funding, his lab has continued to grow substantially. He has successfully mentored seven Ph.D. and 12 M.S. students, as well as two post-doctoral researchers.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Christopher Williams be appointed as the L.S. Randolph Professor for a period of five years effective April 10, 2020, with a salary supplement and operating expenses as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

May 6, 2020

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Robert E. Hord, Jr. Professorship in Mechanical Engineering

The Robert E. Hord, Jr. Professorship in Mechanical Engineering was established with a generous gift from the estate of Robert E. Hord, Jr. (ME ’41). This professorship supports an outstanding professor within the Department of Mechanical Engineering for a renewable term of five years. Dean Julia Ross has nominated Dr. Lei Zuo for this professorship based on the recommendations of the head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and the Department of Mechanical Engineering's honorifics committee.

Dr. Zuo has made significant and extraordinary contributions to research and scholarship in foundational theories and practical applications of energy harvesting systems. His work positions him as a leader of this field internationally, brings great prestige to Virginia Tech, and makes him an ideal recipient of this award. Since joining the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 2014, he has contributed significantly to the research, scholarly, and educational mission of the department through more than 235 technical publications, $12M of funded research projects, and in advising 15 doctoral and 41 master’s students. He has received 11 projects from National Science Foundation (NSF), five projects from Department of Energy, two projects from the Office of Naval Research, and two from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Zuo has won several prestigious awards for his research excellence, including the 2017 American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Leonardo Da Vinci Award/Medal for “eminent achievement in the design or invention of a product which is universally recognized as an important advance in machine design”, the 2015 ASME Thar Energy Design Award for “pioneering research in energy engineering, especially at large energy scale”, and 2015 and 2011 R&D 100 Awards as one of the 100 most significant technology innovations of the year in the world. In 2016, he was selected as an ASME Fellow.

Dr. Zuo serves as the director of the NSF Industry-University Cooperative Research Center for Energy Harvesting Materials and Systems (CEHMS). CEHMS is a consortium with 12 industry members, more than 10 core faculty members at Virginia Tech and Columbia University, and $1M annual membership fees. He has also been an active member of his professional societies, most notably ASME. He served as the chair of the ASME Technical Committee on Mechatronics, Committee on Vehicle Design, and co-chair of Energy Harvesting committee. He served as one of the two general chairs for ASME 2019 International Design Engineering Technical Conferences & Computers and Information in Engineering Conference.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Lei Zuo be appointed as the Robert E. Hord, Jr. Professor of Mechanical Engineering for a period of five years effective April 10, 2020, with a salary supplement and operating expenses as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

May 6, 2020

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Joanne S. O'Brien Professorship of Theriogenology

The Dr. Joanne S. O'Brien endowment was established in 1999 through a gift to the Virginia Tech Foundation from Joanne S. O'Brien, DVM, a Washington D.C. based veterinarian and long-time supporter of the college. Dr. O'Brien recognized the need for research support in the field of theriogenology for dogs and cats, and the importance of the field in the improvement of breeds and breeding programs. Clarification guidelines were established in 2017 to create a professorship in order to fulfill the wishes of the donor and advance research in this area. The professorship is intended to be a position of prestige that will bring honor and recognition to Dr. O'Brien and facilitate the recruitment of a faculty member who has the skills, ability and knowledge to conduct high-level research in the area of canine and feline theriogenology.

Dr. Orsolya Balogh joined the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) in 2019 after completing a residency in theriogenology at Cornell University and becoming a board certified theriogenologist in 2007, then earning her PhD in 2009. She is a tenure-track associate professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. Her research has been dedicated to understanding uterine inertia and male reproductive function in dogs. Her discoveries are helping all veterinary patients and will have a significant economic impact for breeding lines of animals. She has disseminated her findings through some of the most prestigious veterinary reproductive research journals available to the scientific community, as well as presenting her findings in a variety of multidisciplinary international academic forums.

Dr. Balogh evaluates science with a strong sense of ethics, putting her patients' best interests above all other considerations. She embodies the traits and characteristics that will advance the research area of canine and feline theriogenology. Dr. Balogh meets and exceeds the qualifications for this endowed professorship. She embodies the traits and characteristics that will advance the research area of canine and feline theriogenology.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution be approved, recommending Dr. Orsolya Balogh be appointed the Dr. JoAnne O'Brien Professorship of Theriogenology, effective March 30, 2020 with funds provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

May 6, 2020

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

Feiertag Professor of Practice in Hospitality Leadership

The Feiertag Professor of Practice in Hospitality Leadership was established in 2017 to support the Howard Feiertag Department of Hospitality and Tourism to attract and retain a leading faculty member in the area of hospitality in hotel operations and/or food and beverage operations. The Howard Feiertag Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management has recommended that the professorship be awarded to Candace M. Fitch, Esq. The departmental honorifics committee and the college honorifics and awards committee endorsed this nomination as did Dean Robert Sumichrast.

Professor Fitch received her Juris Doctorate in 2004 from the New England School of Law and joined the Virginia Tech faculty as an instructor in Hospitality and Tourism Management in the fall of 2016, after which she was promoted to professor of practice. Before coming to Virginia Tech, Professor Fitch worked for several years in the hospitality industry and as a practicing attorney specializing in hospitality law. Professor Fitch served as an adjunct professor in the George Washington University International Institute of Tourism Studies and at Art Institute of Washington's Culinary Arts Department, first as an adjunct faculty member and then as department coordinator. She specializes in hospitality law, risk management, contract negotiations and meeting and event planning.

Professor Fitch has taught a range of undergraduate courses including introduction to hospitality and tourism management and event planning. Professor Fitch is an accomplished industry professional and teacher fully deserving of this professorship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Candace M. Fitch, Esq., be appointed to the Feiertag Professor of Practice in Hospitality Leadership effective May 10, 2020, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

May 6, 2020