

SUMMARY

New Appointments to Endowed Chairs, Professorships, or Fellowships (5)

April 4, 2022

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (2)

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Margaret Savage Gary Professorship in Horticulture

Jason Grant

W.G. Wysor Endowed Professorship of Agriculture

College of Engineering (1)

Ling Li

Mary Virginia Jones Junior Faculty Fellowship
in Mechanical Engineering

Pamplin College of Business (2)

Alan Wang

Arthur Andersen & Co. Alumni Professorship
of Information for Management

Cynthia Devers

R. B. Pamplin Professorship in Management

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
Julian Haden Gary and Margaret Savage Gary Endowed
Professorship in Horticulture

The Julian Haden Gary and Margaret Savage Gary Professorship in Horticulture was established with a gift from Margaret Savage Gary. An avid gardener, Margaret Gary wanted her gift to support an area of lifelong interest she shared with her husband and to honor her nephew, Stuart Johnson, who is an alumnus of Virginia Tech.

Dr. Chuanxue Hong joined Virginia Tech at the Hampton Road Agricultural and Research Station in Virginia Beach as Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology in 1999 and was promoted to Professor in 2010. Dr. Hong's research focus has been disease management in nursery production.

The nursery/greenhouse industry is the largest plant industry in Virginia based on cash receipts. Disease management is an important concern in horticultural crop production, including container and field nursery production. Dr. Hong has researched the *Phytophthora* and *Pythium* species infesting nursery crops, especially addressing the identification and control of these fungi in recycled irrigation water. To conserve water, a critical resource for container producers where daily irrigation is generally required, growers have increasingly gone to recycling water that runs off production areas. Such recycled water can be a source of disease organisms that can infest crops through spread of contaminated irrigation water. Dr. Hong's research has assisted growers with improved methods for addressing this disease issue. He has also studied rose cultivar resistance to black spot and powdery mildew, major diseases for both rose growers as well as those maintaining rose plantings in landscape beds.

Recently, in response to needs of the commonwealth and the nursery industry in Virginia, Dr. Hong has developed a research program to tackle the problem of boxwood blight, meeting a pressing and critical need. Boxwood blight, caused by the fungus *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*, was first discovered in the USA in 2011 and has since then quickly spread to the majority of states. The consequences of this disease are devastating for a number of reasons. Boxwood has a very slow growth rate with the most beautiful and established plantings being dozens of years old. Moreover, when the pathogen infects a plant, it declines quickly. Although the plant may not die, it is so damaged that it loses all its beauty and value. Some of the boxwood plantings in Virginia are truly part of our history, such as those at the Governor's Palace at Colonial Williamsburg. Unfortunately, the disease has even reached plants at the Governor's Palace and the affected plants had to be destroyed to limit further disease spread.

Dr. Hong began his research on boxwood blight when it was first reported in 2011. He applied for funding from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and spearheaded a collaboration of regional plant pathologists to study the biology and management of this disease pathogen. In 2020, Dr. Hong assembled a team of thirteen of the best professors and government scientists to develop a four-year project for "Improving boxwood blight mitigation through innovation, economic analysis and education". This project was funded at almost four million dollars and can be expected to

make a significant impact on saving boxwood plantings in Virginia and beyond, from small home gardens in southwest Virginia to the White House Rose Garden. He currently works with an international team of scientists to address this disease. Dr. Hong disseminates information from this team through AmericanHort, the national organization representing the nursery industry.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Chuanxue Hong be awarded the Julian Haden Gary and Margaret Savage Gary Endowed Professorship in Horticulture for a five-year term, effective May 1, 2022, with operating support as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

April 4, 2022

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
W. G. Wysor Professorship in Agriculture

The W. G. Wysor Professorship in Agriculture was established by the Southern States Cooperative, Inc., in honor of Mr. W. G. Wysor—the founder of Southern States and its chief executive officer from 1923 to 1948. The principal criteria for selecting the Wysor Professor is the candidate's record of service and his or her future potential for significantly impacting the college and positively influencing Virginia agriculture.

