

ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP
Dr. A.C. Lilly, Jr. Faculty Fellowship

The Dr. A.C. Lilly, Jr. Faculty Fellowship was established by a generous donation from its namesake to enhance the national and international prominence of the Virginia Tech College of Science. Arnys Clifton “Cliff” Lilly, Jr., who passed away in 2011, earned a bachelor’s degree in geological sciences from Virginia Tech in 1956 and a Ph.D. in physics from Virginia Tech in 1989. This fellowship was established in the field of nanoscience to recognize faculty dedicated to extraordinary research; to recruit scholars with exceptional records of achievement; and/or to retain high-performing faculty members. The recipient shall hold the fellowship for a period of three years with possible renewal.

Dr. Sally C. Morton, Dean of the College of Science, has nominated Dr. John B. Matson, Associate Professor of Chemistry, to be the recipient of this fellowship, concurring with the recommendation of the faculty review committee.

Dr. Matson joined the Department of Chemistry in 2012 as an assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 2018. Before starting at Virginia Tech, he served as postdoctoral fellow at Northwestern University from 2009 to 2012. Dr. Matson earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 2009.

Dr. Matson’s research focuses on soft and hybrid hard-soft nanoscale materials inspired by natural nanostructures. He and his team of students and postdocs are currently investigating the use of water-soluble nanohelices made from peptides as platforms for drug delivery, catalysis, and enhanced sensing.

Dr. Matson’s scholarship record is strong, with close to 70 publications in leading research journals and more than 60 invited conference and departmental presentations. He currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Boards for a number of research journals including *Polymer Chemistry*, *Journal of Polymer Science* and *Polymer International*. He is also currently a titular member of the Polymer Division of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

Dr. Matson’s research expertise has been recognized with funding from the highest levels. He has received grants from the National Science Foundation (Division of Chemistry and Division of Materials Research), the National Institutes of Health (National Institute of General Medical Sciences), the Binational Science Foundation (Israel), the Army Research Office, the American Chemical Society, the Dreyfus Foundation and the Humboldt Foundation (Germany).

RECOMMENDATION:

That John B. Matson, Ph.D. be appointed the Dr. A.C. Lilly, Jr. Faculty Fellow for a three-year term, effective August 10, 2020, with operating support as provided by the endowment and the eminent scholar match, if available.

August 25, 2020