In concurrence with recommendations of the college honorifics committee, the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics honorifics committee, and department head Dr. Matthew T. Holt, Dean Alan Grant nominates Dr. Jason Grant for appointment to the W. G. Wysor Professorship.

Dr. Grant is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. He joined the department as an assistant professor in 2007; was promoted to associate professor in 2013; and to full professor in 2021. He earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Purdue University in 2007. Dr. Grant also serves as the Director of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' Center for Agricultural Trade. Dr. Grant has built an internationally renowned program in agricultural markets and trade at Virginia Tech, including the annual Virginia Governor's Conference on Agricultural Trade which partners with four other State agencies in the Commonwealth to plan this annual event. To date, he has published 36 papers in prestigious journals, three book chapters, over 120 conference proceedings and presentations, and has given eight keynote and invited lectures. He is also responsible for more than \$4.6M in external funding.

Dr. Grant currently serves as associate editor of the American Journal of Agricultural Economics and has previously served as guest editor of Choices, leading a team of USDA policymakers and academics to assess the economic impacts of the 2018/19 trade dispute and retaliatory trade actions impacting U.S. agriculture. In 2021, this work was recognized by the American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) for the profession's outstanding Choices article award for outreach contribution. In 2020, he was the recipient of USDA's Bruce Gardner Award for outstanding contributions by an outside Economist and has previously been the recipient of the AAEA's Honorable Mention award for Outstanding Journal Article; the European Agricultural Economics Association's Quality of Policy Contribution Award for his work on international trade agreements; and the 2018 APEX award from Purdue University's Department of Agricultural Economics which recognizes outstanding contributions by an alumni.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Jason Grant be awarded the W.G. Wysor Professorship in Agriculture for a five-year term, effective May 1, 2022, with operating support as provided by the professorship and the eminent scholar match, if available.

April 4, 2022

ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP**Mary Virginia Jones Junior Faculty Fellowship in Mechanical Engineering**

In 2019, the Mary Virginia Jones Junior Faculty Fellowship endowment in Mechanical Engineering was established to acknowledge and reward early-career faculty who have shown exceptional merit in research, teaching, and/or service. Ms. Jones earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1962. She worked for many years as a specialist in solid propellant rocket motor design and is a retired executive of Aerojet Electro Systems Company. Ms. Jones has been a member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Advisory Board since 1997.

In concurrence with recommendations of the Mechanical Engineering honorifics committee and interim department head Dr. Corina Sandu, Dean Julie Ross nominates Dr. Ling Li to hold the Mary Virginia Jones Faculty Fellowship in Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Li has had an exemplary record of scholarship, teaching, service, and outreach during his tenure at Virginia Tech. He has had an impressive record of conducting cutting-edge research in the area of in biological and bio-inspired materials, structural materials, and biomineralization. Since joining Virginia Tech in 2017, he has acquired more than \$2.69M in funding, with his share being \$2M. His research has also appeared in top-notch journals, including Science (two published and one in the final stage of review), PNAS, Nature Materials, Nature Communications, and Advanced Materials.

Dr. Li's high impact research has been recognized by several prestigious awards, including the Rosalind Franklin Young Investigator Award, AFOSR Young Investigator Award, NSF CAREER Award, TR35 China Award, 3M Non-Tenure Faculty Award, the ICTAS Junior Faculty Award, as well as the Outstanding Assistant Professor Award at Virginia Tech. He has been invited to give invited research seminars at top universities such as MIT and Harvard, and top international research conferences such as the Materials Research Society Annual Meeting, American Chemical Society Annual Meeting, and the Minerals, Metals and Materials Society Annual Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Ling Li be appointed as the Mary Virginia Jones Faculty Fellow in Mechanical Engineering, effective April 10, 2022 for a non-renewable period of five years, with an annual operating support provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

April 4, 2022

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP**Arthur Andersen & Co., Alumni Professorship of Information for Management**

The Arthur Andersen & Co., Alumni Professorship of Information for Management was established in 1987 for the benefit of the R. B. Pamplin College of Business to attract and retain eminent scholars. The Department of Business Information Technology has recommended that the professorship be awarded to Professor Alan G. Wang. The departmental honorifics committee and the college honorifics and awards committee endorsed this nomination as did Dean Robert Sumichrast.

Professor Wang received his Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from the University of Arizona in 2006. He joined the faculty of the Department of Business Information Technology in the Pamplin College of Business that year. He was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2013 and to professor in 2021.

Professor Wang's research addresses the design of innovative artifacts for information systems that help individuals and organizations make important decisions in the information age. His focus is on advanced data mining and machine learning frameworks for data integration, data retrieval, knowledge discovery, and decision support across domains like online communities, product innovation, crowdsourcing and quality management. In design science, he is among the top 1% of scholars world-wide and for his work he was recognized with the INFORMS Information Systems Society Design Science Award in 2017. External reviewers note he is well-respected scholar in his field and are unanimous in their support. They describe his work as "compelling and boundary breaking in its combining of machine learning with social theories" and shows intellectual leadership "by innovating his subfield by integrating empirical investigation with machine learning."

Professor Wang's contributions to Virginia Tech's educational mission are also exceptional. He was an early adopter of the flipped classroom approach to teaching and a skilled practitioner of student engagement. He receives strong evaluations of teaching effectiveness from his students and peers. He was recognized as the Outstanding Doctoral Educator in the Pamplin College of Business in 2020.

Professor Wang's service contributions are also noteworthy. He has served as senior editor for one journal in his field, associate editor for five others, and contributed reviews to nearly all major journals in his field. He is an outstanding and highly collegial colleague who contributes in many ways to the ongoing effective functioning of the department and the college, and to the experiential programming so critical to the future success of our students. Given his achievements, Dr. Alan G. Wang is a highly accomplished scholar, fully deserving of this professorship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Professor Alan G. Wang be appointed as the Arthur Andersen & Co., Alumni Professor of Information for Management effective June 25, 2022, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

April 4, 2022

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP
R. B. Pamplin Professorship in Management

The R. B. Pamplin Professorship in Management was established in 1993 to provide support for Department of Management in the Pamplin College of Business to attract and retain eminent scholars. The Department of Management has recommended that the professorship be awarded to Professor Cynthia Devers. The departmental Honorifics Committee and the College Honorifics and Awards Committee endorsed this nomination as did Dean Robert Sumichrast.

Dr. Devers received her PhD in Business Administration with a major in strategic management and minor in industrial/organizational psychology from Michigan State University. She served on the faculties at the University of Wisconsin, Tulane University where she received promotion to associate professor with tenure, and Michigan State University. She joined the faculty in the Mays Business School at Texas A&M University in 2015 and received promotion to full professor in 2019. She currently serves as Lawrence E. Fouraker Professor in Business and Associate Department Head in the Department of Management in the Mays Business School at Texas A&M University. She will join the faculty in the Department of Management in the Pamplin College of Business in the fall of 2022

Dr. Devers' research examines the influence of formal and informal governance mechanisms, social evaluations and individual differences on managerial decision making and individual and organizational outcomes. Dr. Devers is a productive senior scholar who has published 20 peer reviewed articles, 12 of which have occurred in Pamplin elite journals. Her work has been cited more than 1,500 times by web of science and 4,000 times according to Google Scholar. She currently serves as an International Research Fellow at the Oxford University Centre for Corporate Reputation.

Dr. Devers' teaching contributions are exceptional. She is an award-winning instructor who brings experience teaching at the undergraduate, masters, doctoral and executive education levels teaching a wide variety of courses in the areas of strategic management and organizational behavior. She receives strong evaluations of teaching effectiveness from her students receiving both the Dan H. Robertson Outstanding Full-time MBA faculty Award and the Texas A&M Association of Former Students Distinguished Teaching Award in 2020. Dr. Devers' also has an excellent service record. She currently serves as Representative-at-large to the Board of Governors for the Academy of Management, the largest professional organization in field of management with over 18,000 members. Professor Devers is an outstanding scholar and fully deserving of this professorship.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Dr. Cynthia E Devers be appointed to the R. B. Pamplin Professorship in Management effective August 10, 2022, with a salary supplement as provided by the endowment and, if available, with funds from the eminent scholars match program.

April 4, 2022